



FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2026

NEWSLETTER



New Hobbit House!

Look what has arrived on our school field. This will be used next week once the floor varnish has dried. We are so excited to be able to have this additional space to use for all sorts of activities and learning. It will also be used at lunchtimes as a quiet zone for children to colour and chill out. We have been able to purchase this special little house, due to the fantastic fundraising over the past few years!

Thank you to everyone who has helped with this and contributed to our school fund.

Year 6 residential parent drop in

On Wednesday 7th October at 3.30pm there will be a Q&A session for parents and children regarding the Residential to Laches Wood. Please pay any outstanding balances by Monday 28th September, any questions please call the school office.

Parent consultations for children with SEND

Please don't forget to book your child's appointment by calling the school office. We have let you know if this applies to you.

Next week we will be opening up the booking slots for our parent consultations held on 19th and 20th October.

Breakfast Club Start and Finish Times

Please may we remind parents that Breakfast Club opens from 8am and no earlier, as school staff are setting up and arriving for the day. Children need to be dropped off by 8:15am to ensure that they receive their breakfast and have time to eat it.

Thank you!

Sports tournaments

We are keen members of the Dove Valley sports tournaments organisation, which is a long standing group of local schools who are passionate about giving children access to sporting events in a competitive but friendly way. Most of the events are aimed at year 6, with some year 5 children being invited too.

We are also part of the John Taylor High School Sports and community events group. These events are for various ages across the school, and we try to share these across classes.

Most of the events are after school and will require parents to provide the transport to and from the venue.

Please can we respectfully remind parents that school staff from all the schools volunteer their time to take children to these events, we are not experts in each sport and we are just doing our best to provide opportunities for the children. There are occasions where parents have become overly competitive as spectators and not followed our school code of conduct towards school staff in the home school and towards school staff in other schools.

If your child is invited to take part in any of the events, they will receive a letter with a consent form on. This must be returned to the school office asap. Please also return the slip if your child is unable to make it so as we can offer the opportunity to another child.

Thank you in advance and for your support!

Waterproof clothing including coats

Please remember to send a named coat in to school every day with your child. On Wednesday we had a downpour of rain at lunch and we had a high number of children who did not have a decent coat in school. As the weather gets wetter and colder, every child must have a coat in school every day. If your child, likes playing on the field, jumping in puddles, and getting muddy, please also keep a pair of waterproof trousers in school too.

Opal loose parts

After school, on the playground, there are Opal loose parts, including scooters, rugs, tyres etc left out on the playground ready for the next day.

As much as we don't mind children having a little play with these after school, it is parents' responsibility to supervise your child once they are dismissed. This includes putting the equipment back in the correct place, and ensuring they play in a safe space not getting in the way of other parents and other children.

Mrs Bailey aims to lock the entrance gates by 3.40pm so please make your way out of school by this time.

Thank you.

OPAL requests

As we continue to develop our amazing OPAL playtimes, we are always looking for donations of loose parts and resources that will help our children be creative, imaginative and active during their play. We have our second OPAL audit next week and would love to see if we can add more loose parts ready to showcase the children's incredible play literacy to our OPAL mentor and assessor, Bobby. He loves visiting our school and we are excited to show him how the year has started at playtimes- however, we need more loose parts please! If you are having a clear-out at home, please consider donating any of the following:

Cable reels

Ribbons and long materials for weaving in to the fencing

Plants - herbs, lavender etc

Plant pots

Lampshades

Shells

Pool noodles

Hammocks

Guttering

Old curtains, sheets and fabric

Dressing-up clothes and accessories- hats, coats etc

Old shirts - adult sizes so they are big on the children

Paint brushes, including large decorating brushes so as they children can paint mud, water and all sorts on the playground and field areas

Sand toys, mud kitchen utensils

Digging tools, such as plastic spades and trowels

Old walking aids- children love a pair of crutches to play with or an old walking aid

Old pushchairs, trolleys, carts etc

Shower curtains

Woodchip - we would love to create piles of woodchip for the children to create in and with!

Large bags of gravel or pebble stones so as the children can create road tracks and build additional spaces to play

Other safe, sturdy items that could inspire imaginative and creative play- think creative!

Water butts and tubs, water carriers, jugs, buckets

Sweeping brushes

You may be surprised by what our children can turn everyday items into. A piece of fabric can become a den, a cape or a stage curtain, while a cable reel might become a table, a vehicle or part of an obstacle course!

We also have an OPAL Amazon wish list for parents if you wanted to pop a little surprise in the post for our children!

Thank you in advance!

Please ensure that any donated items are clean, safe and in a reasonable condition.

Thank you, as always, for your support in helping us make our playtimes even more exciting, creative and enriching for all our children.

If in doubt just ask or bring it in and we will decide.

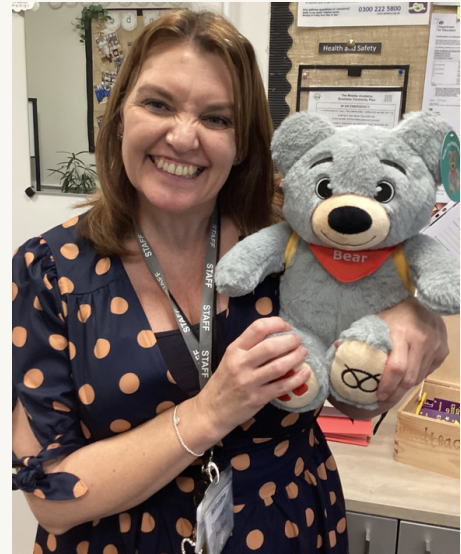


ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Reception - 97.3%
Year 1 - 92.7%
Year 2 - 100%
Year 3 - 97.3%
Year 4 - 97.9%
Year 5 - 96.3%
Year 6 - 99%



Overall -97.2%



Attendance Awards

Every week, we celebrate the winning class for the highest attendance. You can see the results each week on the newsletter. The winning class is announced in class by Mrs Taylor each week on a Friday and get to enjoy 5 minutes extra playtime. We also now have a lovely Helpful bear kindly donated by the Staffordshire Little Heroes campaign. Helpful bear will also stay with the winning class each week and enjoy a week of learning in the class with the highest attendance!

