



Ashton Hayes Primary School weekly newsletter

Welcome back!

I hope you all managed to have a wonderful Easter Break. The children have arrived back in school refreshed and eager to learn. As always there has been lots happening this week, as well as lots planned for the summer term. Please read on, as there is an awful lot of information in this week's newsletter.

Speed Van:

You may be aware that the Cheshire Police speed van has started to monitor traffic speeds outside of our school – this is a really important step forward, as it helps to keep our children safe. However, the police have been made aware that several people are warning other motorists about the van in advance. The police have asked that we please pass the following message onto our parents:

Highway Code Rule 110

Flashing headlights. Only flash your headlights to let other road users know that you are there. Do not flash your headlights to convey any other message or intimidate other road users.

While there is no specific offence for flashing headlights to warn of speed cameras it would be covered by Section 89 of the Police Act 1996. This law states that an offence to “wilfully obstruct a constable in the execution of his/her duty.”

Therefore, police could charge anyone who appears to be obstructing their ability to conduct speed checks on other motorists by warning them. The maximum fine for obstructing a police officer is a penalty of £1000.

Secondly, several parents/carers are parking outside the school in such a way that it obstructs the police speed van. Please be aware that parking in such a manner could also result in the same offence as mentioned above, with the same potential penalty.

All Stars Cricket:

Kingsley Cricket Club are running some All-Star cricket sessions for children aged 5-8 years old on Friday evenings this summer – please see the flyer at the end of the newsletter for details.

Rock Kidz:

Thanks to our wonderful PTFA funding, Rock Kidz is officially coming to our school on the 5th June 2026 to deliver the most exciting rock 'n' roll workshops in the UK!



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Throughout the school day they will be transforming the whole school into Rockstars and inspiring them to be the best they can be. The experienced team will be teaching one of our key messages such as self-esteem, anti-bullying, aspirations and inclusion through unique Rock Kidz songs.

www.rockkidzuk.com/ontour

We are encouraging children to come to school on the 5th of June dressed as Rockstars! Go to town – the louder the better. Who knows there might even be some staff dressed up!

Sports Day:

A reminder that sports day is scheduled for the afternoon of 21st May. Please add it to your calendars – we would love to see as many parents as possible to support the children!

Baby Grand Piano:



A very generous lady has contacted the school to offer to donate the above Baby Grand Piano to someone who is a dedicated musician and who would truly appreciate it and care for it. It is her late husband's piano, so she would like it to go to a home that will really value and care for it. If anyone is interested please contact Daphne directly. Her email is below.

daphnewellingoys92@gmail.com

Owls:

We have had a lovely start to the new term in Owl Class, with lots of exciting learning across all our subjects!

In English, we have started exploring our new text, *The Journey*. The class has been really engaged and enthusiastic, and we are looking forward to developing our writing further



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based on the story. We have already created some wonderful poems inspired by the text, showing great imagination and creativity.

In Maths, we have continued our learning about money. The children have been working hard to add larger amounts, using a mixture of notes and coins, and are becoming more confident with their calculations.

In History, we have begun our fascinating new topic on Ancient Egypt. The class has shown great interest, learning about the importance of the River Nile and the role of pharaohs. We have also made links with Art, where the children have started creating their own mummy masks.

In Science, we have started our topic on living things and their habitats. To support our learning, we will soon be visiting the forest school area to explore and research different habitats and the organisms that live there.

Well done to everyone for such a fantastic start to our new topics!

Peregrines:

Peregrines have made a fantastic start to the new half term and have returned to school with a positive attitude towards their learning.

In History, the children have begun exploring the fascinating world of the Mayans and are already showing great curiosity about this ancient civilisation. They are very much looking forward to their upcoming trip to Cadbury World next week, where they will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding in an engaging and hands-on way.

In Art, the class has started an exciting new topic on sculpture, taking inspiration from shells to develop their creativity and observational skills.

