



NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ISSUE NO.2

EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING



EXCELLENCE IN EVERYTHING-ACHIEVING GREATNESS THAT LASTS A LIFETIME



Message from Mr Taylor

This Friday marked the launch of another exciting development at Warren Farm as we began our new enhanced Friday curriculum offer. As I shared with parents/carers at the start of the academic year 2026/27, we are always looking carefully at how we ensure our vision of *Excellence in Everything* is lived every day at Warren Farm. This means continually asking ourselves the question: *how do we continue to improve and could there be a better way?* Our new Friday enhanced curriculum model is one example of that thinking in action.

Across Fridays, children now have increased access to specialist teaching in areas including Computing, Music, Performing Arts, alongside further extended opportunities for P.E and swimming, PSHE and our bespoke Character Curriculum. It also creates greater capacity for targeted support and enrichment, allowing us to broaden the experiences available to our children while protecting high quality teaching and learning across the rest of the week.

As I visited classrooms across the school, I experienced this new model come to life. For us, this isn't simply about filling a timetable, it's about creating experiences that develop the whole child, enabling them to flourish. Academic success will always matter at Warren Farm but so too does developing the character, confidence, skills and experiences that prepare our children for everything that comes next. We will continue to be thoughtful and intentional - taking into account your parent/carer voice - keeping one question at the centre of our decisions - *Does this make things better for our children?*

Finally, I want to recognise the excellent start to the year we have made with attendance. Early indications for this academic year show that we may have reached something of a 'tipping point', with a sharp and encouraging improvement in attendance. Now we must sustain it. Every day in school matters, every lesson matters and every day absent is an opportunity for *Excellence in Everything* missed. Our dedicated staff work incredibly hard to provide exceptional opportunities for our children and we want every child at Warren Farm to be in school to experience them.

Thank you for the part you are playing

Make it a great weekend

Mr Taylor



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MEET YOUR PHASE LEADERS

We are pleased to introduce our Phase Leaders for this academic year. Alongside your child's class teacher, they play an important role in supporting each phase and should be your **next point of contact** if you need any further support or guidance. They look forward to meeting many of you at our **Parent/Carer Welcome Meetings** over the coming weeks.

EYFS PHASE LEADER



Mrs Hicklin

Hello! My name is Mrs Hicklin and I'm delighted to lead the Early Years (Reception and Nursery) as well as Geography here at Warren Farm. I believe in developing the strong foundations of a child through a holistic and adaptable approach. Our curriculum is designed to focus on the whole child, starting with their personal, social and emotional development. This is at the heart of everything we do in Early Years, and we cherish the 'wow!' moments we create together. I also believe that access to the arts is fundamental. Please ensure your child has a labelled spare change of clothes and a pair of wellies in school to keep in their lockers as learning can get messy! All class information will be posted onto the Class Dojo pages; please be aware that teachers cannot respond to messages on Classdojo, so any information should be communicated directly to the class teacher or through the front office.

KS1 PHASE LEADER

Hello! My name is Mrs Bates, and I am the KS1 Phase Leader, as well as leading Phonics and Early Reading. I have a real passion for teaching children to read and believe that developing strong reading skills from such a young age is incredibly important. We also hold our weekly Stay and Reads every Tuesday, where parents and carers are invited to come into school and enjoy reading with their child. PE takes place every Friday, and children can come to school wearing their PE kits. Each Wednesday, children will be sent home with their Bug Club Skills book, which should be read with them daily and signed by an adult. Books must be returned to school every Monday so they can be changed.



Mrs Bates

LKS2 PHASE LEADER



Miss Nunan

Hello! I'm Miss Nunan and I'm excited to be the LKS2 Phase Leader for Year 3 and Year 4 this year. In addition to this role, I also lead maths across the school and teach the choir. I am passionate about ensuring all children develop a deep understanding of number, problem-solving strategies and, most importantly, a love of maths. Our Stay and Read sessions are held every Wednesday, and we're eager to meet many new faces. LKS2 children also have PE every Thursday, so please make sure your child wears the correct kit to school for these sessions. We really value the partnership between home and school, and your support makes such a difference to the children's progress. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me or your child's class teacher.

UKS2 PHASE LEADER

Hello everyone! I am Ms Wood and I am the Phase Leader for UKS2 (Years 5 and 6). I look forward to continuing this role and welcoming you into school for lots of exciting experiences. Within school, I am also the English Lead and Oracy Champion, which means that I am responsible for providing the children of Warren Farm with an ambitious, engaging English curriculum which inspires our young readers and writers. I will be working hard to ensure that our children have the confidence and skills to communicate, listen and express themselves effectively. Please look out for any reading and writing competitions coming up this year! Our weekly stay and read sessions will continue on Wednesdays- see you there!



Ms Wood





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WAYPOINTS OF THE HALF TERM



This half term, children are developing two of our key Character Waypoints: **Communication** and **Leadership**.

COMMUNICATION

Children are learning to express themselves clearly, listen carefully to others and adapt how they communicate for different situations.

LEADERSHIP

Children are learning that leadership isn't just about being 'in charge'. It means setting a positive example, taking responsibility, making good decisions and helping others to succeed.

Across school, children will **Learn** → **Apply** → **Live** → **Lead** these skills through Character lessons and everyday school life.

Try it at home:

Ask your child: *"How have you shown good communication or leadership this week?"*

CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER

NAH	Tziah Bailey
RMH	Alayah Osborne
1CO	Hashim
1/2YG	Jack Foster
2HM	Leslie-Ann Wynter
3AB	Reuben Simmonds
3/4SK	Alicia-Mae
4DN	Eva Sava
5AG	Chanelle
5/6NW	Khadija Nadeem
6BP	Mason Moorhouse

ATTENDANCE

What a start!

We have had an **exceptional week for attendance** at Warren Farm. Thank you to our children and families for the commitment they continue to show towards being in school, on time, every day.

Today marked a particularly significant milestone: **we had zero unauthorised absence across the whole school.**

For Warren Farm, this represents real progress and reflects the consistent approach being taken by our whole school community. Excellent attendance gives children the best possible opportunity to learn, achieve and grow.

We are incredibly proud of this positive start to the year and look forward to making **excellent attendance our new normal.**

SAFEGUARDING

All staff working in an educational setting regularly update their safeguarding training. Annually, a document called Keeping children safe in education is released. Some of the updates on that document for this year include, a continued focus on early help which is now referred to as family help, online safety, child-on-child abuse, exploitation and violence against women and girls. The guidance also places greater emphasis on information sharing and ensuring that concerns are identified and acted upon promptly. As always, safeguarding remains everyone's responsibility, and we will continue to work closely with children, families and external agencies to ensure our pupils are safe and supported. If you are concerned about the welfare of any children, please come and talk to one of the DSL's.





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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 CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters.

These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 and over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



The National College

See full reference list on our website



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Ofsted
Good
Provider