



# NEWSLETTER

## FRIDAY 14TH MARCH 2025

### ISSUE NO.23

#### EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



**EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME**

## Message from Mr Taylor

The excellent learning experiences, opportunities and fun never ends at Warren Farm and this week has once again been jam packed for our children. To kick start the week we welcomed a 'Science Boffin' to school as part of National Science week who delivered assemblies and workshops across the school. This continued throughout the week, with children investigating and exploring a wide range of scientific experiments. On Wednesday and Thursday, North House Student Navigators delivered the first of our 4 week block of fundraising activities to further work together to reduce the cost of our Year 6 residential. Thank you for your support and we look forward to working together over the coming weeks to raise more funds - it really is a team effort!

This week, Miss Gosling held a parent workshop to introduce a programme to all year groups at school called 'myHappymind' - a resource developed to help children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits. To further embed this learning, 'myHappymind' has developed a Parent App. These resources can be accessed online on your computer or through an app on your phone. The Parent App will support you in understanding what your child is learning, activities for you to do together at home and also a Kids Zone. To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> to create your free account. You will need to enter your name, email, and authentication code (this has been shared on Dojo and through letters). Thank you for your support, mental health and wellbeing plays a pivotal role at Warren Farm in supporting our children achieve 'Excellence in Everything'.

Once again we were joined by visitors to experience *Excellence in Everything* at Warren Farm, including Patrick Carey, Director - Teacher and Tutors - from the Department of Education for a discussion on strategic issues around teacher recruitment and retention, alongside Character Education at Warren Farm who commented:

*"...particularly enjoyed hearing about the priority placed on helping children prepare for life beyond school and having the wider skills to succeed, and some exciting and innovative practice to boost staff recruitment and retention."*

Make it a great weekend *Mr Taylor*



## DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 17th March	EAST Fundraising event begins
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
Mon 31st March	Ukulele Concert - Year 3 and 4 parents only 2:00pm
Fri 4th April	Rocksteady Concert 2:00pm
Mon 7th April	Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Easter Bonnet Parade

*"It's not how much you give, it's how much you put into giving."*

Mother Teresa



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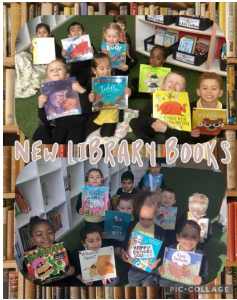


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### EARLY YEARS

We have had a jam-packed week in Early Years! All children have checked out new library books as their reading for pleasure books this week, and have enjoyed spending time in our new library. In Reception, we have been exploring life-cycles of different animals and finding out which animals look like their babies. We then created a pond-scene which showed the different stages of a frog's life cycle. In Nursery, the children have been excitedly watching their eggs hatch! Keep your eye on class dojo for further updates!



### KEY STAGE 1

This week in Key Stage 1, the children enjoyed buying cakes to support the Year 6 residential fundraiser. They also had a fantastic time during Science Week, participating in exciting experiments. All children were given the opportunity to bring home a library book, which they can exchange weekly based on their class's library slot. Lastly, a reminder that if you're running late or if someone else is picking up your child, please call the office to inform them. Thank you for your continued support.



### ATTENDANCE

At Warren Farm, we believe that belonging, collaboration, and community spirit play a vital role in ensuring our children feel happy, motivated, and ready to learn. When children feel part of something bigger—a school that values them, their contributions, and their potential—they are far more likely to arrive on time, every day, ready to achieve Excellence In Everything.

Our attendance is not just about numbers; it's about fostering a culture where every child understands the importance of showing up, building routines, strengthening friendships, and ensuring that they do not miss out on valuable learning experiences.

We're incredibly proud of the efforts from our families in making school attendance a priority, and we know that when we work together as a community, we can achieve even greater success! Let's keep up the momentum and aim for the highest attendance possible this term!

