



# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER 2024

### ISSUE NO.1

## EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



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

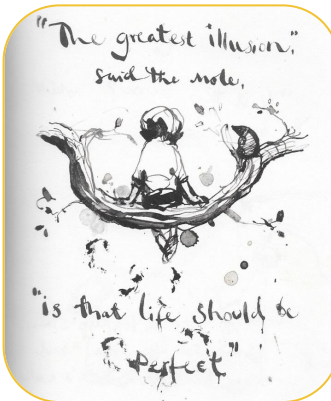
## Message from Mr Taylor

Welcome back to academic year 2024/25. The start of a new academic year is always a special and exciting time as children move classes and we welcome new children and families to the Warren Farm team. Warren Farm is a special place with the academic and personal character development of our children at its very heart. I am immensely proud of the sense of belonging that we have created and the continual commitment of children, staff, parents/carers and the wider school community to our school vision of **Excellence in Everything**. To our new children, parent and carers we can't wait to share your journey as you strive for achieving greatness that lasts a lifetime.

Almost a year on from our 'GOOD' grading at Ofsted we continue to go from strength to strength. This is thanks to the hardwork and commitment of our exceptional teachers, teaching assistants and support staff in ensuring that your children receive **Excellence in Everything** on a daily basis. I have been asked the question "What's the secret?" on a number occasions by colleagues across the profession. My honest answer "There is no secret, only consistency over intensity, progress over perfection and fundamentals over fads.....over and over again!" **Excellence in Everything** really is a team effort and at Warren Farm, how we do anything is how we do everything!

As part of our return to school this week, all classes have shared the book "The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse" by Charlie Mackey as a stimulus for their learning. This is a story of kindness, friendship, courage and hope which links with our school values of **Courage, Honesty, Integrity, Respect and Self Discipline**. It follows the journey of the four characters and their developing friendship along the way. Click the [link](#) to watch an animated version of the tale.

This quote from the book is a perfect reflection of our approach to **Excellence in Everything**. At Warren Farm, Excellence is a process of evolution, of cumulative learning and incremental change. Excellence is **NOT** perfection. Excellence is constant improvement and constant change - no matter the starting point. Excellence is the small steps leading to a mighty leap.  
**Make it a great year!**



Mr Taylor

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 9th September	Weekly 'Stay and Read' sessions begin (See class Dojo)
Wed 11th September	Y6 Whitemoor lakes Parent meeting
Mon 23rd September	Reception and Nursery Parent welcome meeting 9:00am
Tue 24th September	Year 1 and 2 Parent welcome meetings 9:00am
Wed 25th September	Year 3 and 4 Parent welcome meetings 9:00am
Thurs 26th September	Year 5 and 6 Parent welcome meetings 9:00am
Tue/Wed 8/9th October	Parents Evening all year groups 3:30pm - 6:00pm
Fri 18th October	Break up October Half Term (2 weeks)



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# ATTENDANCE



**Mr Davis**  
**Assistant Headteacher**

As we start this new school year at Warren Farm, I want to remind you that regular attendance remains a top priority for our school. We are committed to providing a high-quality education, but we can only do this if students attend school regularly. Please take a moment to review the important changes to national attendance guidance in the letter children have brought home. These updates may affect our procedures, and we appreciate your continued support in ensuring your child's regular attendance.

At Warren Farm, we are constantly seeking ways to improve how we communicate with both students and parents about the importance of consistent school attendance. This year, we are introducing a new approach to how we report attendance, which we believe will have a more meaningful impact on our students' understanding of the value of every school day. Starting this year, we will no longer report attendance in terms of percentages. Instead, we will focus on reporting the number of days your child has been absent from school. Our new slogan, "No Days Off!" is part of this initiative, designed to help children grasp, in real terms, the significance of missed days and how it affects their learning and progress.

By focusing on the number of days missed, we aim to provide a clearer picture of your child's attendance. This shift will also allow us to better emphasise the importance of regular attendance, not just at an individual level but also within the class as a whole.

We encourage you to discuss this new approach with your child, reinforcing the message that every day of learning is important. Your support in this matter is crucial as we work together to ensure our children make the most of their time at school. Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to your child's education. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us.





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### EYFS PHASE LEADER



Mrs Hicklin

Hello! My name is Mrs Hicklin and I'm delighted to lead the Early Years as well as Geography here at Warren Farm (Reception and Nursery). Please ensure your child has a labelled spare change of clothes and a pair of wellies in school everyday as learning can get messy! P.E will take place on Thursday mornings for Reception and Monday for Nursery. Please ensure you sign up to Clasdojo as all class information will be posted onto the class page; please be aware that teachers will not respond to messages on Clasdojo, so any information about your child should be communicated directly to the class teacher or through the front office. We expect children to read at home daily with their families and for their progress to be commented on in their reading diaries. Please feel free to speak to a member of the Early Years team should you have any questions or concerns.

### KS1 PHASE LEADER

I'm Miss Magee, and I'm excited to be the KS1 Phase Leader for Year 1 and Year 2 this year. In addition to that role, I also lead Phonics and Early Reading across the school. I'm passionate about fostering a love of reading and want to emphasise the importance of daily reading and having your child's reading diary signed. Our KS1 Stay and Read sessions are held every Tuesday, and we're eager to meet many new faces. KS1 students have PE every Wednesday. Please make sure your child is dressed in the correct uniform for these sessions. I look forward to collaborating with you throughout the year. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or your child's class teacher.



