



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2025

ISSUE NO.16

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



Ofsted
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EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

Welcome back to another week of *Excellence in Everything* at Warren Farm. This week we have been excited to introduce our 'Character Kit List' to the wider education community on social media through an official video that we shared on Class Dojo, 'X' (formerly twitter) and our brand new school Instagram page (search Warren Farm Primary school). This will give us further opportunity to share the excellent experiences that we provide for our children at Warren Farm, particularly focusing on the development of strong character in our children. Our approach to character development is at the heart of everything we do and is integral to developing children that grow into well rounded individuals who are 'Good People' and have the potential to become future leaders as their work towards their 'Super North Stars'.

This week we were joined by members of 'Bikeability' supporting our children in Year 6 develop their cycling proficiency - learning essential road safety skills and how to cycle safely and confidently in the local community. Our young cyclists have been developing their skills of teamwork, communication and preparation as they worked together to practice skills such as signalling, controlling their bikes and navigating cycling on the roads in the local area safely and confidently. Courses such as this are valuable in enhancing children's independence but also promoting the importance of safety, communication and being well prepared in all aspects of life .

Parental engagement is key to our shared success at Warren Farm. Thank you to those parents/carers who attended our Year 1 and 2 phonics workshops this week, supporting your child's literacy development. It was excellent to see so many children and adults together, learning about phonics strategies that we use in school to help children become confident readers. Communicating and working together, we can ensure that our children receive the best possible support in their learning journey of *Excellence in Everything*. We look forward to welcoming more parents throughout the year

Make it a great weekend!

Mr Taylor



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wed 22nd January	Wisdom Dental Checks All Children (Letters to follow)
Mon 27th January	National storytelling week
Wed 29th January	Chinese New Year
Fri 7th February	NSPCC Numbers Day Non School Uniform £1 donation
Tue 11th February	Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm
Wed 12th February	Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm
Fri 14th February	Valentines Disco Break up for Half Term

"Effective teamwork begins and ends with communication."

Mike Krzyzewski



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CHARACTER EDUCATION

'It's who we are, not what we do'

This term, we're excited to focus on six key words from our Character Kit-List! These words are more than just ideas – they're traits that we want our children to understand, demonstrate, and live out in their daily actions.

On Monday, Mr. Davis led a whole-school assembly focused on these key Character Kit-List words: **Work-Ethic, Ownership, Attitude, Communication, Teamwork, and Preparation.** The aim was to inspire children to not only understand these important traits but to actively embody and practice them in their daily lives.

To reinforce this, all classes award Class Dojo points specifically for these traits. Children receive clear and focused recognition when they demonstrate any of our Kit-List words, helping them to understand and celebrate the positive impact of their actions.



Parents/carers can play a big role in this journey by talking to your child about what these words mean to them and how they can show them at home and in school. Together, we can help make these character kit-list words a big part of school life, shaping the heart of who we are at Warren Farm.

Let's work together to **build character and inspire excellence!**

<p>Character kit list word</p> <p>Work-ethic</p> <p>Putting in effort and doing your best, even when something is hard.</p>	<p>Character kit list word</p> <p>Attitude</p> <p>Being able to change and stay calm when things are difficult or hard to go through.</p>	<p>Character kit list word</p> <p>Ownership</p> <p>Taking responsibility for your actions and doing your best to make things right.</p>	<p>Character kit list word</p> <p>Teamwork</p> <p>Working together with others to get things done and help each other succeed.</p>	<p>Character kit list word</p> <p>Communication</p> <p>Listening carefully and sharing your thoughts clearly so everyone understands.</p>	<p>Character kit list word</p> <p>Preparation</p> <p>Getting ready in advance so you can do your best when it's time.</p>
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EARLY YEARS



This week in EYFS we have welcomed our new Nursery starters and we are really proud of how well they have settled into their learning environment. Children in Reception have been exploring missing numbers on a number line using cubes to help understand how the numbers get bigger or smaller. This term we will be doing gymnastics in P.E, please ensure your child has their full P.E kit.



KEY STAGE 1

This week in Year 2, to spark creativity and inspire their writing, the children had lots of fun making their own potions. This exciting activity was a fantastic way to engage them in writing clear and detailed instructions. In Maths, Year 1 pupils have been learning about 3D shapes and their properties. To support this learning at home, why not go on a shape hunt together? Look around your home for cubes, spheres, cones and other 3D shapes and talk about their features! Both year 1 and year 2 have been exploring art techniques in their lessons by folding paper in creative ways to design 3D drawings, learning about texture, shape and form.



