



**NEWSLETTER**  
**FRIDAY 22ND MARCH 2024**  
**ISSUE NO.25**  
**EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING**



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**EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME**

## Message from Mr Taylor

I can't quite believe that we are at the end of the Spring term already! Even though the term seems to have gone past in the blink of an eye, we have once again ensured that our children have received an excellent curriculum packed with learning, extra curricular opportunities, character development and importantly fun - embodying our vision of *Excellence in Everything*

This week, we gave advance notice to parents and carers of our term dates for the academic year 2024 - 2025. As a school, the decision has been made to extend our October half term break to 2 weeks. This follows meetings with Parents, Governors, Educational trusts, analysis of attendance data and research gathered at a national level. The rationale behind this decision is based on improving pupil attendance along with the wellbeing of children and staff. As you may have seen in the national press last month, the Educational charity The Nuffield Foundation is set to publish a study on overcoming post-pandemic learning disparities, which will recommend changing the current "Victorian" state school calendar.

The Guardian newspaper reported that one trust stated that pupil absences for illness fell 25% and staff absences fell by 50% after it extended the autumn half-term holiday by a week at 31 of its primary and secondary schools. While I understand these changes may initially have come as a surprise, giving adequate notice helped ensure that this is a smooth transition for families and the school and was met positively by a parents. The school leadership team and Governors will review and evaluate the impact for Academic Year 2025 -2026

Over the last 18 months, support from parents and carers for the changes at Warren Farm has seen the school go from strength to strength. In our most recent parent survey, all but 2 parents would recommend the school. The school has seen an increase of 34.6% (over a third) for applications for the academic year for Reception places in 2024 - 2025 alongside waiting lists in Year 1 through to Year 6. This is testament to the growing reputation of the school as a provider of '*Excellence in Everything*' for our children.

**THANK YOU** for your continued support. Make it a great Easter break.

Mr Taylor

**HE WHO IS NOT COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO  
 TAKE RISKS WILL ACCOMPLISH NOTHING IN LIFE**

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 8th April	All children return to school
Wed 10th April	Year 5 and 6 Trip to Blists Hill
Fri 12th April	Key stage 2 Virtual Reality Workshops
Tue 16th April	4DN Black Country Museum visit
Wed 17th April	3/4SK Black Country Museum visit
Wed 17th April	SEND Panathlon Games competition
Fri 19th April	3AB Black Country Museum visit
Fri 3rd May	School Closed Teacher Training Day

**COURAGE**

**HONESTY**



**INTEGRITY**

**RESPECT**

**SELF  
 DISCIPLINE**



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### EARLY YEARS



What an amazing half term we have had in Early Years! This last week has been so busy, but we are so proud of all our children for showing resilience and bravery in our transition to our new classrooms. We have been watching the builders lay down our new playground, which helps us to transition into next terms learning; People Who Help Us and Transport. Over the Easter break, please take time to talk with your children about all the jobs they may want to explore when they are older, as well as all the important roles that help keep our community safe and happy. Finally, thank you to everyone who attended the Easter crafternoon yesterday, we had such an amazing turn out! Happy Easter everyone!

### KEY STAGE 1

What a 'beezy' half term we have had! Thank you to all the grown ups who attended our KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade. The children's creations all shown 'Excellence in Everything'. A special shout out to our winners; Finley from 1CO, Frankie-Rose from 1/2YG and Macie from 2HM.

Summer is soon approaching and 1CO will be swimming every Friday. Please look on your child's class dojo to find out more information. 1/2YG will be attending the school attoments every Tuesday. Please look on your child's class dojo to out find out what group your child is in and when they will be going.



### ATTENDANCE

This week has been a much more positive week for attendance, as you can see from a very yellow table. We are working very hard in school to ensure that as many children as possible are in school, on time, every day! A huge congratulations to the 112 children who have had perfect attendance since we returned after Christmas. You are embodying our school vision of 'Excellence in Everything'.

Congratulations to the parents who won the £20 'All in One' voucher for their child's outstanding attendance this term. Four children will be picked at random during 'Child Of The Week Assembly' tomorrow to receive £15 Kids' Favourite voucher. These incentives will be available to everyone next term- we start again each term to give as many children as possible the opportunity to win a prize. It could be you!