Miss Magee

### PARKING



At Warren Farm we are committed to ensuring safety for all of our children and families. We know that most people do want to do the right thing and drive safely and responsibly. We therefore request that you adhere to the following when parking, dropping off or collecting children from school:

- Keep the School 'Keep Clear' marking (zig zags) clear
- Ensure pavements, driveways and pedestrian access points are kept clear
- Ensure emergency vehicles would be able to get past if needed
- Adhere to local parking restrictions
- Behave in a manner than is respectful towards others – including pedestrians and local residents
- Park further away from school if at all possible to help ease congestion

Thank you for your continued understanding in supporting our local community and ensuring the safety of all of our children, families and local residents

### SCHOOL UNIFORM



- Grey or black skirt, pinafore or long or short tailored trousers;
- Grey or black skirt, pinafore or long or short tailored trousers;
- Black cardigan or jumper with school logo;
- Yellow short sleeved polo shirt;
- Yellow and white checked summer dress;
- Grey, black or white socks or black or grey tights in cold weather
- Black headscarves
- Plain black jumpers/cardigans and yellow polo shirts can also be purchased to supplement branded items.





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### SAFEGUARDING



**Mrs Nandhra**  
Lead DSL



**Miss Garey**  
Deputy DSL

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything that we do at Warren Farm. DSL stands for designated safeguarding lead and means that we work as a team to ensure that the children at Warren Farm are kept safe and we are able to provide support to our families.

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Mr Taylor**  
Headteacher



**Mrs Nandhra**  
Deputy Headteacher

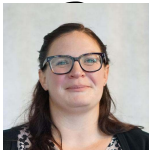


**Mr Davis**  
Assistant Headteacher



**Mr McLaughlin**  
Business Manager

### SEN



**Miss Gosling**  
SENCO

A Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) plays a crucial role in ensuring that pupils with special educational needs and disabilities receive the support they need to succeed in an educational setting. It is my job to oversee the identification and assessment of pupils needs, work closely with teachers, parents, and external agencies to create a supportive learning environment. I also offer guidance and training to school staff on best practices. My goal is to ensure that all students have access to learning opportunities and are able to achieve their full potential.

### LKS2 PHASE LEADER



**Miss Kelly**

Hello, my name is Miss Kelly and I am the Lower Key Stage 2 Phase Leader for Year 3 and 4. As some of you may already know, I also lead PE across the school and organise events such as sports days and competitions. I cannot wait to see all the progress, fun and learning that will happen this year! LKS2 will have PE on Thursdays and we expect every child to be in the correct PE uniform. We would love to welcome as many of you as possible to our Stay and Read sessions on Wednesday mornings. It is always lovely to see so many of you engaging and reading with your children. We have the expectation that all children bring their reading books in every day. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask me.

### UKS2 PHASE LEADER

Hello everyone! I am Mrs Wood and I am the Phase Leader for UKS2 (Years 5 and 6). I look forward to continuing this role and welcoming you into school for lots of exciting experiences. Within school, I am also the English Lead, which means that I am responsible for providing the children of Warren Farm with an ambitious, engaging English curriculum which inspires our young readers and writers. Please look out for any reading and writing competitions coming up this year! Our weekly stay and read sessions will continue on Thursdays and our PE day is now Wednesday. Already we have a really exciting year ahead! I look forward to working together.



**Mrs Wood**





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# TERM DATES 2024/25

All term dates can be found on our school website on the [following link](#) including the letter sent to parents on 18th March 2024. A reminder that for academic year 2024/25, we will be extending 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. To facilitate the extended half term holiday in October, we will only hold one training day on our return to school in September 2024, with the remaining 5 non contact training days that all schools are entitled to take each year being taken during the additional half term week in October. This will ensure that there are no teacher training days spread throughout the year where sporadic child care will be needed for your children.

## Autumn 2024

Monday 2nd September – INSET Day  
Tuesday 3rd September – School opens to Year 1 – Year 6  
Thursday 5th September – School opens to Reception pupils (new to Warren Farm)  
Friday 6th September – School opens to Reception pupils (previously attended Warren Farm nursery)  
Monday 9th September – School opens to Nursery pupils  
Half-term: Monday 21st October – Friday 1st November  
Monday 4th November – School opens to children  
Friday 20th December at 1:00pm – School closes  
Christmas Holiday – Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025

## Spring 2025

Monday 6th January – School opens to children  
Half-term: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February  
Monday 24th February - School opens to children  
Friday 11th April at 1:00pm – School closes  
Easter Holiday – Monday 14th April – Friday 25th April

## Summer 2025

Monday 28th April – School opens to children  
Bank Holiday – Monday 5th May  
Half-term: Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May  
Monday 2nd June – School opens to children  
Friday 18th July at 1:00pm – School closes





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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](https://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

# SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

### 1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.

### 2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.

### 3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.

### 4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.

### 5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.

### 6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.

### 7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.

### 8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.

### 9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.

### 10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.

### Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMH coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-going-back-to-school>

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