



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025

ISSUE NO.22

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

As always, it's been non stop at Warren Farm this week. On Tuesday our Girls Football team spent the day at Villa Park with Miss Lewis and Miss Groves at the Aston Villa Foundation 'International Women's Day' event where they were also lucky enough to watch Aston Villa v Barcelona youth team in the UEFA Youth League. The opportunities for wider curriculum engagement with Aston Villa continued on Wednesday when 4SM received a guided stadium tour of Villa park as their classmate, Mumeen, received an award for his poem which was personally chosen by Benjamin Zephaniah's family. On the day, he had the incredible honour of reading it pitch side. We are incredibly proud of Mumeen for writing such a powerful and heartfelt poem on the importance of equality and mutual respect. What an unforgettable achievement and experience for all involved.

Over the next four weeks, our Student Navigators will be putting our Character **Waypoints of Ownership, Preparation, Communication, and Empathy** into action by leading four fundraising events. Each House (North, East, South, and West) will organise a simple yet meaningful event to help reduce the financial burden of the Year 6 residential trip for families. All money raised will be deducted from the current £50 cost of the residential (which the school already heavily subsidises from £200) to parents/carers. These fundraising initiatives are part of a long-term community effort that will take place each year, ensuring that all families benefit when it's their child's turn to attend the Year 6 residential trip. We would love your support in making these events a success. Keep an eye on ClassDojo for updates and details on how you can get involved. Thank you for your continued support - it really is a team effort!

World Book day was once again a real hit with children and staff. A special thanks to you, our supportive parents/carers, for providing an amazing array of costumes and creative homemade ideas. Fostering a love of reading is essential to our children's future success and it was evident to see as we celebrated together - **Excellence in Everything** at it's very best!

To use the words of Aristotle "We are what we repeatedly do . Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit"

Make it a great weekend *Mr Taylor*



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 10th March	Science week
Thur 13th March	Reception Eye Tests
Fri 21st March	Red Nose Day - Non uniform
Wed 26th March	Year 3 Mother's Day workshop 2:00pm-3:00pm
Thur 27th March	Year 4 Mother's Day workshop 2:00pm-3:00pm
Fri 4th April	Rocksteady Concert 2:00pm
Mon 7th April	Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Easter Bonnet Parade

"A positive attitude gives you power over your circumstances instead of your circumstances having power over you."

Joyce Meyer



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EARLY YEARS



What a busy week we've had in Early Years this week! Both Reception and Nursery enjoyed making and tasting pancakes, getting very messy in the process! In Reception, we have also been reading our new book *My Pet Star*, as well as exploring time in different ways. We also had our first visit to our new school library - check out Classdojo for pictures. In Nursery, children have enjoyed learning and exploring in the sunshine. We were so impressed with everyone's costumes for World Book Day, and they even got a visit from the cowardly lion!



KEY STAGE 1



This week has been full of exciting activities! **World Book Day:** The children had a great time dressing up as their favourite storybook characters. We focused on *Rain Before Rainbows* and explored themes of hope through discussions and creative activities. **VR Exploration of Australia:** KS1 also got to experience our new VR headsets, taking a virtual trip to explore Australia's physical features, including the Great Barrier Reef and Uluru. It's been a fun and busy week, and we can't wait for more next week!



ATTENDANCE

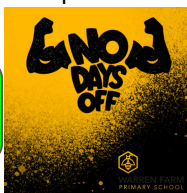
This week, I have reached out to several parents regarding what we call '**Frequent Periods of Absence**'—when a child has multiple days off due to illness, often one day at a time.

While we completely understand that children do get ill, we become concerned when absence patterns emerge, particularly when they happen regularly on the same day each week or fortnight—often on a **Friday**.

To support families, we can offer **referrals to the School Nurse**, who may be able to provide guidance and additional help in managing children's health and well-being.

Attendance can be challenging to improve, but we are making real progress. Parents are becoming increasingly aware of our expectations and are working positively with us to ensure children are in school as much as possible. Thank you for your ongoing support!

This week's House attendance winners are... EAST!



RED NOSE DAY

FRIDAY 21ST MARCH

Red Nose - £2 each

On sale at break times from Monday 10th March at the Yellow Sofa. This Red Nose Day, on 21st March 2025, let's celebrate 40 years of going big, giving big, and feeling good together.

To celebrate 40 years of Comic Relief, they're bringing back a favourite Red Nose from each decade – from the 80's, 90's, Noughties and 2010's. Plus a celebratory Cupcake Nose, exclusive to our Collector Pack.

Please note, limited numbers of noses are available to purchase at school but they can also be purchased from local retailers.



