

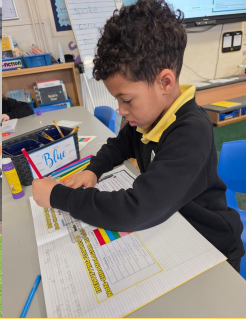


NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY

ISSUE NO.21

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

Welcome back to what marks the halfway point for the academic year. When we take the time to stop and reflect, it's always incredibly powerful to see how much we have achieved together as a community in such a short space of time. From the progress children have made, the events that have brought us together, to the character our children continue to demonstrate every day, there is so much for us all to be proud of.

You may have seen in the news this week that the Education Secretary, Bridgette Philipson, has published a new schools white paper. This 120 page document sets out a vision for education for the next decade. At its heart are three key words: "Achieve, Belong, Thrive".

These words will feel very familiar to our Warren Farm community. Since September 2022, we have been intentional about creating a school culture where belonging is at the heart of everything we do. We know that when children feel safe, valued and connected, they are far more likely to achieve and ultimately flourish. This is reflected in our daily interactions, inclusive approach and the strong sense of community that ensures **Excellence in Everything** and makes Warren Farm such a special place to learn and grow.

The white paper also reveals that an enrichment framework will be published later this academic year, setting out benchmarks for what high quality enrichment should look like. As you know, curriculum enrichment is already integral to everything we do. Whether through trips, visitors, clubs, sporting opportunities, leadership roles or the experiences woven into our curriculum, we know that each and every one of these help develop character in our children. Our 12 Character Waypoints support children to develop skills that will serve them well in the future on their journey to their Super North Stars and beyond the gates of Warren Farm .

Ultimately, while national papers and Ofsted frameworks provide direction and accountability, we remain clear about our purpose. By delivering **Excellence in Everything** for our children, we know we are doing the right thing. These documents simply provide further credibility and recognition for the great work that the Warren Farm team does every single day.

Make it a great weekend

Mr Taylor



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Thurs 5th March | World Book Day - All children to dress up |
| Wed 11th March | Year 4 Multiplication check meeting - 9:00 |
| Wed 11th March | Year 1 Mothers day workshop |
| Thurs 12th March | Year 2 Mothers day workshop |
| Fri 13th March | Rocksteady Concert - 2:30 |
| Fri 20th March | Red Nose Day - Wear Red |
| Tues 24th March | Easter Bonnet Parade for EYFS and KS1 - 9:00 |

"The time is always right to do what is right."

Martin Luther King



Aylesbury Crescent
Birmingham B44 ODT
www.warrenfarm-primary.co.uk
0121 373 3885



@warren_farm_pri





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EARLY YEARS

Welcome back! We're now half way through the year, and progress is really starting to gather speed with our little learners in Early Years. Nursery have welcomed some new starters this week, and we're so proud of how they have settled in. The class have shown lots of empathy as our new students settle in, and everyone has shown great motivation as they have explored outdoors! In Reception, we have been reading My Pet Star and made our own story map. We have loved our new vets role-play areas, and are keen to learn more about animals around the world. In Maths, we have been exploring measuring and comparing length and height using non-standard units such as cubes or hands.



KEY STAGE 1

We hope you all had a lovely break! It's been a busy week in KS1 starting all of our new units of learning. Year 1 are now focusing on place value to 50 and Year 2 are learning about multiplication and division. In Geography, the children explored atlases, globes and compasses, as we begin our unit on the journey of chocolate. In DT, they tasted and evaluated different vegetables in preparation for designing and making vegetable kebabs. We now have PE every Monday, so please ensure full kit is in school at the start of the week.



ATTENDANCE

We are really pleased with how attendance has improved over recent weeks. There is a noticeable shift across the school and it has been great to see so many children in every day, ready to learn, connect and succeed. This has not happened by chance. It is the result of a shared effort between pupils, families and staff, and it deserves recognition. At the same time, it is important to be clear: **high attendance is not a short-term push or a passing focus.** It is a standard we hold ourselves to, every week, every term. We know from experience that progress can stall when we relax our expectations, and that is something we are determined to avoid. Attendance matters because consistency matters. Children flourish on routine, strong relationships and uninterrupted learning. That only happens when they are in school, on time, every day they are able to be. Thank you for the positive start to this half term. Let's keep building on it and make strong attendance the norm, not the exception.

