

April 2025

Newsletter

Eager to Learn, Proud to Achieve

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A Message from the Head Teacher

As we embark upon the summer term, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable achievements and experiences that have enriched our school community in recent weeks. The corridors of our school have been abuzz with excitement and creativity, particularly as our Year 3, 4, and 5 children returned from their transformative visit to Ingestre Hall. This excursion proved to be a wellspring of inspiration, fostering the development of their artistic, musical, and dramatic talents. The calibre of work produced during this experience was nothing short of exceptional, serving as a testament to the children's innate abilities and the dedication of our staff in nurturing these talents.

It is with great pride that I observe the seamless transition our children have made back into the rhythm of school life following the Easter break. Their eagerness to engage with learning and their adaptability in returning to the classroom environment are commendable attributes that will undoubtedly serve them well in their future academic endeavours.

Our commitment to holistic education and child safety remains paramount, as evidenced by the recent activities undertaken by various year groups. The Year 2 children embarked on an enlightening exploration of road safety, applying their newfound knowledge during a walk in our local area. This practical approach to learning not only reinforces crucial life skills but also strengthens the children's connection to their community. Similarly, our Year 6 children participated in a comprehensive Safeguarding day before the Easter holiday, further emphasising our unwavering dedication to their wellbeing and protection.

The spirit of celebration and community engagement was evident in our recent events. The Easter Workshop in our Early Years Foundation Stage was a resounding success, with an impressive turnout of families joining us to share in the festivities. The joy on the children's faces as they encountered the Easter bunny was truly heart-warming, creating memories that will undoubtedly be cherished for years to come.

Equally impressive was the dedication and creativity displayed by our Year 1 children in crafting their Easter bonnets. The level of parental involvement in this endeavour was particularly gratifying, reinforcing the vital partnership between home and school in supporting our children's educational journey.

As we progress through this term, I am filled with optimism and anticipation for the myriad opportunities that lie ahead. The recent accomplishments of our children serve as a powerful reminder of their potential and the transformative power of education. Together, as a united school community, we will continue to nurture, challenge, and inspire our children, ensuring they are well-equipped to face the future with confidence and capability.

Attendance

Our attendance for April has been
91.1%

Our target is 95% +

Well done to Tigers who have had the best attendance this month!

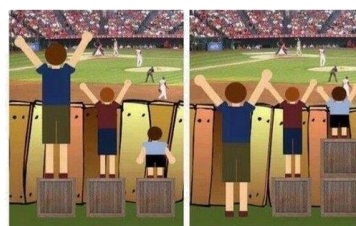
Ladybirds – 86.1%	Bumblebees – 81.3%
Butterflies – 88.5%	Hedgehogs – 94.4%
Rabbits – 95.7%	Badgers – 90.3%
Foxes – 92.4%	Flamingos – 89.4%
Parrots – 86.3%	Toucans – 90.3%
Hummingbirds – 93.9%	Panthers – 92.7%
Jaguars – 94.8%	Lions – 93.6%
Tigers – 95.9%	Leopards – 94.1%

Thought & value for May:

Fairness

Fairness is about treating people equally – the way you would want to be treated. It is about playing by the rules and taking turns.

EQUAL FAIR



Outward Bound

Some Y6 pupils went on a week's residential to Outward Bound Aberdovey, where they faced their fears, explored the outdoors and demonstrated amazing teamwork skills. We canoed, took a dip in the sea, gorge walked at night, abseiled, visited a waterfall and climbed a mountain. Staff who attended were so proud of the determination and perseverance of pupils, we told them to remember these special moments during SATS week as the papers will seem like nothing compared to the things they overcome that week. A wonderful week of memories and quartz galore!



EYFS – Animal Lady Visit

We were lucky enough to have a visit from the 'Animal lady'. She told us lots of fun facts and information about the animals she brought with her. Some of the animals we met included a snake named 'Kellogg', a Guinea pig named 'Phil', a bearded dragon named 'Thelma', a cockroach called 'Colin' and a Gecko called 'Bill'. All of the children were very gentle with the animals and we all had a lovely time meeting them.



Year 1 – Dudley Zoo

Year 1 enjoyed navigating their way around Dudley Zoo using the maps. We discussed how each number represents an enclosure. We found the number we were at and looked at which direction we would need to go in to get to the next number for the next animal enclosure. We discussed what symbols meant and found the symbols for parking and toilets. The children enjoyed relating their surroundings to the maps. The children enjoyed reading the facts about different animals and spotting their favourite ones. They enjoyed some time on the park and walking around the castle.



OPAL

On Monday 28th we launched OPAL playtimes on the KS2 playground and the children have enjoyed getting stuck in den building in the woodlands, relaxing in hammocks, being creative with cardboard and cooking up a storm in the mud café. Thank you for all of the donations so far for OPAL Bingo, they are really appreciated and make a big difference — keep an eye out for this fortnight's one. Next week children will have access to the KS1 playground too. Children need wellies for certain areas which can get muddy so donations of any size wellies are always welcome! When weather is wet children will still access outside so please ensure appropriate coats on these days.

Baggie Bird Penalty Shootout

We will be taking part in the Baggie Bird Penalty Shootout again this year, which is run by the Albion Foundation. There are a range of prizes up for grabs depending on the amount raised by sponsors. Our school receives 50% of the money raised for our school fund, the other 50% supports the foundation in providing provision for a range of young people and adults.

Please complete your form and send back any sponsorship money in a clearly labelled envelope to school between Monday 12th May - Wednesday 21st May. Keeping to these dates helps us ensure the correct prizes are recorded for the children.



May – Dates for your Diary

Monday 5 th May	School closed for Early May Bank Holiday
Wednesday 7 th May	Flamingo's Class Assembly - Courage
Monday 12 th May – Thursday 15 th May	Year 6 SATS week
Monday 19 th May	Year 2 trip – Black Country Museum
Monday 19 th May	Year 5 Trip – Gospel Oak Art and Design Experience
Wednesday 21 st May	Parrot's Class Assembly – Fairness
Thursday 22 nd May	Baggie Bird Penalty Shootout
Thursday 22 nd May	Year 2 Black Country Museum Workshop (pupils only)
Friday 23 rd May	Break up for half term at 3:20pm (1 week break)
Monday 2 nd June	School reopens to children at 8:40am

Fond Farewells

At the end of the Spring term, we bid farewell to Miss Atherton who has worked at Joseph Turner for many years. We wish her well in the next step in her career. Mrs Purcell will be returning from maternity leave and taking over in Rabbits class.



**National
Online
Safety**

This month's Online Safety Message

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. Trigger Warning: This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sexortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

**26 FRIENDS
ONLINE NOW**

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



**#WakeUp
Wednesday**

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