



# February's Newsletter



## LITERACY TREE

January has been an inspiring month as we continue to embed the Literacy Tree across our school. It has been wonderful to see children so engaged with high-quality texts and rich storytelling, and the impact on their enthusiasm for reading and writing is already shining through. The carefully chosen books within the Literacy Tree have opened up exciting worlds, sparked thoughtful conversations, and encouraged pupils to explore language in deeper, more meaningful ways.

Across classrooms, children have been responding creatively to stories—through drama, art, shared reading, and imaginative writing. Teachers have commented on how confidently pupils are using new vocabulary, making predictions, and asking insightful questions about characters and themes. It is clear that the Literacy Tree approach is helping our learners develop not just technical skills, but also a genuine love of literature.

## TOGETHER WE MAKE OUR COMMUNITY RICHER

Our RICHER values—Resilience, Independence, Caring, Helpfulness, Equality and Respect—continue to shine across our school community. It has been wonderful to see parents modelling these same values in their interactions with staff, showing patience, support, and a shared commitment to working together.

When children see these values reflected at home and in school, it strengthens the positive culture we work hard to build. Thank you for partnering with us to ensure that together we are making our community RICHER.

## COMING UP THIS TERM

### FEBRUARY

- 6<sup>th</sup> Year 6 laser quest
- 11<sup>th</sup> Film Night
- 13<sup>th</sup> End of term
- 23<sup>rd</sup> School Opens
- 24<sup>th</sup> Year 5 Abbot Beyne
- 25<sup>th</sup> Year 5 Theatre Trip

### MARCH

- 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> SEND parents evening
- 6<sup>th</sup> World book day
- 13<sup>th</sup> Non uniform
- 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Parents Evening
- 26<sup>th</sup> Chocolate Bingo
- 27<sup>th</sup> End of term





## ACTIVE UNIFORM

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent poll about introducing an active wear uniform. We received 144 responses in total out of approximately 226 families. The results show strong support from our school community:

- 131 parents are in favour of moving to an active wear uniform
- 13 parents are not in favour

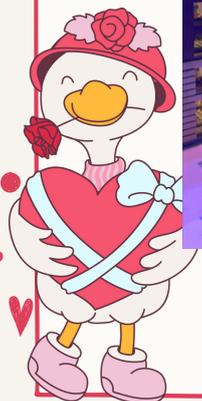
Parents were also asked which colour combination they preferred if the change goes ahead:

- 128 parents prefer Green and Black
- 13 parents prefer Green and Navy

Thank you to everyone who shared their views. We will use this feedback to help guide our next steps and will keep families updated.

## YEAR 2 TRIP - LEGO DISCOVERY CENTRE

Year 2 had an amazing adventure at the Lego Discovery Centre in Birmingham. The children designed and raced their own sail cars, explored a miniature Birmingham (including standing inside Spaghetti Junction!), and enjoyed the excitement of Kingdom Quest and the 4D cinema. They rounded off the day with plenty of fun in the soft play area.





# CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK 9<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 - "THIS IS MY PLACE"

As parents and carers, there are ways we can support our children to give them the best chance to stay mentally healthy. Encouraging and guiding a child to think about their own mental health and wellbeing are vital skills we can teach them from a young age.

Find out how you can help a child to have good mental health, including knowing how to talk to a child about their mental health, and when to spot signs they might be struggling.



## WAYS TO SUPPORT A CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON



### BE THERE TO LISTEN

Regularly ask your child how they are doing, to help them get used to talking about their feelings, and know there is always someone there to listen.



### SUPPORT THEM THROUGH DIFFICULTIES

Pay attention to how your child is feeling or behaving and try to help them work through difficulties. It may not be easy facing challenging behaviour, but try to help them understand what they are feeling and why.



### ENCOURAGE THEIR INTERESTS

Support and encourage your child to explore their interests. Being active or creative, learning new things and being a part of a team helps connect us and boost our mental wellbeing.



### BUILD POSITIVE ROUTINES

Try to have structure around regular routines, especially around healthy eating and exercise. A good night's sleep is also important, so have a fixed time for going to bed and getting up.





# SAFER INTERNET DAY

## THURSDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY



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](http://nationalcollege.com).

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

### 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS

Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.

### 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING

Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.

### 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE

Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.

### 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS

When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.

### 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT

With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.

### 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING

Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.

### 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.

### 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.

### 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.

### 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

### Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on [our website](http://our.website)



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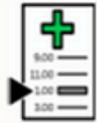
# ATTENDANCE



Regular attendance plays a vital role in helping children feel settled, confident, and ready to learn.

Even missing the occasional day can have an impact. Small absences can quickly add up and may lead to gaps in learning that are difficult to catch up on. Learning begins the moment children step over the school threshold and continues right through to the end of the school day — every lesson, activity, conversation, and experience matters.

Punctuality is just as important as attendance. Our school day begins between 8.35 and 8.50am, and arriving during this time ensures children start the day calmly, take part in morning routines, and are ready to learn alongside their peers. Late arrivals can be unsettling for children and may cause them to miss key instructions or early learning activities. Thank you for supporting your child by ensuring they arrive on time each day.



We kindly ask that medical and dental appointments are made outside of school hours wherever possible, to minimise disruption to learning. Where appointments during the school day are unavoidable, please notify the School Office in advance and ensure your child is out of school for the minimum amount of time necessary.

To support our attendance procedures, we now require evidence for all medical appointments, such as:



Appointment



letter

or



card



Text message



or email



appointment

confirmation

Please remember to bring your appointment confirmation to the School Office when your child has a medical or dental appointment. This helps us keep accurate attendance records and avoids any follow-up queries.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us aim for the highest possible attendance. By working together, we can give every child the best possible start and ensure they do not miss out on valuable learning time.

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