**This week's House attendance winners are... North!**



### ACTIVE TRAVEL

As the weather starts to get warmer we can encourage safe and sustainable travel options for the children to and from school. Walking, cycling, and scooting not only help reduce traffic congestion but also promote physical activity and environmental consciousness. Here's how you can help:

- **Lead by Example:** If possible, walk, cycle, or scoot with your child to school. It shows them that these modes of transport are fun, safe, and practical.
- **Create a Routine:** Set a regular time for walking or cycling, making it part of the daily routine. This helps children build a positive habit and understand the benefits of sustainable travel.
- **Teach Safety:** Ensure your child knows the importance of road safety—whether it's wearing a helmet, using pedestrian crossings, or following traffic rules.
- **Encourage Group Travel:** Form walking or cycling groups with other families. This not only fosters a sense of community but also ensures children travel together safely.





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### SAFEGUARDING

This weeks safeguarding focus is bereavement. When children lose someone significant in their lives, children and young people grieve just as deeply as adults, but they can show it in different ways. They learn how to grieve by copying the responses of the adults around them and rely on them to support them in their grief. The child can present this grief through a range of emotions which include anger, extreme sadness and denial. The ways that you can help their grieving is by: giving them clear, honest and age appropriate information, reassurance that the emotions they are feeling are normal, consistency in there routines and time for them to talk, ask questions and build memories. For more information regarding please visit [childhood bereavement UK](https://www.childhoodbereavement.uk).

### SEND

One of the support services that is available for schools and families within Birmingham is the SEND Occupational Therapy Team. Their role is to support children and young people with carrying out activities they need, want or are expected to do but are prevented from doing so for a variety of reasons. They can offer advice and support through workshops and webinars on a variety of topics including: toileting tips, making the home sensory friendly and developing self care skills. They run an Advice Line, Monday-Friday, 9.00-4.00. Contact them on **0121 683 2325** or visit them on Facebook [@BCHCChildrensOT](https://www.facebook.com/BCHCChildrensOT).

### CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Freya Rose Warr
RMH	Tehillah Ndikum
RAY	Sarah Alatieh
1CO	Sienna Collins
1/2HM	Luke Scott
2DN	Sundus Dayfallah
3AB	Aaliya Williams
3/4LM	
4SM	Noah Maya
5AS	Maia Costandache
5/6NW	Harley Bree
6BP	Longxuan Lin

### LOWER KEY STAGE 2

This week we celebrated Science and it was a blast as we dived into exciting hands-on experiments that sparked curiosity and creativity! We kicked things off by making cup telephones, learning how sound travels through vibrations. Then, we had a fizzy moment with the classic Coke and Mentos reaction, watching the explosive fun and discussing the science behind it. Next, we got our engineering hats on and built our own cars to test the impact of friction on speed and distance! To wrap it all up, we had a polymer workshop, where we created our own slime, exploring the fascinating world of materials that can stretch and change.



### UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This year's Science Week was an exciting and enriching experience for all our students! We were thrilled to welcome Jane from Science Boffins, whose enthusiasm and expertise inspired our students as they took part in a thrilling whole-school assembly. Each class also enjoyed a hands-on workshop, diving into a variety of experiments that sparked curiosity and creativity. It was wonderful to see the children's excitement as they explored the science behind everyday phenomena. Also this week, students visited the school library and, for the first time, they were able to take books home.





# NORTH FUNDRAISING

*It's not how much you give, it's how much you put into giving*

This week, our **North Student Navigators** took the lead in organising our **very first fundraising event**—a deliciously successful **Cake Sale** where we raised over £243.74! From planning and preparation to teamwork and sales, our Navigators showed incredible **ownership** and **leadership**, ensuring the event ran smoothly.



It was wonderful to see the whole **school community** come together, with children excitedly choosing their treats and parents generously supporting the cause. Events like these **strengthen our sense of belonging** and highlight the amazing **community spirit** that makes Warren Farm so special.

A **huge thank you** to our families for their generosity and to our Student Navigators for their **hard work and dedication**—what a brilliant way to kickstart our fundraising journey! We're looking forward to many more exciting initiatives ahead.





