



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE NO.13

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



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Provider



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

As we bring to a close the penultimate week of the Autumn term, the festive season is well and truly underway at Warren Farm. Members of the school choir built on the resounding success of last week. This week, they once again entertained the public and shared festive cheer at Good Hope Hospital treatment centre. The continued support of the local community was greatly appreciated and the children were a credit to the school and their parents/carers. Look out for a special festive treat from younger members of our school choir next week - all will soon be revealed - stay tuned!

The big news this week is the success of our Christmas Fayre. Once again, thanks to the collective effort, team work and generosity of staff, parents/carers and the local community we were able to celebrate the festive season and demonstrate that we truly are committed to **Excellence in Everything**. I would like to express my thanks to each and every one of you for your unwavering support. For me, our Christmas Fayre is an opportunity to bring the school and community closer together - **much more powerful than any amount of money raised!** That said, the money raised will continue to support the continual growth and development of our school, ensuring that we can continue to provide **Excellence in Everything** for our children.

As you are aware, at Warren Farm, we are committed to our vision of **Excellence in Everything**. This goes beyond academic success. It is about fostering a sense of community, well being and belonging for our children, families and staff. The Christmas Fayre once again exemplified this perfectly. It continues to be a perfect example of how, when we come together as a community, we can create something special. It reinforced the importance of **belonging** and unity towards a shared vision in our school, where every child is valued and encouraged to **achieve greatness that lasts a lifetime**

As we start to look further ahead, I encourage us all to recognise that a strong sense of belonging is essential to the personal and academic growth of our children and the school. When we feel part of something bigger than ourselves - when we know we are supported and valued - we are more confident, courageous and eager to learn

Make it a great weekend

Mr Taylor

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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
Mon 13th January	Year 1 parent and child phonics workshops 9:00am
Tue 14th January	Year 2 parent and child phonics workshops 9:00am
Mon 13th January	Bikeability begins Year 5 and 6 3 weeks

COURAGE

HONESTY



INTEGRITY

RESPECT

**SELF
DISCIPLINE**

*THE STRENGTH OF THE TEAM IS EACH
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER. THE STRENGTH
OF EACH MEMBER IS THE TEAM.*



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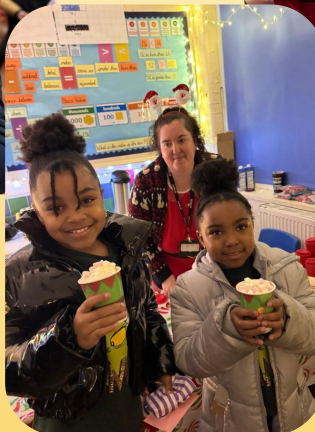
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CHRISTMAS FAYRE



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CHARACTER
CHRISTMAS
COUNTDOWN



16

Attitude

Write a thank you note to a teacher or member of staff to show your appreciation.



17

Communication

Compliment three classmates on something they've done well.



18

Work-Ethic

Do a task, either at home or at school, to make someone else's day a little easier.



19

Empathy.

Play with someone who is alone at play time or include them in your group in the class.



20

Teamwork

Work as a team to make sure that your class is clean, tidy ahead of your Christmas break.



Character
Christmas Countdown

As you know, next week is our final week of term, and it's the perfect opportunity for our children to shine by demonstrating some of our 'Character Kit List' essentials! ✨

We're setting a Christmas Character Challenge:

- 👉 Show Good Attitude
- 👉 Practice Communication.
- 👉 Demonstrate work-ethic
- 👉 Share Empathy
- 👉 Show Teamwork

Christmas is a time for giving, so let's empower our children to give their best for this final festive week. 🎁 Let's make it a magical end to the term!



#CharacterKitList
 #FinalWeekMagic
 #ExcellenceInEverything





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EARLY YEARS



It's been another very busy week in Early Years. Nursery had their trip to MiniMe play village where they explored a tiny town, and had their Christmas party. They thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities and impressed the MiniMe staff with their polite manners. In Reception, we have been focusing this week on consolidating all of the skills we have learnt over the past term. We have written letters to Santa as well as practised applying our phonics in lots of Christmas caption writing. We're so excited to see you all at our Nativity performance next Tuesday - please make sure you arrive at the correct time displayed on your tickets. See you then!

