

Attendance this week:

Class	Attendance %	Late
Nursery	88.16%	3
Reception	91%	2
Year 1	94.51%	0
Year 2	95.1%	2
Year 3	96.41%	8
Year 4	88.93%	5
Year 5	99.13%	1
Year 6	95.33%	1

97% and above Excellent
95% to 96% Attendance is slipping and will be closely monitored
95% or below Poor (high numbers of children are persistently absent)

Lateness has a huge impact on children's learning -not only on the children that are late, but also on the children in the classes being disrupted. Please ensure that your child arrives at school on time each day

Parent/carers survey

We have shared a summary of the responses and feedback received via MCaS.



We would like to say a REALLY BIG thank you to Findel Education for their incredibly generous donations to our school. The resources have been loved by the children and are already enhancing the learning in our EYFS classroom!

Learning H.E.R.O.E.S

This week's Learning Heroes have impressed us by demonstrating the HEROES learning behaviours

	H	Have-a-go	Be brave and try new things, even when it's tricky. Mistakes help us learn!
	E	Explore	Be curious — ask questions, find out more, and use our imagination.
	R	Reflect	Think about what went well and what we could do better next time.
	O	Own-it	Take charge of our learning — be proud and responsible for our efforts.
	E	Encourage	Be kind, helpful, supportive and collaborative. Cheer on others!
	S	Stay-positive	Keep smiling, be patient, and never give up — we can do it!

Learning Heroes of the week	
Nursery	Dania
Reception	Keilani
Bumble Bees	Aqsa
Tawny Bees	Zayn
Year 1	Theo
Year 2	Ada
Year 3	Zara
Year 4	Isabella
Year 5	Ifra
Year 6	Noah

Dates for the diary

Autumn 1

Date	Event
29.9.26 	Year 6 SATs parents/carers meeting at 5:30-6pm
1.10.26 	Special American Diner lunch for Census Day. Please see the next page for the menu.
9.10.26 	Nursery and Reception visit to Chester Zoo
21.10.26 	Year 6 Whitby residential *Take a Halloween costume for a Thursday evening treat!
22.10.26 	Halloween disco Tickets will be available on MCaS for £2 which includes crisps, cake, a drink and lots of fun and games Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 5:15-6pm Years 3, 4 and 5 6:15-7:15pm
23.10.26 	Halloween spooktacular lunch. Please see the next pages for the menu. Finish for half term

Sports events

Letters will be shared with parents/carers of those children attending each event.



Competition	Date and time	Venue
Pokemon Cup entry Y5/6 Boys Heat 2	Friday 25th September @ 3:45-5pm	Astley Sports Village
Pokemon Cup entry Y5/6 Girls	Thursday 1st October @ 3:45-5pm	Astley Sports Village
Tag Rugby Festival Y3/4	Wednesday 7th October @ 3:45-5pm	Aldwinians RUFC
Tag Rugby Heat 3	Thursday 15th October @ 3:45-5.15pm	Ashton RUFC



All children will be able to enjoy a special 'American Diner' meal on Thursday 1st October. If your child is on packed lunches, a meal can be ordered on MCaS.



All children will be able to enjoy a 'Spooktacular' school meal on Friday 23rd October. If your child is on packed lunches, a meal can be ordered on MCaS.

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 start turning to a character chatbot whenever they 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.

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.

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 or 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.

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 0800 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.



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