SELWOOD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

7th March 2025 - Issue 10

DIARY DATES

MARCH 2025

12th - Paris Information evening - 5pm

14th - Year 7 Air Ambulance First Aid

18th - Year 7 & 8 Author Visit

21st - Easter Service - 2pm

21st - Easter Bingo - 6pm

PAYMENT DEADLINES

- Year 8 Battlefields - **10th March**
- Year 7 Black Country Museum - **14th March**
- Year 8 Leavers Hoodies - **14th March**
- Year 6 Portsmouth Historic Dockyards Trip - **28th March**
- Year 8 Geography Wells Trip - **28th March**
- School Production Cast Contribution - **29th March**

IN THIS EDITION

- Sports News
- Subject News
- Recent Events
- Sponsored Swim
- Easter Bingo
- Wizard of Oz
- Useful info

REMINDERS

SCIENCE WEEK

Next week is Science Week, and the theme is "Change and Adapt." We'll be exploring this during Science lessons. For more details see the link below for the Science Week website. You'll also find information on free activity packs and a poster competition.

Website **Activity Packs** **Competition**

LOST PROPERTY

We currently have a large amount of unamed items in lost property. We will be emptying lost property at the end of term on Friday 4th April. Please encourage your child to look for any lost items. Parents and carers are welcome to come and look through the lost property cage before or after school, please report to reception upon arrival.

FORGOTTEN ITEMS

Please ensure that your child has all they need for the school day when they come to school each morning. With Selwood being a large and busy site, we cannot guarantee that we will get forgotten items and messages to children throughout the day, especially after 12.30pm. Thank you for your support.

SPORTS NEWS

Spring Inter-form

On 25th-27th February all of our pupils were given the opportunity to represent their tutor group in a competitive event against the other tutor groups in their year. Their tutor helped organise three different teams to participate in a friendly competition in Dance, Football and Basketball. Each team comprised of three girls and three boys with all competitions being seven a side. Players rotated so that everyone had the chance to shine.





Year 5 was a festival style event so no results were taken. Years 6, 7 and 8 were competitive and scores were recorded but always with great sporting ethos at the forefront. There was some great play and invention in all activities with a great atmosphere.
The overall results are below:

Year 6 winners: 6E with 72 points
Year 7 winners: 7F with 65 points
Year 8 winners: 8S with 70 points

Well done to all involved!

Everyone had a great time and we are lucky that the school regards physical activity, social interaction and healthy competition as an important part of our pupils development. A special thank you to all our year 7 and 8 sports leaders who helped out. They did a fantastic job and are a credit to our school. Our next whole school interform is our sports day on 20th June, where parents will be invited along to watch their child in action. Well done to all involved!



SPORTS NEWS

Selwood Academy awarded the Barclays Girls football Equal Access award 2024



After the Lionesses' historic win at Euro 2022 and their strong stance on equal access for girls in schools sport, the Government announced an all-sports pledge in March 2023. The pledge was based around three key points.

- All pupils in England to be given equal access to sport in schools
- All schools to receive guaranteed PE funding for the next two academic years
- Schools are to be asked to deliver a minimum of two hours of PE per week

The FA is aiming for all girls to have equal access to football in schools. With the support of the new government pledge, the FA want to support all schools in turning this ambition into a reality.

Last month we were awarded with the prestigious Equal Access to Football Award. This follows our curriculum being restructured to deliver all sports to all pupils. Gone are the days where girls play netball and boys play football. Each pupil now has an identical curriculum based on appropriate concepts and pathways for their age not gender.We have also introduced a girls only football after schools club, a girls only section on the 3G at lunch times and girls football. This award follows the success of the department gaining the Gold sports mark awarded by the School Games Organisers. As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year. We will continue to grow our recognition of being a sporting school and would like to thank everyone for their support in achieving these awards fixtures.





SUBJECT NEWS

Author Visit - Year 7 & 8

On **Tuesday 18th March**, we are thrilled to be hosting an event for Year 7 and 8 with young adult author Monique Turner. Monique will talk about her new nail-biting teen thriller that explores the negatives and positives of internet culture and influencers. The talk will take place during the school day for pupils in Year 7 and 8 and there will be an opportunity for questions and book signings as part of the event. Copies of Island of Influencers will be also be available to buy at the specially discounted rate of £7.99 for Selwood pupils thanks to Winstone's Hunting Raven bookshop.

