

HEADLINES



READING PERCENTAGES

No Reading Percentages this week

We've had another busy week in school with year 1 children taking their phonics screening checks and Y4 taking their multiplication tables checks. The children and staff have been working incredibly hard to prepare for these important assessments and we are very grateful to all the parents who have been supporting this learning at home too.

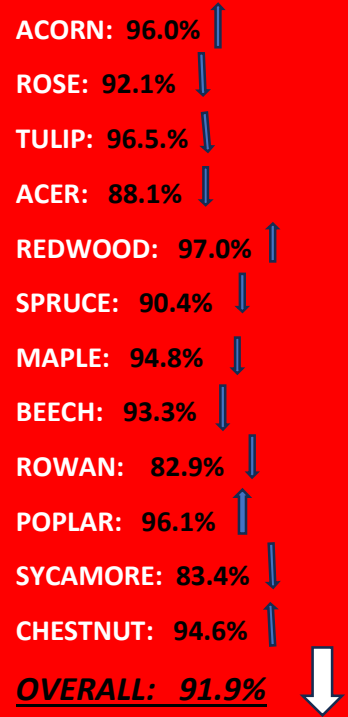
We had half a sports day on Tuesday before torrential rain caused us to abandon the school field. We are hoping to continue with reception, Acorn class and KS1's Sports day on Wednesday 24th June.

Mr Allen reported that the children who attended the after school Quad Kids athletics competition event at West Way on Wednesday were excellent ambassadors for the school. It is lovely to hear the children have been such positive role models whilst also having a great time.

We've had lots of raffle prizes going out for punctuality this week. Well done to everyone who has been in school on time each day. We hope you enjoyed hearing our new Duke Street attendance song on your way in.

Next week we will be having an attendance celebration 'Snack Shop' week during morning breaks. All children are able to bring in 50p each day if they would like to buy a break time treat. All money raised will go towards further attendance incentives

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE FROM 15TH TO 21ST MAY



School Target: 96%

Is your class attendance higher or lower than last week?

Every moment in school counts, Did you know...

If in a school year, your child is late every day by...	Your child would have lost approximately...	or they would have missed approximately...
5 MINUTES	3.5 DAYS FROM SCHOOL	20 LESSONS
10 MINUTES	7 DAYS FROM SCHOOL	41 LESSONS
15 MINUTES	10 DAYS FROM SCHOOL	55 LESSONS
20 MINUTES	14.5 DAYS FROM SCHOOL	82 LESSONS
30 MINUTES	22 DAYS FROM SCHOOL	123 LESSONS

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.

Remember Absence = Lost Opportunity

Every moment in school counts, Did you know...

If your child's attendance during the school year...	Your child would have lost approximately...	or they would have missed approximately...
WAS 95%	9 DAYS IN SCHOOL	50 LESSONS
WAS 90%	19 DAYS IN SCHOOL	100 LESSONS
WAS 85%	29 DAYS IN SCHOOL	150 LESSONS
WAS 80%	38 DAYS IN SCHOOL	200 LESSONS
WAS 75%	48 DAYS IN SCHOOL	250 LESSONS

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.

Make sure your child doesn't miss out!

We would love to see every class rolling the Classopoly dice next week!

Class Attendance

96% + =



Award Winners

CLASS	MATHS	ENGLISH	ICARE
Rose	Ronan	Gracie-Louise	Ivy
Tulip	Nailah	Remie	Imogen
Acer	Owen	Harlee-Rose	Grayson
Spruce	Benjamin	Naomi N	Kobey
Redwood	Lincoln	Ethan	Ava
Acorn	Kai	Indie	C.J.
Maple	Joseph	Nevaeh	Anthony-James
Beech	Lucas	Kydan	Leo
Rowan	Xander	Leo N	Phillip
Poplar	Thomas	Jordan	Tiarna
Sycamore	Finley	Jessica W	Toby
Chestnut	All class	Michael	Delilah

CLASS	Active Minutes
Redwood	110
Acer	95
Maple	92
Rowan	55
Chestnut	50
Spruce	45
Poplar	20
Sycamore	15
Beech	5

KS1 Numbots Highest Coin Earners

Harry in Redwood

Reggie in Redwood

Wren in Redwood



KS2 T.T.R.S. Highest Coin Earners

Zeynep in Beech

Kosi in Beech

Lucas in Rowan



MACHINE OF DREAMS

K.S.1

Paisley in Acer
Callum in Redwood

K.S.2

Riley O in Rowan
Thomas in Poplar

Mr Allen took a group of Year 5 and 6 pupils to an athletics competition at West Way. This event is aimed at the elite athletes, so the standard of competition was extremely high. Although we didn't come away with the win, I couldn't be any prouder of our children. Every single one of them pushed themselves to their limits, showed fantastic determination, and never gave up. They represented Duke Street brilliantly and were an absolute credit to the school – true warriors.



