



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY 2025

ISSUE NO.19

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

It's been another busy week at Warren Farm which has seen us make good progress with a number of projects to deliver **Excellence in Everything** to our children, parents and community. Our New Library and Media suite are approaching completion with the new window decals installed this week. Mrs Nandhra, Ms Purcell and the team are working hard behind the scenes to ensure that our new library provides children with an environment to be proud of, stocking the shelves with over 2200 new books for children and parents to enjoy. Mr McLaughlin and Mr Freeman have also been busy renovating our old Nursery classroom to provide us with a space for a children's kitchen along with a community room for parental workshops and events. We can't wait to launch these with you when we return after the half term break.

Over the past 2 weeks, our Staff and Student Navigators have held their Spring House assemblies. Our house groups play a pivotal role in fostering a sense of belonging and community amongst our children, encouraging teamwork, communication and friendship across year groups. Our house groups also provide opportunities for children to engage in various activities which not only enhance their social skills but also promote inclusivity and support our school values of respect and integrity. This week, West's Student Navigators took ownership of the school environment by initiating a litter-pick including the younger members of their house team from Key Stage 1. This exemplifies good citizenship and our commitment to **Excellence in Everything**.

Given the success of the Character Curriculum Workshop last week, Mr Davis is launching a working party to ensure parents have a voice and an input into how our Character Curriculum develops going forward. If you would like to attend, please fill out the [following form](#):

Next week, we welcome parents and carers into school for our second parents evening of the academic year. Children's books will be available for you to look through so that your child can share their progress and their high standards of **Excellence in Everything** with you. If you do not yet have an appointment time booked, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Make it a great weekend!

Mr Taylor



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Tue 11th February	Safer Internet Day
Tue 11th February	Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm
Wed 12th February	Parents Evening 3:30-6:00pm
Thur 13th February	Parent Workshop 9:00-10:00am Mr Davis
Fri 14th February	Valentines Disco
Fri 14th February	Break up for Half Term
Mon 24th February	All Children return to school

"Belonging. We can't become our best selves without belonging to a tribe that sees us, respects us and lifts us up."

Anon



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PRIMARY SCHOOL



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EARLY YEARS



This week in Reception we have been exploring colour and colour mixing. We have read 'Mixed' and 'Remixed' by Arree Chung to support this learning, which has also supported our learning all about equality and acceptance. We have really enjoyed using food colouring and pipettes to experiment with making different colours! We have also made windsocks in our outdoor classroom this week, which are now hanging beautifully under the covers. A reminder that next week is Parents' Evening - please make sure you have checked your appointment time. If you are unable to make your appointment, please make sure you rearrange with your class teacher as it is important to update parents and carers on progress points and achievements. We look forward to seeing you next week!

KEY STAGE 1

A reminder that Parents' Evening will take place on **11th and 12th February from 3:30-6:00pm for 1CO and 2DN**, and **11th, 12th, and 13th February from 3:30-5:00pm for 1/2HM**. Our Year 2 children have been having great fun in computing, launching their plastic rockets and recording how far they travelled, while Year 1 have been busy writing descriptive sentences based on their class text, Hansel and Gretel. We would also like to remind parents of the importance of reading with your child daily, as this helps to develop their fluency, comprehension, and overall love of books. Please remember to sign their reading record each time they read, as this allows teachers to track their progress.

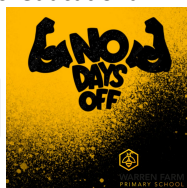


ATTENDANCE

We are seeing a rise in absenteeism due to holidays being taken in term time. Nationally, there has been a significant rise in fines for term-time holidays. In the last school year, over 443,000 fines were issued to parents in England for unauthorised term-time holidays, marking a 53% increase since before the pandemic. The fine for such absences has increased from £60 to £80 per parent, underscoring the importance of adhering to school term dates.