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SAFEGUARDING

This weeks safeguarding focus is the news that adults who take part in child criminal exploitation will be prosecuted. The new crime and policing bill is currently going through parliament and aims to deter those people who use children for criminal offences. The bill will also make 'Cuckooing' an offence also - this is when a vulnerable person's home is taken over and used to for criminal activity, which can include drugs, soliciting or money laundering. The most common form of child criminal exploitation is county lines, this is when children are used to transport drugs to different parts of the country. These children are often recruited by gangs and then blackmailed into taking part in illegal criminal activity. For further information visit [Child criminal exploitation](#).

YEAR 6 TRANSITION

This week, our Year 6 students received the exciting news about which secondary school they will be attending starting in September 2025. It's a time of both excitement and anxiety for the children. In the upcoming term, we will be supporting them as they prepare for this important transition. As a staff, we have already begun coordinating with the secondary schools to ensure a smooth handover. As part of this process, we will share relevant information about each child, including their academic progress, any support they may need, and details of any external agencies involved in their care. This collaborative approach will help the secondary schools prepare to welcome your children in September.

CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Markuss Skujins
RMH	Zayan Muhammad
RAY	Eustina Hove
1CO	Amen Tekle
1/2HM	Anayra Uddin
2DN	Omar Ali
3AB	Frankie - Rose Barnsley
3/4LM	Ava Francis-Mugerwa
4SM	Lillie-Ella Firkin
5AS	Daniel Coley
5/6NW	Logan Tedstone
6BP	Ferenkeh Marah

LOWER KEY STAGE 2



This week, as a prize for Mumeen in 4SM winning a poetry competition in memory of the legendary poet Benjamin Zephaniah, the whole class took a tour of Aston Villa Football Stadium. The students explored the stands, dugouts, and locker rooms, learning about the club's rich history and legendary players. We have also celebrated World Book Day this week. It was great to see some many students dressing up as their favourite book characters and being so engrossed in all the reading activities throughout the day.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

Through thoughtful discussions and interactive activities, Year 5 explored effective strategies for resolving conflicts positively in their Young Leaders session. Meanwhile, Year 6 children have been diligently preparing for their upcoming SATs assessments. With focused study sessions and supportive guidance from our dedicated teachers, they are sharpening their skills and building confidence in readiness for this important milestone. Across the whole phase, we had a spectacular World Book Day celebration filled with creativity and imagination! Students dressed up as their favourite characters and immersed themselves in activities inspired by the enchanting book 'Rain before Rainbows'. It was a joy to see their enthusiasm for reading and storytelling come to life during our school assembly.





CHARACTER CURRICULUM

How does Character at Warren Farm Create Inclusive Attendance?

In a recent article in the *Financial Times* around school attendance and the imminent launch of the Government-backed Breakfast Club Scheme, one line stood out to me above all the rest:

"Part of the solution lies in making school the centre of their communities. Parents need to believe that their children BELONG in school, and children need to feel at home there."

At Warren Farm, we have made, and continue to make, steps towards ensuring that every child feels at home in school and that they belong.

- 🏠 **House System & Student Leadership** – Our House Groups (**North, South, East, and West**) create a strong sense of identity and belonging for children across year groups. The role of **Student Navigators** ensures that older pupils take responsibility for mentoring and guiding their younger peers, strengthening relationships and fostering a supportive community.
- ⭐ **Character Kit List & Recognition** – We actively celebrate character development through our **Character Kit List**, embedding key values such as **teamwork, empathy, and motivation** into daily school life. Our newly introduced **Character Stickers** 🏆 reinforce positive behaviours and make children feel seen and valued.
- 🚀 **Compass for Life & Super North Star** – By encouraging children to **dream big** and set personal goals through the **Compass for Life** framework, we help them see school as an essential part of their journey to success, giving them a reason to feel invested in their learning environment.
- 🍎 **Breakfast & Lunchtime Clubs** – We ensure that children start the day in a **positive way**, not just through learning but through social experiences. Our clubs provide a welcoming space for children to **develop friendships, engage in new activities, and feel included**.
- ⚽ **Sporting Competitions & Extracurricular Activities** – From participating in over **50 sports competitions** 🏆 through **Spark Active** to our **Character Clubs**, we give every child opportunities to engage in activities beyond the classroom, helping them to **find their place within the school community**.
- 🤝 **Strong Relationships with Families** – We work closely with **parents and carers** to ensure they feel connected to the school, whether through **open communication, workshops, or events** that invite them to be part of their child's school experience.

By making these commitments, we aim to create an environment where every child sees Warren Farm as **their school** – a place where they feel **safe, valued, and excited to learn**.





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NAH
1
DAY OFF



RMH
2
DAYS OFF

RYG
3
DAYS OFF

1Co
28
DAYS OFF

1/2HM
10
DAYS OFF

2DN
11
DAYS OFF

6NOV
DAYS OFF

3AB
10
DAYS OFF

3/4LM
6
DAYS OFF

4SM
13
DAYS OFF

5AS
8
DAY OFF

5/6NW
12
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 USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reading words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children, encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, *Neuroteachers*, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

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Ofsted
Good Provider