



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 22ND MAY

ISSUE NO.31

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME

Message from Mr Taylor

This week we celebrated World Cultural Diversity Day, and it was fantastic to see our children and staff proudly wearing clothing, colours and symbols that represent their culture, heritage and identity. Moments like this are a powerful reminder of the strength within our community and the importance of respect, empathy and understanding for others. At Warren Farm, our vision of **Excellence in Everything** is built upon creating a culture where every child feels a true sense of belonging - where individuality is celebrated and diversity is viewed as one of our greatest strengths.

It was also wonderful to welcome so many parents into school to support the celebrations, further highlighting the strong relationships and community spirit that continue to define life beyond the school gates at Warren Farm, continuing the excellent collaboration between school and families as we further strengthen our character curriculum. Character development remains the beating heart of Warren Farm and the shared partnership between home and school is vital as we intentionally develop not only successful learners, but good people. We are incredibly grateful to the parents who continue to give up their time, ideas and support to help shape the future direction of our school.

A huge congratulations must also go to our boys' football team who this week were crowned 'Tony Roberts Cup' champions after a dramatic penalty shootout victory against Kingsthorpe School in the final. To become champions of the Kingstanding and Perry Barr schools is a fantastic achievement and one the boys, staff and families should be incredibly proud of. What makes this story even more special is the journey behind it. Just three seasons ago, in their very first fixture as a newly formed team, the boys suffered a 14-0 defeat. Since then, through work ethic, teamwork, attitude and refusing to give up, they have continued to grow together - a perfect example of our Character Waypoints in action and proof that success is built *brick by brick*. We could not be prouder of them all.

As we reach the end of another busy and successful half term, our attention now turns towards the final seven weeks of the academic year. The summer term ahead is packed full of exciting learning opportunities, experiences, events and celebrations, and I know our children will continue to demonstrate **Excellence in Everything**. Thank you once again for your continued support this half term. Have a well deserved break and we look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 1st June ready for an exciting finish to the year. Make it a great break.

Mr Taylor



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DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon 1st June	All children return to school
Mon 1st June	Years 3 and 4 Sports Day
Tue 2nd June	Nursery and Reception Sports Day
Wed 3rd June	Years 1 and 2 Sports Day
Thur 4th June	Years 5 and 6 Sports Day
Fri 5th June	EYFS Teddy Bears Picnic
Tue 9th June	Class Photos

"Strength lies in differences, not in similarities."

Stephen R. Covey



WARREN FARM
MARY SCHOOL



@warrenfarmprimary





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EARLY YEARS



We have loved celebrating Cultural Diversity Week in Early Years! Nursery have had a fantastic time exploring Cuba and have been very creative in making some carnival headbands. Nursery also had a special visitor from Sergeant Jones, who led them on a special teddy bear rescue mission! In Reception, we have learn all about Zimbabwe, as well as had a taster of Gaelic football courtesy of Mr Davis. We have also enjoyed using globes and atlases to explore our diverse heritages.



KEY STAGE 1



We have had a tremendous end to the term, celebrating Cultural Diversity Week and visiting Warwick Castle! We had a fabulous time exploring the castle grounds, watching the birds of prey display and learning about the history of Warwick Castle. The children showed great respect and curiosity throughout the day. We also loved learning about India this week, engaging in a range of tasks to learn about Indian culture. We hope you all have a happy and safe break and look forward to seeing you all soon!



ATTENDANCE

As always, we believe in being open and honest with our parents and community. With that in mind, I would like to share some context regarding attendance. Currently, our whole school attendance stands at 93.4%. While we do not usually focus on percentages publicly, it is important to understand where we are currently as a school. Within our locality, this places us 237th out of 292 schools. Naturally, this does not reflect our ambition of *Excellence In Everything*. However, there is real cause for positivity. Since January, attendance has improved significantly and has remained consistently strong. This is not about league tables or numbers in boxes. It is about recognising where we are, understanding the importance of attendance and continuing to build positive habits for our children. Strong attendance develops so many of the character waypoints we speak about so often at Warren Farm: ownership, preparation, time-management and self-discipline. A strong finish to the academic year will not only improve our overall picture, but more importantly, continue to build those habits and routines for our children. Let's return for Summer 2 with the same energy, positivity, determination, and finish the year strongly together.

CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 2026



End of Year class photographs will be taken on **Tuesday 9th June 2026**. Please ensure children are in the correct uniform (and footwear) in line with the school uniform policy

SPORTS DAY WEEK CORRECT HOUSE T SHIRTS

Please ensure your child has the correct official House T Shirt for Sports day. All sizes are in stock at Clive Marks School Uniform. 11-13 Boldmere Rd, Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield B73 5UY





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SAFEGUARDING

This week's safeguarding focus is around sun safety. As the weather starts to warm up and the sun is shining it's important that we protect our skin.

Below are some top tips for being safe in the sun

- Use a sunscreen with a minimum SPF 50 and at least 4 stars for UVA protection.
- Reapply sunscreen if you have been in the water
- Wear sunglasses with UV protection
- Wear a sunhat and loose clothing made of breathable fabrics
- Seek shade between 11:00 and 3:00, this is when the sun is the strongest.
- Drink lots of water to stay hydrated.

INCLUSION

Transition

As we approach the last half term of the year, we all begin to think about the changes that will happen in September. For some of the children it may be a small change of moving along the corridor by one classroom for others it could be a move of key stage or even a completely new school. Though we are all aware of how difficult this could be, we are dedicated in ensure that the smoothest transition occurs. This is done by working together. Those children who need more support in becoming familiar with the adults and rooms they are working with and in will have several opportunities over the half term to become comfortable and reduce anxieties. If you have any worries please speak to us about them.

CHILD OF THE WEEK

NAH	Miyla Gobourne
RMH	Lexie Hartwell
RAY	Arabella Hancox
1CP	Skyla-Rose Haines
1/2DN	Poppy Downton
2AB	Asiya Abukar
3AS	Theo Simmonds
3/4LM	Tasnim Ahamed
4SM	Champion Afolayan
5LM	Finley Willis
5/6NW	Oliver Wysocki
6BP	Ruweyda Ibrahim

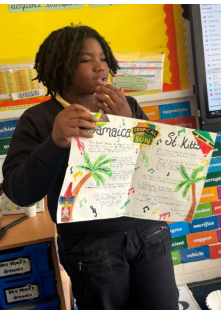
LOWER KEY STAGE 2

During Cultural Diversity Week, Years 3 and 4 have been learning all about Romania and celebrating its rich culture and traditions. The children took ownership of their learning by creating detailed fact files and engaging presentations to share everything they had discovered about the country, including its geography, traditions, landmarks and way of life. As part of the celebrations, pupils also enjoyed taking part in a lively Romanian dance workshop, where they learnt traditional dance moves and worked together with enthusiasm and confidence. To further explore Romanian culture, the children created beautiful 7-thread rope bracelets inspired by traditional Romanian threading, showing creativity, teamwork and pride in their work.



UPPER KEY STAGE 2

This week is Cultural Diversity week and the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring different aspects of Bangladeshi culture. They have tasted a variety of delicious South Asian foods, created beautiful rangoli patterns and composed music inspired by the national anthem. We were especially impressed by the many children who stood in front of the class to present information about their own cultures and traditions. Pupils proudly brought in special items from home and created thoughtful presentations to share with their classmates, helping us all learn more about the diverse community we are lucky to be part of. The children were able to showcase their learning to the rest of the school.





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NAH
3
DAYS OFF

RMH
5
DAYS OFF

RAY
6
DAYS OFF

1CP  **1/2DN**
2  **8**
DAYS OFF **DAYS OFF**

2AB
4
DAYS OFF

6
DAYS OFF

3AS
4
DAYS OFF

3/4LM  **4SM**
1  **7**
DAYS OFF **DAYS OFF**

5LM
5
DAYS OFF

5/6NW
2
DAYS OFF

6BP
4
DAYS OFF





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SPORTS DAY



2026

MONDAY 1ST JUNE - LKS2

TUESDAY 2ND JUNE- EYFS

WEDNESDAY 3RD JUNE- KS1

THURSDAY 4TH JUNE- UKS2

All sports days this year will be held at
school and run from 1:30pm to
approximately 3pm.

Parents, family and friends are welcome.



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PRIMARY SCHOOL



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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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £16, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



See full reference list on our website

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