On Line Safety

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 identify 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.

...ONLINE...

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.

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.

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.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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Safeguarding/Outreach

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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

BUILDING SCHOOL-READY LANGUAGE SKILLS

Oral language is fundamental to children's learning, literacy, and social and emotional development, with long-term impacts. As language develops rapidly between the ages of three and six, early, evidence-based support is essential. This guide offers practical ways to help the children in your care become confident communicators, including through proven approaches such as the DfE-funded NELI programmes available to settings in England.

1 BUILD ORAL LANGUAGE

Support children to use language, not just hear it. Give them the time to talk, respond, ask questions, and share their ideas. Everyday conversations, shared activities, and reading together help children practise both speaking and listening. At nursery or school, programmes such as NELI can help build their vocabulary, storytelling, attention, and listening skills, helping children grow in confidence as communicators.

2 SUPPORT LISTENING SKILLS

Help children to listen and follow simple instructions during everyday routines. Break instructions down into short, manageable steps and check their understanding. For example, say, "Please put your coat on," rather than giving them several instructions at once. Strong listening skills support learning, attention, and participation at school.

3 GROW THEIR VOCABULARY

Talk with children about the world around them, naming objects, actions, and feelings. Use a wide range of words during everyday activities such as shopping, cooking, and playing. Repeating and explaining new words help children understand and use vocabulary more confidently, supporting their comprehension and communication.

4 SHARE STORIES TOGETHER

Read storybooks together regularly and talk about characters, events, and illustrations. Ask simple questions such as "What's happening here?" and validate children's responses with positive feedback. Acting out stories together, asking open questions, and giving children the chance to be the storyteller can all support their narrative skills and confidence.

5 NAME DIFFERENT FEELINGS

Help children learn to express themselves by talking about different feelings and naming them clearly, such as happy, sad, or angry. Visuals and role play can support their understanding of this. Being able to express their feelings verbally helps children build positive relationships with adults and peers, reduces frustration, and supports their social development as they prepare for school.

6 WORK WITH SETTINGS

Strong communication between home and the nursery, school, or early years setting can help children feel more confident and supported. Parents can visit the setting with their child before they start, helping them become familiar with the environment and key adults. Educators can share relevant information with families and colleagues, so each child's needs are understood. Newsletters can also help families continue language learning at home.

7 SPOT LANGUAGE NEEDS

Children develop their language and communication skills at different rates, so early conversations between home and settings are important. If parents have concerns, they should speak to their child's nursery, school, or early years setting. Educators can use tools such as LanguageScreen, included in the NELI programmes, to build a profile of a child's speaking and listening skills and help identify suitable support.

8 EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORT

Prioritise language and literacy approaches that are underpinned by robust research evidence. Evidence-based programmes help ensure children receive support that is more likely to make a meaningful difference. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) provides guidance on the strength of evidence behind different strategies, supporting informed decision-making and effective use of school time and resources.

9 MEET INDIVIDUAL NEEDS

Settings can use evidence-based assessment tools to understand children's language skills and identify where support may be needed. These tools support SEND reforms, and strengthen whole-setting language development, helping children receive support that reflects their individual communication needs.

10 TAKE PART IN RESEARCH

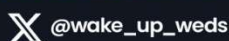
Research trials can give schools, early years settings, and families a valuable opportunity to contribute to evidence construction and future policy. Parents may be asked to give consent, share feedback, or support activities at home, while educators help deliver and monitor approaches in practice. The EEF often has trials that settings can join, including whole-class oral language programmes designed to support children's communication development.

Meet Our Expert

OxEd is a University of Oxford spinout company specialising in early language and literacy assessment and intervention. They are the delivery team for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) programme in reception, funded by the Department for Education for schools in England, and for NELI Preschool, which supports nurseries to strengthen children's early language development through evidence-based practice.



See full reference list on our website



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DIARY DATES

Reading Cafes

(Make your way to the hall after dropping off your child)

Yr 3: **Thursday, 18th June** Please note time change to 3.00 pm

Yr 4: **Thursday, 25th June** Please note time change to 3.00 pm

Yr 5: **Thursday, 2nd July**

Class Assemblies

Rowan: Re-scheduled date – Thursday, 25th June

Acorn Class: Tuesday, 16th June. Please note **Seedlings** will not be doing a class assembly, however Mr Manchester will share a date and time for a "Come and Learn" session for the children's parents to come and join in some interactive sensory sessions in the classroom.

Re-Scheduled Sports Day:

The rescheduled date for Sports Day for EYFS/KS1 and Acorn Class is Wednesday 24th June at 9.30am on the school field.

Please scan the QR code
for quick access to our
website