Island of Influencers:

Harper wants to be an influencer. Badly. She'll do anything to be like her famous Tubeify-star cousin, Belle. When Belle is the latest victim in a string of influencer kidnappings, Harper discovers the kidnappings are fake – 'victims' are put on an island for a new reality show. Island of Influencers pits the greatest internet talents against each other, and Harper is added at the last minute. With the constant pressure of a live audience judging their every move, it's not long before cracks begin to appear in the influencers' shiny veneers ...



Author Visit - Year 5 & 6

Ash Bond, author of 'Peregrine Quinn and The Cosmic Realm' will be back on **April 3rd** to celebrate the launch of the second Peregrine Quinn adventure, 'Peregrine Quinn and the Mask Of Chaos'.Copies of Peregrine Quinn and The Mask of Chaos (Hardback) will be also be available to buy at the specially discounted rate of £10.99. **A Games. A thief. A mechanical lioness. It's just another week in the Cosmic Realm!** The city of Cosmopolis is buzzing with excitement. The Cosmic Games are fast approaching, and eight champions are about to compete for a magical golden apple and a lifetime of glory. It's the event of a generation! But behind the scenes tensions within Olympus Inc. are running high as they struggle to hide signs of a rebellion, and the fact that a mysterious figure is trying to sabotage the Games. Who are they, and what do they want?

SUBJECT NEWS

National Education Union (NEU) Analysis

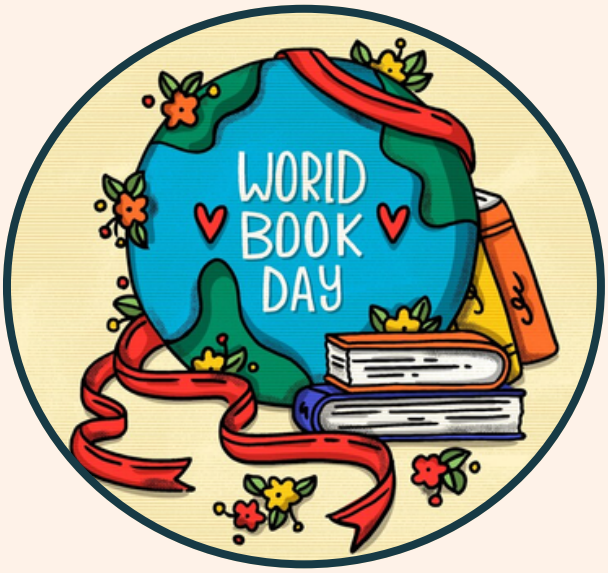
At Selwood, our vision is to empower every child to let their light shine, and we take great pride in ensuring that every curriculum subject is given ample time within our timetable so we can nurture each child's unique talents, passions, and skills.

As Year 6 SATs approach, there is often a focus on how much time primary-aged children spend on Maths and English. At Selwood, we are preparing for our first revision week ahead of the Mock SATs, followed by a second, extended revision week before the actual SATs in May. During these weeks, year 6 pupils will have extra Maths and English lessons.

The NEU recently conducted an analysis to assess how much time is spent on core subjects in primary schools across the UK. On average, pupils spend 58% of their time in school on Maths and English. In light of this, we wanted to evaluate how much time our pupils at Selwood dedicate to these subjects, including the revision weeks. We are proud to share that, despite our strong results in recent years, we allocate just 46% of lesson time to Maths and English. This allows us to continue offering a broad and balanced curriculum that supports the development of all our pupils.

World Book Day - 6th March 2025

Thursday 6th March 2025 was World Book Day and Selwood did a great job at getting involved! Pupils and teachers dressed up as popular book characters to celebrate the event. We will update you with more photos and details of what went on in the next edition!



RECENT EVENTS

Year 5 Church Visits



As part of our Year 5 Topic entitled, “What is a Religion?” pupils went on a local visit to three churches in Frome. The churches visited were St John the Baptist, Wesley Methodist Church and Clink Evangelical Church. Pupils had a great day and even had the opportunity to ring the bells! Thank you to everyone in involved!