ATTENDANCE

It has been another fantastic week of attendance here at Warren Farm. Firstly, we want to express how proud we are of all the children who are in school, on time, every single day. This is a testament to their dedication and the support of their families.

When children are present, they're not just attending lessons—they're accessing every learning opportunity, gaining invaluable experiences, forming meaningful relationships, and developing strong habits that will serve them for life. That said, we want to remind everyone that at Warren Farm, **good attendance is an expectation.** We've been reinforcing this message to the children: unless there's a genuine reason, such as illness, **every day matters, and you should be in school!**

Let's keep this incredible momentum going and continue to prioritise attendance, as it's fundamental to ensuring every child has the best chance to thrive and succeed. Together, we can continue to achieve Excellence In Everything!

This week's House attendance winners are... **South**



'SUPER 60'

On Wednesday this week, a team of Key stage 1 children took part in a 'Super 60' after schools competition at Greenwood Academy. Physical activity is essential for children's health and well being. The recommended 60 active minutes each day helps improve fitness, boost energy levels and promote better sleep. Regular movement also supports brain development, enhances focus and reduces stress. Encouraging children to be active helps build healthy habits that can last a lifetime. Help us to make sure that every child gets their 60 minutes of fun and movement each day. We'll be providing further updates in the coming weeks of activities that you can take part in together to support your child's active lifestyle journey.





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SAFEGUARDING

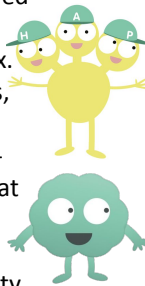
This week's safeguarding focus is encouraging children to talk to an adult they feel safe with, regarding any changes to their body. Talk PANTS is a resource that can support parents with having a discussion around the fact that their body belongs to them. The pants rule stands for:



- P = Privates are private
- A = Always remember your body belongs to you.
- N = No means 'no'
- T = Talk about secrets that upset you
- S = Speak up, someone can help

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL BEING

This week in our *My Happy Minds* sessions, the children explored the incredible power of the brain. They learned about the key roles of the important areas: the Hippocampus, the Amygdala and the Prefrontal Cortex. These areas work together to help us retain memories, keep us safe and support logical thinking and decision making. The children also discussed Neural Pathways - the connections within our brains. They discovered that the more we repeat an action, the stronger these connections become. Understanding the different functions of the brain helps us appreciate its complexity and take better care of it.



CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Ella Scheau
RMH	Henry Harris
RAY	Poppy-Violett Warr
1CO	Lottie Treharne
1/2HM	Ziah Clayton-Maragh
2DN	Tommy Tabb
3AB	Maddie-Mai Weston
3/4LM	Sophia Crasmariu
4SM	Finley Willis
5AS	Oyinade Sangolade
5/6NW	Samuel Leema
6BP	Corie-Jack Firkin

LOWER KEY STAGE 2



This week we have started back with our ukulele lessons with our music teacher. We all recapped the names of the strings and played several melodies focusing on the beat and rhythm of the songs. Some classes have even started to learn chords which is when two or more notes are played together in harmony. The children have showed great perseverance and commitment to learning a new skill. In addition to this, this half term 4SM and 3/4LM have a weekly Friday afternoon PE lesson with a coach from the AVFC Foundation, focusing on invading games. It was lovely to see everyone getting involved, enjoying themselves and participating in lots of exercise.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

As part of the Young Leaders programme, Year 5 worked together to design and build assault courses, focusing on teamwork, problem-solving, and communication. It was wonderful to see their creativity and cooperation shine! 6BP took part in Bikeability, where they learned valuable cycling skills, road safety, and how to ride confidently. We're proud of their determination and progress! Next week, it will be 5/6NW's turn to take part! Finally, can I please remind all parents and carers about the importance of hygiene in keeping our children healthy and confident. Encouraging daily washing, brushing teeth, and wearing clean clothes helps our pupils feel their best and ready to learn. Thank you for your support in this vital part of their well-being.





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NAH
2
DAYS OFF

RMH
1
DAY OFF



RYG
4
DAY OFF

1CO
3
DAYS OFF

1/2HM
5
DAYS OFF

2DN
5
DAYS OFF

6NOV
DAYS OFF

3AB
5
DAYS OFF

3/4LM
4
DAYS OFF

4SM
NO
DAYS OFF



5AS
5
DAY OFF

5/6NW
3
DAYS OFF

6BP
1
DAY 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

TIKTOK



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, for you is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.



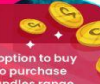
BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.



IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact with strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.



MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app; that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.



Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.



BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.



DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.



READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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