KEY STAGE 1

As the end of term nears, we've been completing lots of different topics this week. Year 1 and 2 finished making and evaluating our moving pictures using sliders and lever in DT. In Geography, they demonstrated their knowledge of our local area by drawing and naming their continent, country, county, city and street. In preparation for the singing assembly on Monday, 1CO have been practising Merry Christmas Everyone, 1/2HM are learning Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer and 2DN are singing Feliz Navidad.



ATTENDANCE

As teachers, we often hear the comment, "Children don't do anything in the last week before Christmas," when parents justify their child's absence. While we understand that the focus in school does shift during this festive period, we can't emphasise enough how crucial this time is for children. The curriculum doesn't stop; it evolves to reflect the magic of Christmas. For example, this week, children are using Christmas adverts as inspiration for their writing—combining creativity with key learning objectives. Alongside this, our festive events such as nativities, carol concerts, Christmas dinner, and Christmas Jumper Day play an essential role in developing the whole child, beyond academic success. At Warren Farm, we are committed to nurturing well-rounded individuals. These seasonal experiences contribute to their character, teamwork, and sense of community, creating memories that will last a lifetime. As we approach the well-deserved holiday break, let's continue to prioritise attendance and ensure our children benefit from both the learning opportunities and the magic of a primary school at Christmas.



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**. If you have completed the online form you will be given 2 tickets for your chosen performance next week. Any additional tickets will also be given out at the same time next week.



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

Statistics compiled by the NSPCC suggest that almost half of all children on child protection plans in England are on plans because of concerns about neglect, and that 1-in-10 children will have experienced neglect in their lifetime. Neglect is defined as the persistent failure to meet the child's basic needs. It can take many forms and can be sometimes be done without the parent knowing that they are doing anything wrong. The abuse can be physical, emotional, educational or medical. Neglect is the form of abuse that is the hardest to prove and hence many neglect cases do go unnoticed leaving the children in that family in serious danger. If you have any concerns regarding neglect - contact [CASS](#).

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

On **Thursday 19th December** we will be having our christmas parties. The children can come to school dressed in their party clothes, however please ensure they have sensible footwear and a coat as they will have playtime as normal. Each child needs to bring in a plate/box of food that they would like to eat at the party, please ensure this does not contain nuts. We look forward to celebrating the festive period with the children.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING



This is a whole school curriculum that teaches children preventative habits that support positive mental health, resilience and self esteem.

It is taught to every child in school from EYFS to Yr 6. The children have begun to look how the brain works and have been taught strategies to know how to look after it as well as ways to manage their emotions and be at their best. Growth Mindset is a key part of this. The children record their thoughts and feelings in a personal journal. We look forward to involving yourself further after the Christmas break.



TERM DATES

Autumn term finishes

Friday 20th December at 1:00pm



Spring Term 2025

Starts: Monday 6th January 2025

Finishes: Friday 11th April 2025

Half Term: Monday 17th February 2025 to

Friday 21st February 2025

Easter Holiday

Monday 14th April to Friday 25th April

LOWER KEY STAGE 2

This week Year 3 and Year 4 proudly showed off their music skills in the form of a ukulele concert. Every child performed in front of their peers as well as Key Stage 1. The children have been working hard in their weekly music lessons to understand rhythm, read music and play in time with the music. Some classes also sang over their performance whilst using both their left and right hand to create different music notes.

This week, all the children have also made and evaluated their DT healthy snack bar which went down a real treat!



3AB



3/4LM

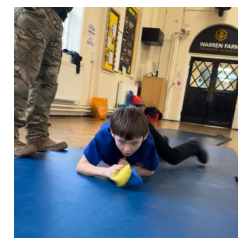


4SM



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This week, Year 5 had an exciting opportunity to take part in a Military Fitness session as part of their Young Leaders program. The children showed incredible teamwork, resilience, and enthusiasm as they tackled the challenges set before them. Year 6 have been working hard on their practice SATs tests, demonstrating focus and determination in preparation for their big year ahead. As we approach the end of term, all classes are busy finishing off their curriculum projects. A festive highlight to look forward to next week: the children will channel their creativity into making gingerbread houses—sure to be a fun and delicious activity!





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NAH
4
DAYS OFF

RMH
3
DAYS OFF



RYG
11
DAY OFF

1Co
5
DAYS OFF

1/2HM
8
DAYS OFF

2DN
3
DAYS OFF

6NOV
DAYS OFF

3AB
4
DAYS OFF

3/4LM
8
DAYS OFF

4SM
4
DAYS OFF

5AS
6
DAY OFF

5/6NW
15
DAYS OFF

6BP
NO
DAYS OFF





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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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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