



# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2024

### ISSUE NO.12

## EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



**Ofsted**  
Good  
Provider



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

## Message from Mr Taylor

Last weekend, we turned our calendars over for the final time this calendar year and realised that December was upon us once more! Each year this signals that it is time to bring out the festive cheer at Warren Farm. It's a time when we come together as a school community through festive activities, performances, and acts of giving. This festive spirit aligns with our school vision of **Excellence in Everything**, as we strive not only for academic success, but also to foster a caring and supportive environment where children excel in character and creativity. Christmas reminds us of the importance of kindness, generosity, and striving to be the best versions of ourselves - again things that resonate with our **Excellence in Everything** and to develop and nurture the future generation of 'Good People'.

After school on Monday, our dedicated staff team spent the evening decorating the entrance lobby, corridors and school hall in preparation for the arrival of the children on Tuesday morning. When leaving our weekly **Stay and Read** sessions this week, lots of parents/carers have commented on the fantastic job that they have done for our children. The festivities continued as we were joined by parents of our Year 1 and 2 children at our much anticipated Christmas 'Crafternoon' event. The creativity and enthusiasm of parents/carers was evident to see and was appreciated by both the children and staff (we know the adults had just as much if not more fun than the children - that is what it's all about!) Parental engagement plays a vital role in creating a positive school community and your continued support and encouragement continues to embody and demonstrate our school vision of **Excellence in Everything**.

On Thursday, members of our school choir rounded off the week in style bringing festive cheer to customers and staff with an afternoon of Christmas Carol singing at our Local Tesco store (Princess Alice retail park). As always, children were a credit to the school and their parents/carers. It was lovely to be joined by members of the school wider community and also listen to the kind words from the general public, both young and old **"The staff are certainly making an amazing transformation to the whole school!"**. Please be sure to keep up to date with all of our festive events over the final 2 weeks of this calendar year via Class Dojo pages.

Make it a great weekend

Mr Taylor

*THE JOY OF BRIGHTENING  
OTHERS LIVES BECOMES THE  
MAGIC OF THE HOLIDAYS*

## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tue 10th December	Nursery Christmas trip 'Mini Me' role play
Wed 11th December	Selected members of choir carol singing at Good Hope Hospital
Fri 13th December	School Christmas Fayre Christmas Jumper Day
Tue 17th December	Nursery and Reception Nativity 9:30am and 2:15pm
Wed 18th December	School Christmas Dinner
Thur 19th December	Class Christmas parties Non uniform day
Fri 20th December	Break up for Christmas School closes 1:00
Mon 6th January	All children return to school

COURAGE

HONESTY

INTEGRITY

RESPECT

SELF  
DISCIPLINE



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# BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH POETRY COMPETITION WINNER

During our celebration assemblies, before we broke up for the half term holiday, Mrs Wood shared news of an exciting poetry competition to the whole school. In association with **Aston Villa Foundation** and **Premier League Primary Stars** children across the city were tasked with writing an anti racism poem. We are extremely proud to announce that one of our very own children, **Mumeen in 4SM**, was announced the winner. On Tuesday this week, we were joined by family members of **Benjamin Zephaniah** who presented him with a 'Golden Ticket' prize of a stadium tour of Villa Park for his entire class. His powerful words not only showcase his immense talent and way with words but also reflect a deep understanding of unity and respect. A copy of his winning poem can be found on the next page of the newsletter.

At Warren Farm we always ask our Children:  
**"Why not you?"**

Our children are capable of achieving greatness and their voice has the power to inspire and create change. Through their **Super North Stars** we encouraged them to keep dreaming big. WELL DONE Mumeen - we are all proud of you!



 **Foundation**  **Premier League Primary Stars**

## BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH POETRY COMPETITION



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**WARREN FARM**  
**PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There's no room for racism, not a single space.  
No place for hatred, no time to waste.  
In hearts, in homes, in every street.  
Let kindness and respect be what we greet.

