



School News

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No. 22

27th February 2025

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 28th February - Year 5 Class Worship

Parents and carers of children in Year 5 are invited to join us for their class worship at 9.00am in the school hall.

Friday, 28th February - Mike Tapp, MP visit to Year 5 to Introduce 'Reader's Theatre Competition

Mike Tapp MP will be visiting the school to talk to Year 5 children about 'Tapp into Reading' a new local project to help make reading accessible and enjoyable to all.

Monday, 3rd March - The Great Big Dance Off Competition

We wish those children taking part in The Great Big Dance Off competition the best of luck on Monday as they take part in the regional heats in Chatham.

Monday, 3rd March - Partnership with Parents Meeting at 9.00am in the School Hall

All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend our next Partnership with Parents meeting. For term 4 we will be discussing Malawi and our links with Starfish Malawi and Kaphatenga School, in Salima, Malawi.

Tuesday, 4th March - 'Shrove Tuesday' Pancake Day

The children will take part in pancake races for 'Shrove Tuesday'.

Tuesday, 4th March - Visit by 'The Dogs Trust'

Thursday, 6th March - Autism Awareness Course

On Thursday, 6th March, we will be holding the first session of our Autism Awareness Course which runs from 1.30 to 3.30pm in the school hall. If you would like to attend and haven't already expressed an interest in this course, please contact Mrs Inglis, FLO or the school office.

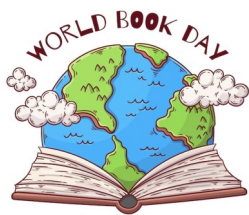
Thursday, 6th March - PTFA Wonda Chocolate Fundraising Event

The PTFA's exciting Wonder Bar event takes place on Thursday, 6th March. Children will have an opportunity to buy a 'Wonda' bar of chocolate with some of them containing hidden 'golden' tickets to win some amazing prizes. There will even be a special appearance by 'Mr Wonka' and his Oompa Loompa—not to be missed! Chocolate bars, and those who would like a diary free alternative, can be pre-order up to the 3rd March using the form sent home before half-term.

We would also like to say a big thank you to Kyle Wright at 'Future Construction Kent Ltd' for kindly sponsoring many of the chocolate bars, and for the many business who kindly donated prizes for this event.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - Continued



Friday, 7th March - World Book Day

On Friday, 7th March we will be celebrating World Book Day. Throughout the day children will be taking part in reading related activities. Children are invited to come to school dressed in their favourite book character or in pyjamas to represent bedtime reading. There is no donation required for this event.

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

New Parent Governor

I would like to warmly welcome our new parent governor, Mrs Rachael Hollingworth, who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this important role for the school. I, and the governing body, look forward to working with her as part of our governing body team.

Absent from School

Please can we remind parents and carers that you must call the school by 9.00am if your child is unwell and won't be in school. We ask that you also let us know each day your child is absent. It is a safeguarding concern if your child doesn't arrive to school and we have not heard that they will be absent.

School Attendance - Term 3

I would like to share with you the attendance figure for the school at the end of term 3 which was 93.9%. This figure is down 1.5% since last term. As you know attendance is closely monitored and good attendance has a significant impact on children's achievements in school, on self esteem and forming good relationships with their peers which is why I feel it important to share this information with you termly.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS Week commencing 3.3.2025	
MONDAY	
Gardening Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	Yes
Ballet Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	Yes
Football Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)	Yes
TUESDAY	
Netball Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	Yes
WEDNESDAY	
Singing Club (8.00 to 8.30am)	Yes
Home Learning (3.30 to 4.00pm)	Yes
The Big Dane Off Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)	Yes
Multi-Sports Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)	Yes
THURSDAY	
Harmony Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	Yes
FRIDAY	

DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL
Email: envcrime@dover.gov.uk
or call 01304 872289 to discuss this year's campaign
dover.gov.uk/gbec

Please scan the QR code to report litter or visit dover.gov.uk/report



HEALTH ADVICE/ONLINE SAFETY SECTION

Marvel Rivals

The video game Marvel Rivals was released just before Christmas and has proven to be very popular. This game enables players to take on the role of a Marvel superhero or villain in a team with other online players. The game is rated at PEGI 12. Please see below some advice and guidance regarding the game should you have an older child who plays this.

At The National College, our WakeUp/Wednesday 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 MARVEL RIVALS

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12
ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- IN-GAME CHAT**
Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.
- IN-GAME PURCHASES**
While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a \$10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.
- CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**
With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.
- VIOLENT CONTENT**
There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and the Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.
- FAMILIAR CHARACTERS**
The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS**
The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.
- FAMILIARISE YOURSELF**
The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.
- MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT**
Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.
- DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS**
Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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Kind regards

Mrs Sarah Moss
Headteacher