



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 10TH JANUARY 2025

ISSUE NO.15

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING




Ofsted
 Good
 Provider



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

Happy New Year and welcome back to 2025 at Warren Farm! As we step into a new calendar year and another chapter of *Excellence in Everything*, I always reflect on the endless possibilities that lie ahead for our children and how we continue to support their journey to *achieve greatness that lasts a lifetime*. A new year brings new opportunities and is often seen as the perfect time to reset (through New Years resolutions), refresh, and start building new habits that will lay the foundations for long term success. Here at Warren Farm, our vision of *Excellence in Everything* is not just a phrase, it is a commitment to nurturing the very best in every child, every day. We encourage all of our children to think about what habits they can develop that will help them grow, not only academically but also as individuals who embody our values of **Courage, Honesty, Integrity, Respect and Self Discipline** along with developing their character and moral compass through our **Character Kit List**.

We all know that success doesn't happen overnight - it's built through consistent effort, the right mindset and positive habits. Whether setting aside time to read everyday, practicing kindness in the playground, taking responsibility for our actions, every small habit we develop helps us take a step toward our goals. These habits, when practised regularly, become the building blocks for long term success - the small steps that lead to a mighty leap!

I've no doubt that children, parents/carers and staff alike have set some challenging New Year's resolutions. Never let any person, obstacle or doubt, fear or negative voice keep you from becoming who you want to be. Your thoughts hold the power to help you become what you think. Belief in yourself begins and ends with your mindset. Many people think you need to build your confidence before you make that mighty leap. When in fact, you build your confidence by taking the mighty leap. Whatever your journey for 2025 maybe, let's start by confidently taking a mighty leap together.

Make it a great year!

Mr Taylor



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon 13th January | <i>Bikeability begins</i> Year 5 and 6 for 3 weeks |
| Mon 13th January | <i>PCSO Parent workshop</i> County Lines 9:15am |
| Mon 13th January | <i>Year 1 parent and child</i> phonics workshops 9:00am |
| Tue 14th January | <i>Year 2 parent and child</i> phonics workshops 9:00am |
| Wed 22nd January | <i>Wisdom Dental Checks</i> All Children (Letters to follow) |
| Tue 11th February | <i>Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm</i> |
| Wed 12th February | <i>Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm</i> |

"Success is nothing more than a few simple disciplines, practiced every day."

Jim Rohn



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EARLY YEARS



Welcome back and happy new year! The children in EYFS have returned to school with a positive attitude and are ready to learn. We have started the new year exploring different versions of our new story, Little Red Riding Hood, and drawn our story maps to become familiar with the text. In Reception, we have also started Phase 3 phonics sounds. Please continue to practise phase 2 sounds that can be found in your child's reading diary. Please continue to read at home regularly with your child and to sign their reading diaries - you can also write comments on their progress to pass onto the class teacher. Finally, please be aware of sending your child with hats and gloves for the cold weather!

KEY STAGE 1

We hope you all had a restful half-term break! The children have returned to school with great enthusiasm. Important reminders: **P:E Kits** - Please ensure your child's P:E kit is in school. Having the correct kit allows them to fully participate in all activities. **Cold weather** - As the weather continues to drop, we recommend that children have a warm coat and suitable footwear for outdoor play. **Reading diaries** - Reading diaries must be brought to school **every day**. Regular reading at home is vital for your child's progress. Lastly, we are delighted to invite you to a Phonics Workshops on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th January. Please look out on class dojo for further information.



ATTENDANCE

Welcome Back! As we embark on a new term in school, we are excited to see the children return, ready for another fantastic chapter of learning and growth. Attendance plays a vital role in helping children thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, and we're committed to supporting every family in achieving excellent attendance this term.

We're proud of the progress many families have made, and we encourage everyone to maintain the habit of being in school, on time, every day. However, we want to remind parents that for children with persistent absence, we are required to follow the school's attendance procedures. This may include meetings with Mr Davis, (our Attendance Champion) and, in some cases, issuing Fixed Penalty Notices as outlined by local authority guidelines.

Together, let's make this term one of high attendance and continued success! Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring your child's education remains a priority.

This weeks' House attendance winners are... **EAST**



TERM DATES

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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SAFEGUARDING

On Monday 13th January, our local PCSO will be delivering a workshop to parents about county lines. County lines is a form of criminal exploitation where urban gangs persuade, coerce or force children and young people to store drugs and money and/or transport them to suburban areas, market towns and coastal towns. It can happen in any part of the UK and is against the law and a form of child abuse. Children and young people may be criminally exploited in multiple ways. He will discuss the signs to look out for and where you can go for help if you suspect that your child is part of a gang who is coercing them into this type of behaviour. For more information contact the [NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk).

CHILD OF THE TERM

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| NAH | Hanna Amanuel |
| RMH | Melek Ahmed |
| RAY | Amelia Crasimariu |
| 1CO | Benson Harker |
| 1/2HM | Ghufran Sharif |
| 2DN | Lacey Sherwin |
| 3AB | Kyra Mason |
| 3/4LM | Keziah Ndikum |
| 4SM | Alfie Coleman |
| 5AS | Ademide Jaiyesimi |
| 5/6NW | Dean Adams-Porter |
| 6BP | Emmanuel Sambayi |

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING

10 things to boost your mental wellbeing

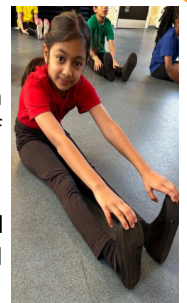
The January blues can hit us all hard especially when the weather is particularly bad. It's important to think about our mental wellbeing as much as our physical one. Here are 10 things that you can do to boost your mental wellbeing. Give them a try and see if you notice a difference



LOWER KEY STAGE 2



Happy New Year! We have all settled back into school life nicely returning to the fun and enjoyment of Year 3 and 4! This week we were visited by PCSO officer Duncan and each class received a workshop all about Road Safety. There was lots of discussion regarding road safety including how to cross a road safely, when to cross a road safely and what to look out for. As we have returned to school it is important that we get back into the routine of regularly bringing your readings books and signed diaries daily. It is also important that all children have their PE kits in school including alternative shoes/ trainers as we have started gymnastics.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This week, our Year 5 and 6 pupils were treated to a thrilling visit from *Professor McGinty*, the time-travelling detective extraordinaire! With his incredible tales and fascinating artefacts, he whisked the children away on an exciting journey through Tudor Britain. The session was filled with engaging stories, hands-on exploration, and a touch of humour that had everyone captivated. From learning about the daily lives of the Tudors to uncovering secrets of the past, the children gained a deeper understanding of this fascinating historical period. Look out for those budding historians - they returned to class inspired and full of stories to share.





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NAH
NO
DAYS OFF



RMH
2
DAYS OFF

RYG
5
DAY OFF

1CO
5
DAYS OFF

1/2HM
4
DAYS OFF

2DN
11
DAYS OFF

6NOV
DAYS OFF

3AB
7
DAYS OFF

3/4LM
3
DAYS OFF



4SM
3
DAYS OFF



5AS
5
DAY OFF

5/6NW
6
DAYS OFF

6BP
4
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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JustTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JustTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact; this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland 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.



DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/justalk-kids>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.01.2025

#WakeUpWednesday

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