NAH	92.4%
RMH	94%
RLM	93.7%
1CO	93.3%
1/2YG	90%
2HM	91%
3AB	89.3%
3/4SK	94%
4DN	91.7%
5AS	94.3%
5/6NW	93%
6BP	94.8%

### HEALTH FOR LIFE

#### Easter Bunny Pancakes

#### Ingredients

50g self raising flour  
50g of wholemeal flour  
2 small eggs separated  
150ml of skimmed milk  
Oil for frying  
A few raisins for bunny paws  
30g of banana - sliced into rounds for tails



#### STEP 1

Put both the flours into a large bowl and whisk to break up any lumps. Add the egg yolks and a little of the milk, whisking to a thick paste. Add the remaining milk, a splash at a time, to loosen the batter.

#### STEP 2

In a separate bowl and using a clean whisk, whisk the egg whites until they hold stiff peaks. Gently fold the egg whites into the batter with a spatula, trying to keep in as much air as possible.

#### STEP 3

Heat a large non-stick pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper. Using a large spoon, add a generous dollop of batter to the pan in a round, for the bunny body. Add a smaller round for the head, two small ovals for feet, and two long thin strips for ears. Fit all the bunny components into the pan, or cook them in batches. Flip the pancakes until golden brown. Decorate with the fruit.





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### SAFEGUARDING

At Warren Farm we believe that **safeguarding is everybody's responsibility**. Safeguarding means keeping children safe from harm or neglect. There are lots of ways in which we safeguard children, these include: making sure the school site is physically safe, supporting families with varying needs, ensuring children are able to take to an adult if they feel unsafe and ensuring that safeguarding underpins the culture and ethos in school. If you are concerned about the safety of a child you can contact the Children's Advice Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888 or email them at [cass@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:cass@birmingham.gov.uk). Outside of normal office hours call 0121 675 4806 and if you feel a child's safety is at immediate risk of significant harm, contact West Midlands police on 999.

### SEND

The second week of our Easter Holidays sees the start of Autism awareness and acceptance month. 1st - 30th April. Autism is a spectrum condition and affects people in different ways. Like all people, autistic people have their own strengths and weaknesses. It is a lifelong developmental condition which affect how people communicate and interact with the world. In school we tailor the way we support our Autistic children depending on their individual needs. The National Autistic Society have lots of information on their website that can support families as well as information about how you can support them through fundraising opportunities. To find out what you can do at home please visit their [website](#).

### CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Amelia Cramariu
RMH	Leia Timmins
RLM	Harper Judge
1CO	Theo Simmonds
1/2YG	Tosin Benson
2HM	Araiyah Johnson
3AB	Amelia Bravington-Bryant
3/4SK	Jack Gouldingay
4DN	Harry Davies
5AS	Logan Tedstone
5/6NW	Ferenkeh Marah
6BP	Evie Gouldingay



### LOWER KEY STAGE 2

This week we have participated in an Olympic Workshop with Spark Active. We learnt all about the Olympics, where they are going to be held this year and the different types of sports at the Olympics. Also, we got to participate in some different activities such as tri golf and table tennis. It was great to have a go at some alternative sports that we wouldn't usually have the chance to do. This is continuing in our extra-curricular sport club for next half term where some children get to participate in Quidditch. We have plenty of other clubs available throughout the year.



### UPPER KEY STAGE 2

The children have continued to work really hard for the final week of the term. We practised our map skills and held discussions about the distribution of water in the UK in our Geography lessons and in Science, we carried out an investigation which measured what happened to our heart beat when we exercise. This learning was further embedded in Year 5's Young Leaders session as Staff Sarah focused on the circulatory system this week. The Young Leaders will continue after half term with a big focus on perfecting parade; we look forward to showing off in our assembly at the end of the year. Happy Easter, have a fantastic break everyone!





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At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.

### 1 CREATE A SAFE SPACE

Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.

### 2 CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

### 3 NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

### 4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' – or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.

### 5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

### 6 RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES

If a child isn't ready to talk to about something yet, respect their boundaries; this reinforces that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration. Ideally, you're aiming to let them know you care without smothering them, so just make it clear that you're there for them whenever they're ready to chat. Gentle, regular check-ins can sometimes be the best form of progress.

### 7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

### 8 HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here; you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

### 9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

It's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

### 10 CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support.

### Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.



# #WakeUpWednesday

## The National College

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