



# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2024

### ISSUE NO.5

#### EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



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

## Message from Mr Taylor

I am going to start this week's newsletter by acknowledging another week of **Excellence in Everything** in relation to attendance at Warren Farm. Our new "No Days Off" strategy is paying dividends, giving a clearer understanding to parents and children of their current attendance and setting a daily standard across the school. This week we had more than one day with 6 classes celebrating the coveted "No Days Off". We have set a high bar for attendance and we are pleased to see that children and parents are rising to the challenge. My challenge to you for next week - Can we reach the holy grail of every class celebrating "No Days Off"?

As we turn the pages of our calendars and move into October, we launch our Black History Month celebrations. Our curriculum offer is culturally diverse across the school, however Black History Month provides us with an opportunity for children to learn about the diverse experiences and impact of black people in the UK and across the world. On Monday this week, a group of Year 5 and 6 children attended an Equality, Inclusion and Diversity workshop held by the Aston Villa Foundation. Celebrations will continue with African drumming workshops for Years 1 - 4 on Monday next week. This academic year all children will visit a variety of places of worship beginning with the Year 6 visit to Birmingham Central Mosque on Thursday 17th October. Events such of these remind us of the importance of promoting the fundamental British Values of Tolerance, Democracy, Rule of Law and Individual Liberty.

On Thursday next week we will be turning the school yellow alongside thousands across the country to say #HelloYellow in support of 'Young Minds' on World Mental Health Day. This will be a non school uniform day where children are asked to wear yellow for a donation of £1 (per family not per child).

A reminder that on Tuesday and Wednesday evening next week we welcome our parents/carers to attend our first parents evening of the year to meet class teachers and discuss the progress that your children have made as they have transitioned into the new academic year. As you will have all seen on Class Dojo and our school social media page 'X' (formerly twitter)page @warren\_farm\_pri, **Excellence in Everything** is the heartbeat of Warren Farm and your children have hit the ground running this academic year. Please enter the school building via the main office where you will be greeted by a member of the school team and directed to your classrooms.

Make it a great weekend

Mr Taylor

DO THE BEST YOU CAN UNTIL YOU KNOW BETTER THEN WHEN YOU KNOW BETTER DO BETTER

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 7th October	African Drumming Workshops Years 1- 4
Tue 8th October	Parents Evening all year groups 3:40pm -6:00pm
Wed 9th October	Parents Evening all year groups 3:40pm -6:00pm
Wed 9th October	Reception 2025/26 intake Open morning 9:30am
Thurs 10th October	World Mental Health Day Wear Yellow (Non Uniform)
Fri 18th October	Halloween Disco
Fri 18th October	October Half Term 2 weeks
Mon 4th November	All children return to school

COURAGE

HONESTY

INTEGRITY

RESPECT

SELF  
DISCIPLINE



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### EARLY YEARS



We've had another busy week in Early Years! Reception classes have explored different sizes by identifying big and small objects, ordering them from smallest to largest. Nursery have been focusing on number 2 and their book of the week has been 'Where's Spot?'. Over the next month, we will be celebrating Black History Month through different stories, music and art. Please can we kindly ask once again to refrain from playing on the playground before and after school. We will continue to encourage the children to learn and explore outside so please ensure they have wellies and appropriate clothing.



### KEY STAGE 1

This week in science, children compared objects made from different materials, discovering how the same object can feel and behave differently depending on what it's made from. In art, children experimented with mixing colours to make them lighter or darker, honing their creative skills. In history, the children have been discussing and comparing life in their generation to that of their grandparents, helping them understand how things have changed over time.

As the weather is starting to change, please ensure your child comes to school with appropriate clothing, such as a warm coat and waterproofs, to keep them comfortable during the day.



### ATTENDANCE

This academic year, Birmingham Local Authority have introduced new guidance for schools called 'Support First', aimed at addressing school attendance through early intervention and support. This initiative is part of a city-wide effort to help families overcome barriers to regular attendance and ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to thrive in school.

The rationale behind **Support First** is simple: rather than waiting until attendance becomes a significant issue, the focus is on providing early support to families and children who may be at risk of falling into patterns of persistent absence. The initiative works closely with schools to identify concerns early, offering tailored advice and practical solutions to help improve attendance before it impacts a child's education.

