



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2025

ISSUE NO.5

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

As we bound further into the first half term of the academic year, sports clubs are now joined by after school competitions against other schools across the city. This week, our spotlight shines on the vital role that sports and physical education play in the daily life of our school. At Warren Farm, sport is not just about winning matches - it's about opportunity, growth and inclusivity. Last academic year, an incredible 96% of children represented the school in competitive sport. From football to athletics, rugby to dodgeball, our philosophy is simple: sport for all no matter your child's level or ability.

We are inspired by the idea of making marginal gains - those small, incremental improvements and gains that Sir David Brailsford used to drive Team Sky's cycling success at the 2012 Olympics and in the years since. In sport, just as in life, the pursuit of small daily improvements leads to **Excellence in Everything** over time. Great athletes remind us of this truth too. As Michael Jordan famously said "I've failed over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

At Warren Farm, we see sport as a powerful tool for developing character in our children. Every playtime game, P.E lesson, after school club and competition brings opportunity to develop Character Waypoints such as Teamwork, Leadership, Adaptability Communication and Attitude. These lessons reach far beyond the pitch and into the classroom, the community and future life.

This week marked the start of the new football season for our boys' team. On Wednesday they represented school at the Birmingham City Training ground for a tournament against schools across the city. A fantastic opportunity and a chance for Miss Lewis and Mr Davis to prepare the squad for the season ahead. Their hard work and learning was evident the very next day when they played their first league fixture against The Shrubbery School with a 4-0 victory, proof of how quickly feedback and practice can bring progress.

We are proud to continue to provide a broad, inclusive sporting offer this year. Whether it's representing the school in competition, improving personal bests in P.E or simply enjoying the buzz that movement can bring, **Excellence in Everything** is possible for every child through sport at Warren Farm.

Make it a great weekend!

Mr Taylor



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 6th October	Year 6 Theatre trip
Tue/Wed 7/8th October	Parents Evening all year groups 3:30pm - 6:00pm
Thurs 9th October	Open morning for new Reception 2026 at 9:30
Fri 10th October	World Mental Health Day Wear Yellow (Non Uniform)
Wed 15th October	Open evening for new Reception 2026 at 4:00
Fri 17th October	Halloween Disco Non Uniform - Fancy Dress
Fri 17th October	All children break up 2 week Half Term
Mon 3rd November	All children return to school

"In sport as in life,
true talent is grit,
discipline, patience,
and trusting the
process"

Roger Federer



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EARLY YEARS

Reception have had another busy week of learning all about Autumn. We have been using the leaves brought in by the children as natural confetti to decorate pictures of Autumn animals. In P.E this week, we practised changing into our full P.E kits for the first time - please continue to practise independent changing at home, and continue to develop your child's ownership of their clothes and routines. Reception and Nursery both enjoyed exploring how to use different balls in the hall. Please make sure your child has a P.E t-shirt with the Warren Farm logo on ready for our house photos next Wednesday.



KEY STAGE 1

Congratulations to the children that attended the multi skills competition on Tuesday, who came first! They completed a range of throwing and catching activities, showing brilliant teamwork and resilience throughout. All of key stage 1 showed courage and practised their communication skills in Science this week, when they tried five foods to experience different tastes. They discussed what they thought about each food and categorised them. In History, they learnt about Samuel Pepys and wrote their own diary entry, imagining they were witnesses to the Great Fire of London, showing wonderful empathy. A final note, please ensure your child bring their reading record to school every day, and returns their reading books each Monday.



ATTENDANCE

I would be remiss if I did not mention what a disappointing start we have had in terms of attendance this year. This week alone, two classes lost 18 days of learning – the equivalent of four children having the whole week off. Across the whole school, we have lost 115 days of learning. That's the same as 22 children being absent all week. Behind those numbers, we are seeing some concerning patterns.

One day off here and there may not seem much, but it quickly adds up, and too often it is a choice rather than a genuine necessity. As a school, we are working hard and doing our due diligence, but without your support we are fighting a losing battle. Here's the thing: when children are in school, they are thriving. Visitors consistently comment on their excellent learning behaviours, their enthusiasm, and how proudly they talk about being part of the Warren Farm Family. That is the magic we see every day. But multiple absences undo that progress.

The truth is this: when attendance is poor, we are collectively failing our children. Failing to prepare them for life beyond school. Failing to let them build momentum, build character, and build resilience.