Congratulations to Year 2 with 100% attendance!



This week's stars are:

Reception - Arthur P
Year 1 - Dua
Year 2 - Riley
Year 3 - Alexander
Year 4 - Jacob
Year 5 - Freddie
Year 6 - Charlotte P
Well done to you all!



DATES

Monday 28th September

School Photographs
Individuals and
Siblings
Pre School Family
Groups at 8.15am
SCHOOL UNIFORM

Tuesday 13th - 16th October

Year 6 Residential to
Laches Wood
Available to purchase
on MCAS under the
Clubs Tab

Thursday 15th October

Star Foundation Visit
More details to follow

Monday 19th October

Parent Consultations
Evening
More details to follow

Tuesday 20th October

Parent Consultations
Evening
More details to follow

Wednesday 21st October

EYFS Parent Lunch
11.30am
More details to follow

Thursday 22nd October

Harvest Festival
9am - KS2
2.45pm - EYFS & KS1
More details to follow

Friday 23rd October

INSET DAY
SCHOOL CLOSED TO
ALL STUDENTS

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October

Half term

Monday 2nd November

Back to School

Tuesday 3rd November

Year 5 Class Trip to
Burton Fire Station
More details to follow

Wednesday 4th November

School Disco
EYFS & KS1 - 3.30-
4.30pm
KS2 - 4.40-5.50pm

DATES

Friday 13th November

Children In Need
More details to follow

Tuesday 1st December

Whole School Trip to
Lichfield Garrick
Pantomine

More details to follow

School Tour Dates

Please see the dates below for our School Tours for parents with children starting school in September 2027.

Please email or call the school office to book a place for a tour.

November 4th 9.30 am
Friday 6 th November 9.45 am
Tuesday 17th November 1.45 pm
Thursday 26th November 1.45 pm
Monday 7th December 9.45 am
Thursday 7th January 1.45 pm

14th Sept
5th Oct

WEEK 1	MEAT FREE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Pb	Tomato & roasted vegetable pasta	Beef burger with baked potato wedges	Roast turkey with mashed potato & gravy	All day breakfast	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Pb	Tomato & roasted vegetable pasta	Quorn™ burger with chips	Cheese & onion pie served with new potatoes	Vegetarian all day breakfast	Pb Vegan sausage & chunky chips
Accompaniments		Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar
Desserts		Shortbread	Pb Fruit flapjack	Plain muffin	Pb Chocolate brownie	Ice-Cream & fresh fruit
Fresh fruit or yoghurt		Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection		Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection

21st Sept
12th Oct

WEEK 2	MEAT FREE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish		Cheese & bean wrap with potatoes of the day	Chicken curry & rice with naan bread	Roast chicken with creamy mash potato & gravy	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Crispy fish fingers with chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish		Cheese & bean wrap with potatoes of the day	Vegetarian korma & rice	Pb Vegan sausage & mash potato with gravy	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	Pb Crispy vegetable fingers with chunky chips
Accompaniments		Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar
Desserts	5 & 10p	Chocolate & pear sponge with custard	Apple & cinnamon muffin	5 & 10p Pb Oaty biscuit with fresh fruit	Fruit meringue	5 & 10p Cheese & crackers with grapes
Fresh fruit or yoghurt		Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection		Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection

7th Sept
28th Sept
19th Oct

WEEK 3	MEAT FREE	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish		Tuna and tomato pasta	Spanish chicken in a tomato sauce with 50/50 rice	Roast pork with creamy mash potato & gravy	Pork meatballs with wholemeal pasta	Hot dog served with chips
Vegetarian Main dish		Tomato pasta	Pb Quorn™ in a Spanish style tomato sauce with rice	Roast Quorn™ and mash	5 & 10p Vegetarian meatballs with pasta	Veggie sausage hotdog with baked wedges
Accompaniments		Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar	Seasonal vegetables Salad bar
Desserts		Lemon shortbread	Blueberry & banana muffin	Strawberry whip	Chocolate crunch	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt		Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection		Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2026



**SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE
SCHOOLS & GPs**

NHS

CAMHS

CRISIS & INTENSIVE SUPPORT TEAM

Support • Advice • Guidance



**AVAILABLE
7 DAYS A WEEK**



9:00am – 10:00pm



CALL NHS 111 →

OPTION 2

Before directing any child or young person under 18 to A&E



STOP & CALL FIRST

If you are concerned about the mental health of a child or young person under 18, please contact our CAMHS Crisis & Intensive Support Team to speak to a CAMHS Practitioner **before** directing them to hospital.



OUR AIM

To reduce avoidable attendances at local A&E departments and ensure children and young people receive the **right support**, in the **right place**, at the **right time**.

HOW WE CAN HELP



Mental health advice and guidance



Risk assessment support



Clinical support and intervention



Assistance in determining whether an A&E attendance is appropriate



AFTER 10PM

Calls will be answered by a call handler who will ensure CAMHS receives the information for appropriate follow-up the next morning.



NHS 111 – OPTION 2

CONTACT CAMHS BEFORE REFERRING UNDER 18s TO A&E

