



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2024

ISSUE NO.14

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



Ofsted
Good
Provider



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

As they say in the world of show business "That's a wrap!" as we draw to close another calendar year at Warren Farm. I reference show business in particular this week as we brought a taste of 'Hollywood' to Warren Farm with the visit from ITV 'This Morning' television programme on Thursday for a festive morning of **Excellence in Everything**. Children opened the show, singing their Christmas carols beautifully to the nation - filling homes across the country with festive cheer. Please join me in celebrating the achievements of our children and applauding them for their truly fantastic performance.

The performance was a wonderful reflection of our school's vision of **Excellence in Everything**. Children demonstrated not only their musical talent but also how the development of character attributes such as attitude, motivation and preparation is integral to **achieving greatness that lasts a lifetime**. We are extremely proud of them all for representing our school, showcasing the spirit of excellence this Christmas and for putting Warren Farm on the map on a national level.

A special mention to Miss Nunan who has been the driving force behind our brilliant schools choirs this Christmas. She assembled the children during what is always an extremely busy time at school and their performance was testament to her hardwork and dedication.

Not to be outdone, Children in Nursery and Reception performed their Christmas 'Twinkly Nativity' to the school and parents/carers. We are so proud of our Nursery and Reception children for their outstanding performance in this year's Christmas Nativity! Their enthusiasm, beautiful costumes, and memorable songs made the event truly magical. A big thank you to all the parents for their support in helping the children prepare, and to Mrs Hicklin and the EYFS team for their dedication and hard work in bringing this festive celebration to life. It was a real team effort and we couldn't have done it without the support of our parents/carers!

To close my final newsletter of 2024, I want to take a moment to thank all of our children, staff and parents/carers for your continued support and commitment to **Excellence in Everything** in 2024. We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas filled with laughter and special moments together. Enjoy this well-deserved break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in 2025 for a new year of **Excellence in Everything!**

Make it a great Christmas.

Mr Taylor

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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



COMMUNITY IS MUCH MORE THAN
BELONGING TO SOMETHING, IT'S
ABOUT DOING SOMETHING TOGETHER
THAT MAKES BELONGING MATTER



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EARLY YEARS

Early Years have had a fantastic last week of the term celebrating Christmas together. Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to watch our nativity - we are so proud of the children for their fantastic singing and courage to perform in front of so many grown-ups. A massive congratulations to the Reception and Nursery children who took part in the carol singing on This Morning! We are so proud of them for representing our school and showing 'Excellence in Everything!' Please enjoy a safe and happy Christmas and New Year - we look forward to seeing you in 2025!



KEY STAGE 1

As the term draws to a close, we began the week in Year 2 by thinking of people we wanted to show our appreciation for, writing notes of thanks and delivering them to friends and old teachers. As always, everything has been full steam ahead in Year 1 and the children have enjoyed a range of Christmas themed activities across the week. Finally, we want to say a huge WELL DONE to our KS1 children who took part in the ITV performance on Thursday!

We want to wish you all a fun-filled Christmas and a Happy New Year!



ATTENDANCE

As the term draws to a close, I want to express my gratitude to the children, parents, and staff of Warren Farm for prioritising school attendance. Attendance is the gateway to *Excellence In Everything*.

When children miss significant periods of school, they miss out on more than just lessons—they lose experiences that cannot be recreated. Gaps in attendance often lead to difficulties in rebuilding friendships and routines, making it increasingly challenging for children to return. Education is a legal responsibility for a reason, and our goal is for every child to experience a full, enriching education in a school where they feel they truly belong.

Unfortunately, this term alone has seen **over a thousand missed days**. While many of these absences are due to unavoidable illness, a substantial number are unauthorised. These are absences we are actively addressing, with some cases being referred to the local authority.

We cannot deliver *Excellence In Everything* if children are not in school. Let's continue working together to ensure every child has the opportunity to succeed.

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

Summer Term 2025

Starts: Monday 28th April 2025

Finishes: Friday 18th July 2025

Half Term

Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May

Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May





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ITV 'THIS MORNING' LIVE



this morning



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CHRISTMAS NATIVITY
'TWINKLY NATIVITY'



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SAFEGUARDING

This week's safeguarding focus is based around adverse childhood experiences (ACE's). Adverse childhood experiences are used to describe a wide range of stressful or traumatic experiences that children may be exposed to as they are growing up. ACE's range from experiences that directly harm a child (such as suffering physical, verbal or sexual abuse, and physical or emotional neglect) to those that affect the environment in which a child grows up - which can include parental separation, domestic violence, mental illness, alcohol abuse, drug abuse or prison. There has been lots of research done about how ACE's can affect you as an adult and the long term stress that can be put on your mental health and your physical health.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Christmas can be challenging for our mental well-being. It's crucial to remember that seeking support is important if you're feeling down or overwhelmed. If you're struggling, don't hesitate to reach out to one of the many helplines or support networks available to you.

For adults the [Mind website](#) has helplines you can access for free to talk to someone.

If you are concerned about your child and want to talk to someone about them or they wish to talk about how they are feeling, please visit the [Forward thinking website](#) for more help and advise.

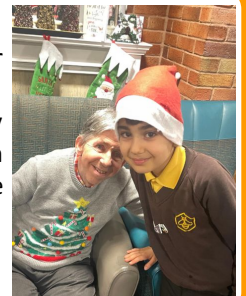
CHILD OF THE TERM

NAH	Jaxon Millership
RMH	Jacob Morrall
RYG	Hallie Maddix
1CO	Reign Simmonds
1/2HM	Luna Roberts
2DN	Ayan Bustiuc
3AB	Ahmad Sharif
3/4LM	Charlie Brown
4SM	Mumeen Balogun
5AS	Hope Matangwe
5/6NW	Maiya Ceesay
6BP	Mahdiya Begum

LOWER KEY STAGE 2



This week has been filled with festive joy and spirit. We started the week with our Christmas carol concert where 3AB sang "Last Christmas", 3/4LM "Rocking around the Christmas tree" and 4SM "It was on a starry night". Every class sang beautifully and truly got into the holiday spirit. On Tuesday, 4SM took their spirit to Warren Farm Lodge Care Home where they delivered handmade Christmas cards and gifts to the residents and staff. We spread our Christmas warmth by singing and engaging in conversations with everyone. On Thursday, everyone enjoyed a fun filled Christmas party with games, food and music! Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

Year 5 and 6 have had a magical time this festive season, showcasing their talents and creativity. On Monday, the children performed wonderfully in the school carol concert, filling the hall with their beautiful singing and festive cheer. In the classroom, the festivities continued as the children got hands-on with a creative baking project. They made and decorated gingerbread houses from scratch, showing off their artistic flair and teamwork. To top it all off, the class Christmas parties brought joy and laughter, with fun games, music, and a chance to celebrate together as a school community. Merry Christmas everyone!





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NAH
NO
DAYS OFF



RMH
5
DAYS OFF

RYG
11
DAY OFF

1CO
3
DAYS OFF

1/2HM
8
DAYS OFF

2DN
12
DAYS OFF

6NOV
DAYS OFF

3AB
3
DAYS OFF

3/4LM
7
DAYS OFF

4SM
12
DAYS OFF

5AS
10
DAY OFF

5/6NW
8
DAYS OFF

6BP
2
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 ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerningly common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>

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