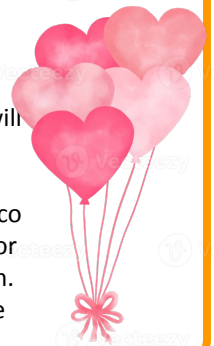
At Warren Farm, we uphold our "No Days Off" policy, emphasising the importance of daily attendance for every child's success. We kindly remind parents and guardians to avoid scheduling holidays during term time, as this can disrupt your child's learning. Please be aware that taking leave during term time may result in fixed penalty notices issued by the local authority. Already this year, 18 such notices have been issued, with one amounting to £480. Your cooperation is essential in ensuring consistent attendance and supporting our students' educational journey.

This week's House attendance winners are WEST



VALENTINES DISCO

On **Friday 14th February** we will be holding a Valentines Disco for all children in school. This will take place during school hours and each phase will be allocated a time in the school hall. Children can come to school in their own clothes in preparation for the disco during the afternoon. We would ask for a voluntary donation of £2 for children. During the disco they will each receive sweets and refreshments



PARENT'S EVENING

Tuesday 11th February
3:30pm - 6:00pm
Wednesday 12th February
3:30pm - 6:00pm





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SAFEGUARDING

This week's safeguarding focus is Online safety - next week is Safer Internet day and the theme for this year 'too good to be true'. This theme means protecting yourself online and getting children to ask themselves this question. There are a number of ways that children can protect themselves online; these include

- Setting passwords and always keeping them private
- Pay attention to age ratings - these are set for a reason
- Explain secure Wifi passwords
- Turn location settings off
- Insure that you have parental controls on all devices and are around when the children are using them.

Remind children to always tell an adult if they do not feel comfortable online.

SEND

After the half term, we will be launching a Parent Clinic, offering parents the opportunity to schedule a 15-minute appointment during the school week to discuss any SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) concerns with our SENDCo Miss Gosling. Further details on how to book these appointments will be shared soon.

Additionally, we are excited about the opening of our community space, where we plan to host regular SEND coffee mornings and parent workshops featuring guest speakers.

CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Amina Shutti
RMH	Sahar Raham
RAY	Skyla-Rose Haines
1CO	Dante Carty
1/2HM	Cristian Velcea
2DN	Maida Ibrahim
3AB	Summer Terrey
3/4LM	Kamal Dana
4SM	Hassan Ali
5AS	Albert Nyamutora Tigere
5/6NW	Adidjah Thompson
6BP	Zulekha Bibi

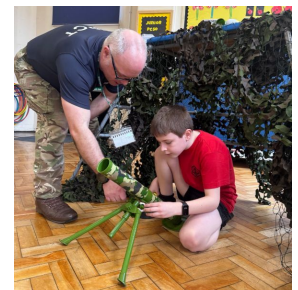
LOWER KEY STAGE 2

This week, the school playground has been a hub of activity and excitement as Year 3 and 4 students took part in Bikeability. This is designed to equip children with essential cycling skills and road safety awareness. Some children were taking their first tentative steps toward riding independently whereas for those already comfortable on two wheels, the Bikeability Level 1 course provided the importance of riding appropriately, mastering the art of braking smoothly and effectively, and understanding the crucial role of hand signals in communicating with other road users. The most rewarding aspect of the week has been witnessing the children's confidence blossom throughout their time on the bikes. Well done all!



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This week has been packed with exciting learning experiences for our Year 5 and 6 pupils! Year 5 took on 'Military Week' in Young Leaders, developing teamwork, discipline, and leadership skills. In Science, we wrapped up our experiment on metal insulators, with pupils testing materials and drawing conclusions about heat retention. Meanwhile, our historians engaged in a lively debate about Henry VIII—was he a successful monarch, or did his reign cause more harm than good? The discussions were full of insightful arguments and critical thinking.