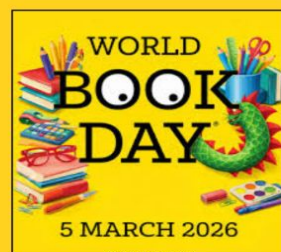
This week's House attendance winners are...WEST



WORLD BOOK DAY

THURSDAY 5TH MARCH

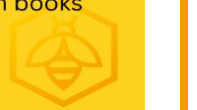
DRESS UP. READ MORE. IMAGINE BIGGER.



★ Celebrate the magic of stories! ★

This World Book Day, we're inviting everyone to:

- 👉 Dress up as your favourite book character
- 🗨️ Share a story you love
- 📖 Read for pleasure
- 🌍 Discover new worlds through books





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SAFEGUARDING

This week's safeguarding focus is knife crime. We often hear of reports in the media about many children who are victims of knife crime. Some children can get drawn into a gang culture that offers a sense of belonging and may seem socially acceptable for them to carry a knife for protection. Reiterate with the child that carrying a knife is against the law and they can be arrested for it, but also carrying a knife also means they are more likely to use it if in a compromising situation, which could result in the death of another child or adult. If you are concerned, speak to them calmly and explain the risks and consequences. Start a conversation about why they feel this is the right thing to do.

Further advice on this can be found on [Knife crime](#).

INCLUSION

As some of you might be aware, the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) White Paper, which was released on Monday, sets out the government's plans to improve support for children and young people with additional needs. The aim is to make the system clearer and more consistent, ensure needs are identified earlier, and strengthen partnership working between education, health and care services. The proposals also focus on improving communication with families and supporting inclusive practice in mainstream schools. We will continue to keep you updated and ensure we provide the best possible support for all our pupils.

CHILD OF THE WEEK

| | |
|-------|-------------------|
| NAH | Urhan Muhammad |
| RMH | Nali Kadir |
| RAY | Ethan Saul |
| 1CP | Josie Eden |
| 1/2DN | Lottie Treharne |
| 2AB | Alfie Clarke |
| 3AS | Tinuade Sangolade |
| 3/4LM | Sophia Crasmariu |
| 4SM | Khaliyah McKay |
| 5LM | Evie-Mae Elston |
| 5/6NW | Ava Francis |
| 6BP | Diahri Bromfield |

LOWER KEY STAGE 2

It has been lovely to welcome everyone back after the week off and to see how quickly the children have settled back into their routines. In Writing, Year 3 have begun an exciting new unit based on The Wild Robot, where they are already enjoying exploring the characters and setting, while Year 4 have launched into Operation Gadgetman, sparking lots of imaginative ideas and enthusiasm for storytelling. We are looking forward to seeing how their writing develops over the coming weeks. Please remember to check Class Dojo for our curriculum maps, where you can find more information about what your child will be learning this term.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

As we begin a new half term, Year 5 and 6 have launched their new units of learning. In DT, pupils have started a textiles project where they will design and make their own felt phone cases. In Geography, they are exploring trade and economics, while in Science they are learning about the circulatory system and how it keeps our bodies functioning. In Music, the children have also been developing their skills on the glockenspiels, practising rhythm and melody together. 5/6NW will continue swimming every Friday, so please ensure swimming kits are in school each week. Thank you for your continued support!






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NAH
2
DAYS OFF

RMH
3
DAYS OFF

RAY
5
DAYS OFF

1CP
NO 
DAYS OFF

1/2DN
4
DAYS OFF

2AB
4
DAYS OFF

6NOV
DAYS OFF

3AS 
1
DAYS OFF

3/4LM
6
DAYS OFF

4SM
2
DAYS OFF

5LM
6
DAYS OFF

5/6NW
7
DAYS OFF

6BP
6
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

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.

EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS

'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.

BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS

Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.

TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS

Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.

TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI

Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



See full reference list on our website

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Aylesbury Crescent
Birmingham B44 0DT
www.warrenfarm-primary.co.uk
0121 373 3885



@warren_farm_pri