Digital Design - 3D Printing Workshop



On Friday 28th March, James Warren from Droning Media came in and ran 2 workshops for year 7 and 8. The workshops focused on Digital Design. The pupils were able to develop their designs in Tinkercad and then saw their designs come to life using a state of the art 3D printer.



Year 6 Design Technology - Cushions



During Design Technology lessons, Year 6 have been sewing felt cushions. These are just a few of the amazing pieces created.
Well done everyone!



RECENT EVENTS

Ben and Rachel shine in 2024 Carnival season!

The 2024 Carnival Season was a spectacular success for Ben and Rachel, who dazzled audiences across the region with their stunning entry, Let's Go Fly a Kite. Dressed as Mary Poppins and Bert the Chimney Sweep, their costumes featured over 1,000 LED lights sequenced perfectly to the music, with cleverly concealed speakers enhancing the magical experience.





With the final presentation awards completed in February, they now know their final results. Competing as a Juvenile Pair, Ben and Rachel achieved outstanding results:

🏆 1st Place – Mere, Frome, Shaftesbury, Castle Cary, Wincanton, Trowbridge, and Warminster Carnivals 🥉 3rd Place – Gillingham Carnival ⭐ Special Nominations – Shaftesbury (Ben for Juvenile Performance) and Warminster (Both for Best Personality)

Their success extended to the Wessex Overall Competition, where they were crowned 1st Place Juvenile Pair, with both receiving nominations for Juvenile Performance, and Ben earning an additional nomination for Carnival Spirit.

At the larger Somerset County Carnivals, Ben and Rachel competed individually as Single Juvenile Walkers, continuing their streak of impressive placements:

🥇 1st (Ben) & 2nd (Rachel) – Midsomer Norton 🥈 2nd (Ben) & 3rd (Rachel) – Shepton Mallet 🥈 2nd (Ben) & 4th (Rachel) – Wells and Glastonbury

Their dedication, creativity, and showmanship have made them true stars of the 2024 carnival season. Congratulations, Ben and Rachel, on an incredible achievement!

SPONSORED SWIM

On 16th March 2025, Selwood Academy will proudly enter two teams in the Lions Sponsored Swim. One team consists of six dedicated pupils, while the other is made up of six passionate staff members. Together, we are swimming not just for fun, but to support two vital causes that impact our community deeply.



Fifty percent of the funds raised will go directly to Selwood Academy, helping us enhance our educational programs and resources. The other fifty percent will support Frome Birth Talk, a charity that provides essential services and support for families in our area during one of the most important times in their lives.

Your support can make a real difference! By donating through JustGiving, you are contributing to these meaningful initiatives in a simple, fast, and secure way. Your details are safe with JustGiving; they prioritize your privacy and will never sell your information or send unwanted emails.



Please see the link below to visit our JustGiving page and thank you for considering supporting this cause. Together, we can create positive change in our community.

DONATE HERE

SELWOOD ACADEMY, BERKLEY ROAD, FROME, BA11 2EF 01373 462798
HTTPS://SELWOOD.SOMERSET.SCH.UK/
CLICK TO FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA: FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