At Warren Farm, we are fully committed to this proactive approach, and our staff will work hand-in-hand with families to ensure that, where challenges exist, we can provide the right support to help get children back into regular routines and learning effectively. By placing support at the forefront, we believe we can make a positive and lasting impact on our children's overall attendance and well-being.

### HALLOWEEN DISCO



On **Friday 18th of October** we will be inviting children to come to school dressed in Halloween costumes and clothing. This will be a non-school uniform day. During the afternoon each phase will have a time allocated for their Halloween disco in the main school hall. Please bring a donation of £2 for fancy dress and each child will receive a tasty halloween treat.

### WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

**Thursday 10th October #HelloYellow**

We will be joining thousands across the country to stand out and show up for young people's mental health by wearing yellow. This is a non school uniform day.



By wearing yellow this World Mental Health Day, and donating £1 (per family), you can show young people that you're with them. Show them that they matter and deserve the support they need, when they need it, no matter what.





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### SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding themes are interwoven throughout our curriculum and the opportunities we offer in school. Some examples include:

- Our assemblies which are delivered to all children from EYFS to Y6
- Online Safety days with age-appropriate workshops and online discussions within the computing lessons
- Involvement in Anti-Bullying Week and Mental Health Awareness Week
- Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) lessons
- Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) lessons
- MyHappyMind Mental Health and Wellbeing programme

### SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Dyslexia is a Specific Learning Difficulty that primarily impacts reading and writing skills, but it also involves challenges with information processing. Individuals with dyslexia may struggle to process and understand information they see and hear, which can hinder their learning and literacy development. This condition can also affect organizational skills and other areas of life. Importantly, dyslexia is not related to intelligence or poor education; many people with dyslexia exhibit strengths in reasoning and creativity. **Dyslexia Awareness Week** takes place from **October 7-13**, highlighting the importance of understanding and supporting those with dyslexia. If you have concerns about your child's reading or learning, it's advisable to speak with their class teacher.

### CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Nevaeh Ali
RMH	Ariyah Hussain
RYG	Tommie Davies
1CO	Harper Judge
1/2HM	Yusra Amjad
2DN	Aniyah Butt
3AB	Ahmad Sharif
3/4LM	Ilyes Haddouche
4SK	Jayden Williams
5AS	Jayden James
5/6NW	Harper Kincaid
6BP	Archie Maddix



### LOWER KEY STAGE 2

This week we have completed a fun filled Science experiment where we were focusing on states of matter. We looked and identified melting points and even compared the melting point between ice and chocolate. We are coming to the end of our place value topic in Maths and will soon be moving on to addition and subtraction. Please can you also remind your child to access TTR and Bug Club at home frequently to assist with their multiplication knowledge and reading.



### UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This week the children have been learning about Retrofuturism in Art. These pieces of work have been inspired by the Space Race. The children used a range of media to recreate part of different images that they identified with the use of a viewfinder. Their creativity shone through and some great pieces of Art were produced. Year 5 have also been having sessions with an Aston Villa coach, he has been honing their talents and teaching them specific skills related to football to improve their performance in the game. Thank you for all the parents who have returned their parents evening slips, we look forward to seeing you next week to discuss your child's progress.





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**NAH**  
**3**  
**DAYS OFF**

**RMH**  
**No**   
**DAYS OFF**

**RYG**  
**1**  
**DAY OFF**

**1Co**  
**8**  
**DAYS OFF**

**1/2HM**  
**11**  
**DAYS OFF**

**2DN**  
**5**  
**DAYS OFF**

**6NOV**  
**DAYS OFF**

**3AB**  
**8**  
**DAYS OFF**

**3/4LM**  
**7**  
**DAYS OFF**

**4SK**  
**6**  
**DAYS OFF**

**5AS**   
**2**  
**DAY OFF**

**5/6NW**  
**8**  
**DAYS OFF**

**6BP**  
**5**  
**DAYS OFF**





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**WARREN FARM**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# HARVEST Festival

We will be accepting  
donations of tinned,  
packaged, in date  
foods.

ANY DONATIONS RECEIVED WILL BE  
GIVEN TO LOCAL FOOD BANKS TO  
SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY.

Please bring any donations to  
your class teacher by Wednesday  
16th October 2024.



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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).

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **IN-GAME CHAT**

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

#### DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

#### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

#### DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

#### BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These trolls often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident prying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

#### POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

#### COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

#### REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

#### CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

#### COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

#### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat](http://nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat)

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