HALLOWEEN DISCO



On **Friday 17th of October** we will be inviting children to come to school dressed in Halloween costumes and clothing. This will be a non-school uniform day. During the afternoon each phase will have a time allocated for their Halloween disco in the main school hall. Please bring a donation of £2 for fancy dress and each child will receive a tasty halloween treat.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Friday 10th October #HelloYellow

We will be joining thousands across the country to stand out and show up for young people's mental health by wearing yellow. This is a non school uniform day.



By wearing yellow this World Mental Health Day, and donating £1 (per family), you can show young people that you're with them. Show them that they matter and deserve the support they need, when they need it, no matter what.





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SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding themes are interwoven throughout our curriculum and the opportunities we offer in school. Some examples include:

- Our assemblies which are delivered to all children from EYFS to Y6
- Online Safety days with age-appropriate workshops and online discussions within the computing lessons
- Involvement in Anti-Bullying Week and Mental Health Awareness Week
- Relationships, Sex & Health Education (RSHE) lessons
- Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) lessons
- MyHappyMind Mental Health and Wellbeing programme
- Our Character Curriculum

INCLUSION



At Warren Farm Primary School, we use a program called MyHappyMind. This is a whole school approach based around helping children to understand how their brains work and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves! MyHappyMind is delivered by the class teacher through a series of interactive lessons and then the children apply these learning throughout the day. To further embed this learning, MyHappyMind has developed a parent app to allow you access to resources to support your child. You can access these materials by visiting <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources>. To access please use the authentication code 138303.

CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	N/A
RMH	Alicia Docker
RAY	Poppy Nottingham
1CP	Yahya Ghazi
1/2DN	Reuben Simmonds
2AB	Luke Scott
3AS	Abbas Ghazi
3/4LM	Alicia-Mae Firkin
4SM	Maddie Weston
5LM	Georgia-Li Hanna
5/6NW	Omar Qteishat
6BP	Amy Landa Kaur

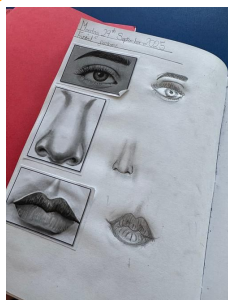
LOWER KEY STAGE 2

This week, Year 3 and 4 have been busy exploring exciting topics across our curriculum. In science, they've been learning all about skeletons – understanding how bones support and protect our bodies. In history, they've continued to learn about life in the Stone Age by studying Skara Brae, discovering what everyday life was like for early settlers. In art, the children have enjoyed getting creative with composition collages, experimenting with layout, texture, and colour. As part of their ongoing homework, pupils are expected to regularly access Bug Club for reading and Times Tables Rock Stars. A final note, as the weather is getting colder, please send your child in with a coat for playtime and lunchtime.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This week Year 5 and 6 have been developing their artistic skills by practising how to draw facial features with increasing detail and accuracy. The children have really enjoyed experimenting with shading and proportions to bring their sketches to life. In history, we have been stepping back in time to the Anglo-Saxon period. Our studies have focused on the fascinating artefacts discovered at Sutton Hoo. The children were intrigued by the treasures found in the burial site and enjoyed exploring what these items can tell us about Anglo-Saxon culture, beliefs, and way of life.





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NAH
1
DAY OFF



RMH
10
DAYS OFF

RAY
8
DAY OFF

1CP
9
DAYS OFF

1/2DN
8
DAYS OFF

2AB
6
DAYS OFF

6NOV
DAYS OFF

3AS
18
DAYS OFF

3/4LM
9
DAYS OFF

4SM
14
DAYS OFF

5LM
18
DAY OFF

5/6NW
3
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 EA SPORTS FC 26



Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As was the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many dedicated players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they play with or against. While it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter strangers much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added as limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but that hasn't stopped scammers from looking to dupe players out of money and in-game coins. Some scammers sell their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is potentially addictive, thanks to its fast-paced gameplay and mirroring of the real-world skill and glamour of football. Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the lottery of winning packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and impulsive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual-release cadence aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to incentivise good behaviour at the start of term, if children are applying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children accidentally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't link a payment card to their account. Reclaiming funds can be a mountain to climb, and the dopamine hit of opening flashy packs with slick animations means one purchase can lead to another very quickly. It's also worth adding a prepaid card if you'd prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, be sure to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to call, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spam. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for usernames or passwords. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/ea-sports-fc-26>

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Ofsted
Good
Provider