The colour of skin, the shape of your face,  
Should never decide your worth or your place.  
For in this world, we all belong,  
United in spirit, together we're strong.

No room for the whispers that tear us apart,  
No room for the anger that poisons the heart.  
In the light of compassion, let darkness fall.  
We're all the same, no matter how tall.

A world where every soul can stand,  
No judgement passed, no heavy hand.  
Where love and empathy are guiding way,  
Racism has no voice to stay.

So let's build a world where all are free,  
To live in dignity, in harmony.  
No room for hatred, no room for fear,  
In this world, let equality appear.

No room for racism, no room for hate,  
Only for justice, love and fate.  
Together we rise, together we see,  
A world where we're truly, finally... free.

*By Mumeen Balogun,  
Warren Farm Primary School, Age 8*





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### EARLY YEARS



Christmas has definitely arrived in Early Years! We are busy practising our Nativity which we can't wait to show you! Please take time to learn lines with your child at home if they have been given any, and keep your eyes on ClassDojo for further information regarding tickets and times. Thank you to everyone who has continued to read with their children at home, we have noticed a huge improvement this week. We look forward to seeing you at the Christmas fayre next week!



### KEY STAGE 1

The Year 1 children had an amazing time at the Lichfield Cathedral on Monday. The children learnt about all the different areas of the Cathedral, the first Archbishop of Lichfield and even got to see some beautiful Christmas trees. We want to say a **MASSIVE** thank you to all of the parents who attended our crafternoons and made them such a success. The children really enjoyed spending time and being really creative with you all! Finally, thank you to all of the donations to our Christmas Fayre, we cannot wait to see you there on Friday 13th December!



### ATTENDANCE

As we continue to focus on improving attendance across the school, it's important to reflect on the wider picture. Nationally and locally, including here in Birmingham, schools are facing increasing challenges with attendance. Recent figures from the Department for Education highlight that many schools are working hard to recover from the ongoing impact of illness and other barriers to attendance. At Warren Farm, we are committed to ensuring that our children develop the resilience and habits necessary to succeed—not just academically, but in life. Good attendance plays a crucial role in this. Being in school consistently helps children build routines, develop a strong work ethic, and face challenges head-on, which are key aspects of resilience. These skills, once established, become lifelong habits that prepare them for future success. With the festive season approaching and exciting activities ahead, let's continue to work together to encourage and support our children in making 'No Days Off' their goal. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to promote and celebrate good attendance—it truly makes a difference.



### NURSERY AND RECEPTION NATIVITY

Our Nursery and Reception Christmas Nativity will take place on **Tuesday 17th December** with performances at **9:30am and 2:15pm**. Next week families will be given 2 tickets and asked to complete a form indicating which performance they will be attending. Any additional tickets will be released on a first come first serve basis.



### CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY AND CHRISTMAS DINNER

Christmas Jumper day will take place on **Friday 13th December**, we ask for a donation of £1. If you do not have a christmas jumper, you can wear non-school uniform as well. We look forward to seeing all the children in their festive fashion! Children's Christmas dinner will be on Wednesday 18th December. Please book with the school office if your child does not usually have school dinners





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### SAFEGUARDING

Prevent is the government strategy designed to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist or extreme causes. The prevent strategy covers all types of terrorism and extremism. From July 2015 all schools have a duty to safeguard children from radicalisation and extremism. It is important that we ensure children feel safe to discuss any issues so that they understand how to protect themselves from harm. Children are spending more and more time online and this makes them vulnerable to being groomed as part of the radicalisation process, you should ensure that parental controls are on all devices and that you are able to monitor online exchanges. <https://www.educateagainsthate.com/>

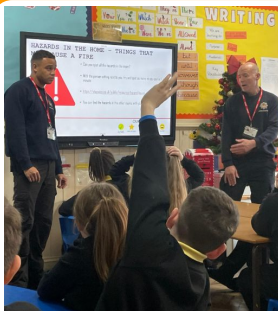
### SEND

During the week of International Disability Day, we reflect on influential individuals with special educational needs and/or disabilities to inspire our children to reach their full potential. This week, we will focus on **Satoshi Tajiri**. Although he may not be a household name, his creation is certainly well-known. Diagnosed with **autism**, Satoshi developed a deep love for Nintendo's Game Boy and a passion for collecting insects. He later combined these interests to create the groundbreaking Game Boy game, Pokémon. Today, Pokémon is valued at an astounding \$15 billion, proving that limitations need not define us.



### CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Poppy Nottingham
RMH	Darcie-Rae Bates
RYG	Mae Trappett
1CO	Nuhadur Rahman
1/2HM	Zion Amanuel
2DN	Harry Coley
3AB	Pranamy Manjunatha
3/4LM	Pixie-Leigh Maddix
4SM	Alfie Maddix
5AS	Adheen Istiaq
5/6NW	David Smith
6BP	Sarah Williams



### LOWER KEY STAGE 2

This week the Year 4 children had a visit from the firemen at Perry Barr Fire Station. They delivered a workshop all about fire, water and road safety. It was a fun and engaging workshop about what to do in the event of a fire, who to call and the importance of having smoke alarms fitted in your house. It also covered the importance of wearing a seatbelt in your car and what to do in the event of falling into cold water.



### UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This week, our Year 5 and 6 children have been busy showcasing their creativity and curiosity! They've been fully immersed in building prototypes for the gingerbread houses they'll construct at the end of the half term – a fantastic combination of design, teamwork, and festive fun! In geography, we've continued our exploration of South America, with a special focus on the vibrant country of Brazil and in science, we stepped into the shoes of scientists by conducting an experiment to test Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. It's been wonderful to see the children's excitement as they investigate and make connections to the natural world.





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**NAH**  
**10**  
**DAYS OFF**

**RMH**  
**2**  
**DAYS OFF**



**RYG**  
**4**  
**DAY OFF**

**1CO**  
**7**  
**DAYS OFF**

**1/2HM**  
**10**  
**DAYS OFF**

**2DN**  
**6**  
**DAYS OFF**

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

**3AB**  
**10**  
**DAYS OFF**

**3/4LM**  
**9**  
**DAYS OFF**

**4SM**  
**17**  
**DAYS OFF**

**5AS**  
**12**  
**DAY OFF**

**5/6NW**  
**7**  
**DAYS OFF**

**6BP**  
**4**  
**DAYS OFF**





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All 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).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy, it's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute, information on the quality of some of these apps is scarce. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?

#### PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use cartoon icons to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will speak to the parent directly, saying something along the lines of "your child is going to go. Let them take it from here". It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-ins are recommended.

#### DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may download a mindfulness app to help. While this is a good strategy initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as opposed to seeking out a seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their anxiety in the long run.

#### LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful habits to manage their condition – such as keeping an illness diary, improving nutrition and practising mindfulness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and develop in different ways – these apps struggle to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the ages of users and can offer extremely generic advice.

#### DATA SECURITY

As with any other app – not just those for mental health and wellbeing – it's wise to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with third parties for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and if a user is sharing personal and sensitive information within the app, they probably don't want it ending up somewhere without their consent.

#### IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other aspects – such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually necessary, is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate the developers, have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to create their resource? Also check whether the app is affiliated with any government or mental health organisations, as these are solid indicators of legitimacy. Reviews can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that miss the mark.

### SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the personalised advice and support of fully trained professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for counselling or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP – or Children, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1111.

### READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service – especially its privacy policy. Do so by yourself first, then go over it with the child who is considering using the app, to ensure they know what data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can help if the problem is short-term and temporary – such as a child getting stressed about approaching exams – or if you're currently waiting for professional support. Nonetheless, it is important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences in the real world.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Rutherford is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mental-health-apps>

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