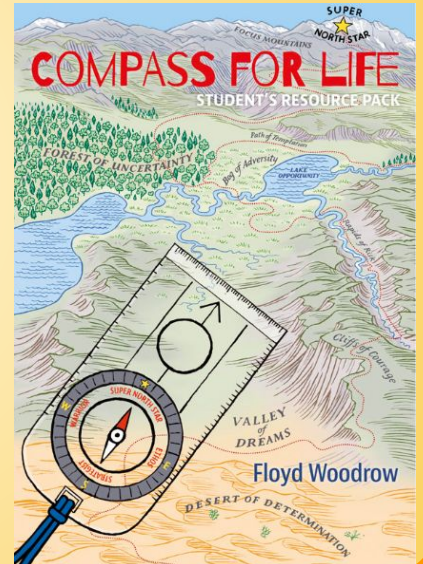
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CHARACTER CURRICULUM

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

Currently, in school, our Year 5 and 6 children take part in a scheme of work developed by Compass for life. This is a framework designed to provide students with a formula that empowers them to take responsibility for their own learning, and to achieve their ambitions in partnership with their teachers. Since implementing this approach, we've observed significant improvements in our students' attitudes. They are now more adept at articulating their aspirations and identifying strategies to reach their goals.



"I now think about my dreams as realistic goals" Ferenkeh Marah

"It makes you think about the tools you need to achieve success in your life" Nevaeh Maddix

BRITISH VALUES

British Values and Our Character Kit List: Growing Stronger Together

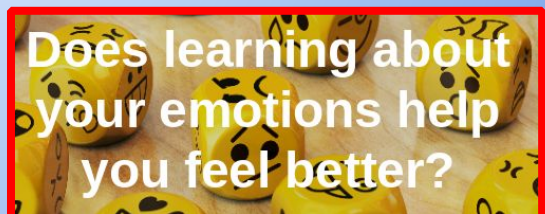
British values are woven through the curriculum that we teach. This week we look at the value of democracy.

Democracy means a culture built upon freedom and equality, where everyone is aware of their rights and responsibilities.

We teach democracy through; class voting for school councillors, through specific curriculum topics, assemblies and providing the opportunity for children to debate through our oracy topic of debate.

We also use the votes for schools program - a weekly current affairs voting platform designed to engage young people in political and social issues.

This week the topic was;





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NAH
3 
DAYS OFF

RMH
6
DAYS OFF

RYG
15
DAYS OFF

1Co
13
DAYS OFF

1/2HM
4
DAYS OFF

2DN
5 
DAYS OFF

6NOV
DAYS OFF

3AB
9
DAYS OFF

3/4LM
15
DAYS OFF

4SM
5 
DAYS OFF

5AS
9
DAY OFF

5/6NW
8
DAYS OFF

6BP
6
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 SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS

A message arrives saying "Have you seen this video of yourself?" or you might be sent an attention-grabbing headline about a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "bait" is produced by scammers to drive us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need-to-know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scams appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive gadgets or tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry so we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or freebies. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and suchlike. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

FALSE FRIENDSHIPS

Scammers often pretend to be someone they're not to gain their victims' trust. They might attempt to convince any children they connect with that they're a child of similar age with shared interests. Warning signs include a high volume of messages (often with an intense tone), secrecy, inappropriate levels of intimacy, guilt tripping, emotional manipulation, threats or blackmail.

PANIC MODE

To trigger a sense of panic, scammers may claim that a child's account has been hacked, or a virus has been installed on their device, or any number of other scary scenarios. They may claim to be able to fix the problem or offer a solution – if the child hands over control of the device or sensitive information. Similar scams involve impersonating a friend or relative, claiming that they're in trouble and need help.

FAKE CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

Impersonating influential people online is a common tactic for scammers, who can use technology to create fake photos, audio and even videos that look authentic. These can be used to convince us, for example, to buy products, sign up for so-called "business opportunities" or invest in cryptocurrency schemes – all of which are fake or otherwise malicious. Many scams also involve the impersonation of popular companies' social media accounts, as well as those of individuals.

Advice for Parents & Educators

STAY INFORMED

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber-security. See what scam stories are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up with young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly endorsed resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to their younger users.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to always consult with an adult – especially if what's on offer sounds too good to be true.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you about anything they're unsure of or worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't pass judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are scammed just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scams, false information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child ought to speak to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD investigates children's understandings of risk online. She works with schools, businesses, and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams>

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Good
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