In Science, as part of our “Humans including Animals” topic, the children have begun learning about the digestive system and are enjoying discovering how the human body works.

Meanwhile, in English, the pupils have started to immerse themselves in our new class text, *The Promise*, and are already making thoughtful predictions and responses. I am looking forward to seeing the progress they are going to make this half term.

Buzzards:



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It's been a lovely first week back in Buzzard Class after what seemed like a long Easter break. Of course, we started with a big team catch up and enjoyed sharing news from our holidays.

With SATs assessments being super close now, Year 6 have cracked straight on with final preparations! They've been busy revising grammar and punctuation knowledge through practical activities and games and have enjoyed recapping translation, reflection and shape in Maths.

In guided reading, we've been sharing strategies and top tips for tackling tricky comprehension questions.

In the afternoons, we've started exploring our new history topic - Ancient Greece - and our new art topic, which is focussed on drawing (and eventually sculpting) figures in action! The children loved taking turns to strike an action pose on the stage whilst the rest of the class tried to capture the body shape and proportions through 2-minute speed drawings.

Sparrowhawks:

This week in Sparrowhawks we have had an amazing week launching into our new topic of 'Race to the Stars'. We have been finding out about the first moon landing and using our enquiry skills to look at sources of evidence that prove the moon landing happened. I have challenged Sparrowhawks to bring a fact about the moon landings and space travel next week!

Our art has linked to the space topic as we have been looking at the work of Andy Warhol and his spaceman pop art.

In science we have been identifying garden and wild plants.

Year One children have been very excited to launch into our story of The Secret of Black Rock. It is a lovely story that already has brought great discussion and language.

We are looking forward to continuing our adventures next week!

Kestrels:

Mrs Fray has been absent so we will update you on all of Kestrels news next week.



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Forest School:

Forest School week, oh my, the difference in the last 2 weeks is amazing, just ask your children about their trees! This week has been a perfect week for being in the woodlands, not only has the weather been glorious, but it was Earth Day, so we looked at the life of John Muir and used him as inspiration for our sessions.

Just a reminder though, even having lovely weather it is always a lot cooler in the woodlands, it is also the time of year when the nettles and brambles are coming through; on warmer days the children have the option to not wear their waterproofs but they HAVE to have long trousers, long sleeves and wellies, it is also their responsibility to be careful in the area.

Mrs Mochrie

Attendance:

A great start to the week for attendance, with 4/5 classes getting above or very close to our target of 96.7%. We have got a term to get our whole school overall attendance up by 0.37% to hit our target – we can do it!

Class	This week's attendance	Cumulative attendance for the year
Kestrel	95.45%	96.75%
Sparrowhawk	98.21%	94.86%
Owl	99.21%	97.36%
Peregrine	98.81%	97.62%
Buzzard	96.62%	96.67%
Whole school	97.81%	96.63%

Safeguarding - YouTube:

YouTube continues to be a go-to platform for entertainment, learning and creativity, but its vast and largely unregulated content library presents ongoing challenges.

This guide outlines how features like recommendations, Shorts and social interaction can shape young people's viewing habits, sometimes exposing them to inappropriate or extreme material. It also explores key safeguarding concerns, including stranger interaction, risky trends and the limits of automated moderation. With practical advice on tools such as YouTube Kids, supervised accounts and parental controls, the guide supports parents and educators in encouraging safer, more balanced and informed use of the platform.

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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 YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.



TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.



EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.



CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.



SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.



SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.



Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.



CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.



WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.



Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



The National College

See full reference list on our website



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It all starts with... **ALL STARS CRICKET**

We all play at:
Kingsley CC, WA6 8JB

Session dates:
Fridays, 15th May to 3rd July (8 weeks)

Session timings: Ages:
5.45pm to 6.30pm 5-8 years old

Contact:
kingsleycricketclub@gmail.com

Sign up today at
allstarscricket.co.uk

OFFICIAL PARTNER OF
ALL STARS CRICKET

Have a great weekend!
Mr Bell



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