

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2026

ABBOTSWELD PRIMARY ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are beginning to enter the festive period, and there is lots to look forward to over the coming weeks! December is always a very exciting and special time in school, with a fantastic range of events and activities planned to help us celebrate together and create some wonderful memories. We will share further information, in the meantime, please make a note of the following key dates in your calendars:

1st December - KS2 Trip to Harlow Playhouse
2nd December - In-house Theatre Performance for EYFS and KS1
9th December - Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
11th December - Winter Workshops
14th December - Christmas Grotto and Christmas Fair
15th December - EYFS and KS1 Christmas Productions
16th December - KS2 Carol Concert
16th December - Last Day of Term

We are looking forward to a wonderful month full of festive fun, performances, creativity and opportunities for our school community to come together. Please keep an eye out for further communications with additional details about each event.

⭐ Our School Rules - Be Honest, Be Safe, Be Respectful
As we move into this busy and exciting time of year, we would also like to take the opportunity to remind everyone of our three important school rules:
Be Honest
Be Safe
Be Respectful
We are seeing some fantastic examples of children demonstrating all three of these across the school. It is wonderful to see children making positive choices, showing kindness to one another and taking pride in their behaviour.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



We are looking forward to sharing a magical and memorable festive period with you all!

Mrs Benson

Little Steps, Big Skills! 🚸

Helping your primary-aged child become road-safety savvy

As our children grow, their little worlds get bigger. The school run becomes a walk with friends, cycling adventures become more ambitious, and before we know it, they're asking for a little more independence.

But how do we help them become confident, responsible road users?

The good news is that road safety doesn't have to mean sitting down for a serious lecture. It can be fun, interactive and part of everyday family life — and the Safer Essex Roads Partnership (SERP) has brought together a brilliant collection of resources to help parents and children learn together.

At Abbotsweld we work with Safer Essex Roads Partnership who come in and do sessions with our children in reception in year 5:

Reception: An interactive session for young children and their parents, introducing simple road-safety rules for walking, scooting and cycling.

Year 5: Pedestrian training designed to prepare pupils for more independent journeys, combining classroom learning with practical roadside training.

As a family you can do more as well..

You don't need to do everything at once. Why not choose one small activity to try this week?
□ Practise the Green Cross Code on your next walk.
□ Play a road-safety quiz together.
□ Walk the school route and spot safe crossing places.
□ Check that your child's clothing is visible in darker weather.
□ Ask your child what they would do if they became separated from you.

Every journey is a learning opportunity



Explore the full range of free resources at:
saferessexroads.org/parents-and-children

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 GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY

Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING

Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES

Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.

PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.

ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Eaton House Schools, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

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School Events
2026-2027

Dates below are subject to change and not exhaustive, notice will be given of any changes and additions

Autumn Term Events

September

1st and 2nd Inset Day- School closed to children
3rd First Day of Term
8th Meet the Teacher - 3pm
10th Mind in West Essex Coffee Morning
17th Tower Of London Y5 and 6 Trip
23rd Phonics Workshop - Year 1 & 2 - 3pm
25th Coffee Morning For Parents - Meet the support team - 9am
25th European Day of Languages
30th 2 Johns Internet Safety Workshop (via Zoom) - 8pm - 9.30pm

October

1st Free Lunch for all
2nd Class Name Day
2nd Harvest Festival
6th Technology Workshops
5th-9th Writing and Oracy Cafes with parents
7th New to EYFS Open Morning 10am
12th - 16th Recycle Week
15th Parent Consultations- school closes at 1pm
16th Poetry or Nursery Rhyme recitals sent home
16th Last Day of Half Term

November

2nd Children return to school
5th Individual and Sibling School Photos
2nd - 6th Poetry Recital Competition
W/C 9th Writing Moderation
11th Remembrance Day
11th-18th - Book Fair in school
10th New to EYFS Open Evening 5.00pm
16th Assessment Week
16th - 20th Random Acts of Kindness Week (in honour of Anti-Bullying week)
20th Parent Workshop My Happy Mind
20th Children in Need

December

1st KS2 Harlow Playhouse
2nd In-house theatre for EYFS and KS1
W/C 7th December Reports to Parents
9th Flu Immunisations (Catch-up Session)
9th Christmas Dinner Day and Christmas Jumper Day
11th Winter Workshops
14th Grotto and Christmas Fair
15th EYFS and KS1 Productions
16th KS2 Carol Concert
16th Last Day of Term

Spring Term Events

January

4th - School Closed to pupils - Inset Day
5th - First Day of Spring term
11th New to EYFS Open Morning 10.00am
W/C 11th - Winter Olympics
W/C 11th Maths Cafes and TTRS/Numbots Competition
14th Mind in West Essex Coffee Morning- Challenging Behaviour and Psychoeducation
21st - Fun Lunch

February

1st - 5th Year 3 and 4 Play in a week
W/C - 1st Year 5 Bikeability (previous sign up)
2nd Night Owls Visit - Whole School
3rd Young Voices at O2
5th - Play in a Week for Year 3 and 4 Performance
9th Road Safety for Reception and Year 5
9th & 10th - Safer Internet Day
10th- 12th Scholastic Bookfair
11th Parent Consultations
15th- 19th Half Term
12th Half Term Mathematics Challenge sent home
W/C 22nd - Numbots and TTRS challenge cup
25th - Swimming for year 5 begins (for 5 weeks)

March

4th World Book Day
W/C 8th - Science Week
12th - Science Fair
19th - Spring Workshop for Parents and Red Nose Day
W/C 22nd - Reports to Parents
25th Last Day of Term

Summer Term Events

April

12th School Closed to pupils- Inset Day
22nd Mind in West Essex Coffee Morning- Anxiety focus and psychoeducation
23rd St George's Day

May

3rd May Bank Holiday School Closed
10th -13th KS2 SATs
21st Finish for Half Term

June

7th Return to School
W/C 7th Y4 Multiplication Check
W/C 7th Phonics Screening
W/C 7th Year 5 and 6 Play in a Week
11th Year 5 and 6 Play in a Week Performance
18th Class School Photographs
18th Summer Workshops with parents
21st World Music Day
23rd Sports Day
30th-2nd July Year 6 Residential Trip

July

7th Sports Day Reserve Date
13th Class Swap
13th Reports Home to Parents
14th Curriculum Open Time for Parents 4-5pm
15th Dinner and Dance
19th Class Parties
20th Year 6 Leavers Assembly

Academic Year 2026-2027

September 2026

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October 2026

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November 2026

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December 2026

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January 2027

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February 2027

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March 2027

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April 2027

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June 2027

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July 2027

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August 2027

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School days
Weekends
School Holidays
INSET Day
Bank Holidays

School Term and Holiday Dates

Academic Year 2027-2028

September 2027

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October 2027

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November 2027

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December 2027

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January 2028

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February 2028

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March 2028

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April 2028

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May 2028

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June 2028

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July 2028

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August 2028

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School days
Weekends
School Holidays
INSET Day
Bank Holidays

Autumn Term: Wednesday 1 September 2027 – Thursday 16 December 2027
HalfTerm18October –29 October

Spring Term: Tuesday 4 January 2028 – Friday 31 March 2028
HalfTerm14February - 18February

Summer Term: Tuesday 18 April 2028 –Thursday 20 July 2028
HalfTerm29May–9June,andMayBankHoliday - 1 May

ABBOTSWELD

Be Honest

Be Safe

Be Respectful

CONTACT US

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