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**NAH**  
**2**  
**DAY OFF**

**RMH**  
**1**  
**DAY OFF**



**RYG**  
**4**  
**DAYS OFF**

**1Co**  
**14**  
**DAYS OFF**

**1/2HM**  
**1**  
**DAY OFF**

**2DN**  
**9**  
**DAYS OFF**

**6NOV**  
**DAYS OFF**

**3AB**  
**16**  
**DAYS OFF**

**3/4LM**  
**8**  
**DAYS OFF**

**4SM**  
**8**  
**DAYS OFF**

**5AS**  
**7**  
**DAY OFF**

**5/6NW**  
**13**  
**DAYS OFF**

**6BP**  
**3**  
**DAYS OFF**





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All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many devices which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## 10 top tips for safely using SMARTWATCHES

Kids love gadgets, and smartwatches – available to buy from as little as £20 online – make a tempting gift. As with any type of mobile technology, though, smartwatches can pose risks to children unless they're used safely. Receiving unwanted calls, cyber-stalking and distracting a young person when they're crossing the road are all known risks associated with smartwatches. However, these devices can bring plenty of benefits for children and parents alike – so let's examine the pros and cons of smartwatches.

### AVOID CHEAP OPTIONS

A quick search online yields a torrent of cheap smartwatches for kids, costing as little as £20. It's wise to avoid this bargain basement tech: it tends to deliver a poor experience with inferior battery life, and it's hard to have faith in the software's safety. There have been cases of smartwatches being hacked to track or contact children; stick to known brands who have a reputation to protect.

### CONTROL CALLING

Many smartwatches have the facility to make or take calls. As with a phone, you may want to restrict who your child can call – or be called by. On Apple Watches, you can select trusted contacts who are allowed to ring your child, while other watches' controls vary hugely. Some need to connect to a linked phone for calls, so you may be able to block unknown contacts via that device instead.

### BEWARE HIDDEN COSTS

For a smartwatch to allow calls independently (that is, without being connected to a phone via Bluetooth), it will need its own mobile data plan. This might take the form of a tiny SIM card that you slot into the watch – or an eSIM, where the physical card is replaced by software settings. Either way, this will incur an additional monthly cost that you'll need to factor into any buying decision.

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Apple Watches aren't cheap, but they do offer superb safety features – allowing parents to control calls, messages and emails on the device, as well as a location tracking system that can send alerts if kids wander beyond pre-set boundaries. Their SOS function enables children to contact emergency services instantly if they're in trouble, which simultaneously also alerts parents and carers.

### MAKE THEM COOL FOR SCHOOL

Some schools have banned smartwatches, as pupils have been using them as substitute phones. If your child's school does permit them, some devices can be set to prevent distractions in class. For example, Apple's Schooltime feature turns their watches into ordinary time-keeping devices during school hours. The display changes in this mode, showing teachers that it isn't being used for other purposes.

### TRACK ITS LOCATION

Both Apple and Android devices have apps which allow you to track a smartwatch's location. They can also initiate an audio alert – avoiding those cushion-hurling panics when a treasured device can't be found at home. If you're planning to track your child's location via their watch, make them aware of that in advance. You could even make it a condition of them getting the watch in the first place.

### THINK 'SAFETY FIRST'

Smartwatches are often worth hundreds of pounds, which can make young people wearing one a target for thieves. Advise your child to keep the watch hidden in public (when possible) and not to resist if muggers demand their watch. If you manage to track a stolen device, pass that information to the police; location data isn't always accurate, so you could end up wrongly accusing someone.

### STORE MEDICAL INFO

Devices including the Samsung Galaxy Watch and Apple Watch can store the owner's medical details (such as their blood group and any pre-existing medical conditions), potentially giving emergency services access to vital information in a crisis. These devices also have fall-detection, which sends a text message to selected contacts along with a map showing the wearer's location.

### USE THEM AS MOTIVATION

If you're worried your child's spending too much time slumped on the sofa staring at screens, smartwatches are great fitness trackers and can be a powerful incentive to get moving. Some devices will alert the wearer if they've been inactive for a long time and encourage them to do some exercise. Many watches record the user's daily step count and measure other health metrics.

### BE MINDFUL OF BEDTIME

Many smartwatches offer sleep tracking, which some (usually older) children use to justify wearing them to bed. However, that also presents a temptation to message friends or check social media late at night, even if their phone is downstairs. Unless there's a valid reason not to, you could encourage your child to remove the watch in the evenings and ensure the charger stays in a different room.

### Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Wired*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 4 Live and the *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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