EASTER BINGO



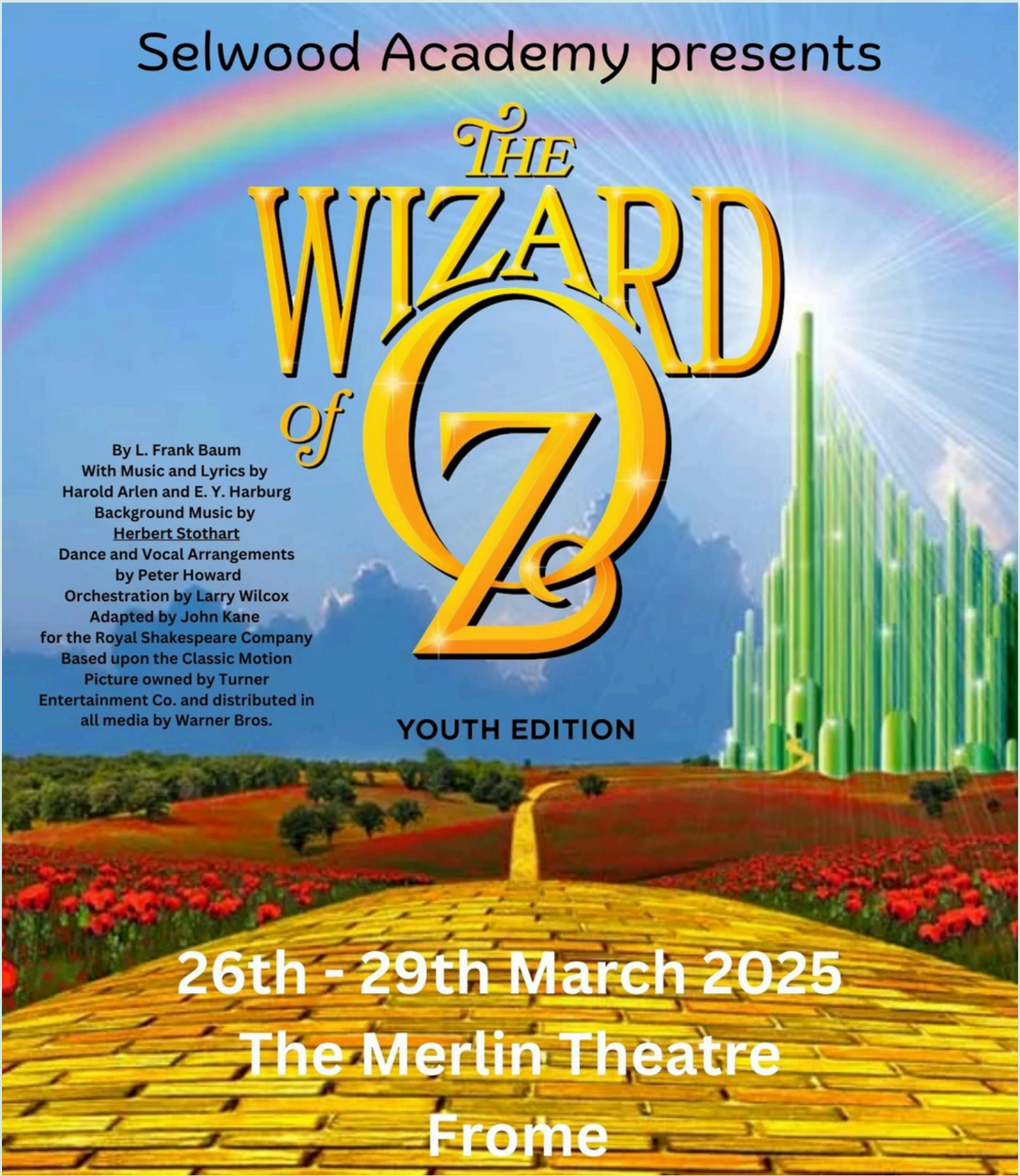
Our Annual Easter Bingo will be held at the school on **Friday 21st March 2025** from **6pm.** Be sure to save the date and spread the word to your family and friends – it's going to be a fun filled evening for everyone to enjoy! Any donations of Easter Eggs, vouchers, and items for hampers would be greatly appreciated. All proceeds will go towards supporting projects that benefit our pupils in our school. We hope to see you there!



WIZARD OF OZ

TICKET WARNING! With under 100 tickets left and some performances already sold out, make sure you get your tickets by clicking on the link below!

BOOK TICKETS HERE



SUPERHERO FUN RUN

SATURDAY 15TH MARCH 2025

📍 THE OLD SHOWFIELD, FROME

📍 NEAR THE CRICKET CLUB

11:00
ARRIVE

11:10
MOJO MOVES
WARM-UP

11:30
2K RUN



FOR SUPERHEROES OF ALL AGES

COSTUMES ARE OPTIONAL!
CAPES AND MASKS PROVIDED FOR THOSE WHO WANT THEM

FROME kindness FESTIVAL

MORE INFORMATION AT WWW.THEGOODHEART.UK/EVENTS



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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert



Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.03.2025

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 MARVEL RIVALS

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 12

ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

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.

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, some 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®

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 26.02.2025