

NORTH WALKDEN PRIMARY - Newsletter

7th November 2025

Headteacher's Weekly Awards - WELL DONE TO OUR STARS OF THE WEEK

All the children get a special mention in the Achievement assembly on Friday and will bring home a certificate detailing the reason for their award.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Ayan Alex	Carter Ninu	Riley Aashi	Muhammed Matilda	Amelia Ollie	Darcy Idir	Esther Lily	Alice Otis

🌟 Welcome Back! First Week After Half Term

We've had a fantastic first week back after the half-term break! The children have settled in beautifully and it's been wonderful to see so many smiling faces around school again. Everyone has come back full of energy and enthusiasm, ready for an exciting new half term of learning and fun.

🔥 Reception Bonfire Parent Workshop

This week, our Reception children and their parents enjoyed a wonderful **Bonfire Workshop** together! There was lots of excitement as families got creative making bonfire-inspired crafts!. A big thank you to all the parents who came along and joined in — it was a brilliant way to start the half term.

🚫 Staying Safe This Bonfire Weekend

As Bonfire weekend approaches, we hope everyone enjoys the celebrations safely. If you're heading out to watch fireworks or attending a bonfire event, please remember to follow safety advice — keep a safe distance, wear gloves when handling sparklers, and always supervise children closely.

For helpful tips on how to keep your family safe this weekend, you can visit:

<https://gmintegratedcare.org.uk/health-advice/keep-your-children-safe-this-bonfire-night-2/>

Have a wonderful and safe weekend, everyone!

School Policies: We have added a new policy in relation to Early Years food and Nutrition to the school website, please feel free to read through this.

Children should be in school by 8.45am if you arrive after this time you are late!

Well done to Reception, Year 2, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6. Almost a full house – let's see if every class can achieve this next week!

Our attendance policy is on our website here

<https://www.northwalkdenprimaryschool.co.uk/page/policies/25098>



Punctuality and Attendance

Please remember school starts at **8:45am** – Doors will be open from 8.35am. Children arriving after 8.55am must enter through the school office and be signed in.

Last week's attendance – Our School target and individual pupil target is 96%

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
Class attendance award	94	99 GOLD	95	99 GOLD	94	98 SILVER	83	99 GOLD	94
Late arrivals	5	3	3	1	5	3	3	3	26

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.



QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in "just one more game". This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.



PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.



ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.



COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.



COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.



Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.



SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.



PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.



TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.



Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



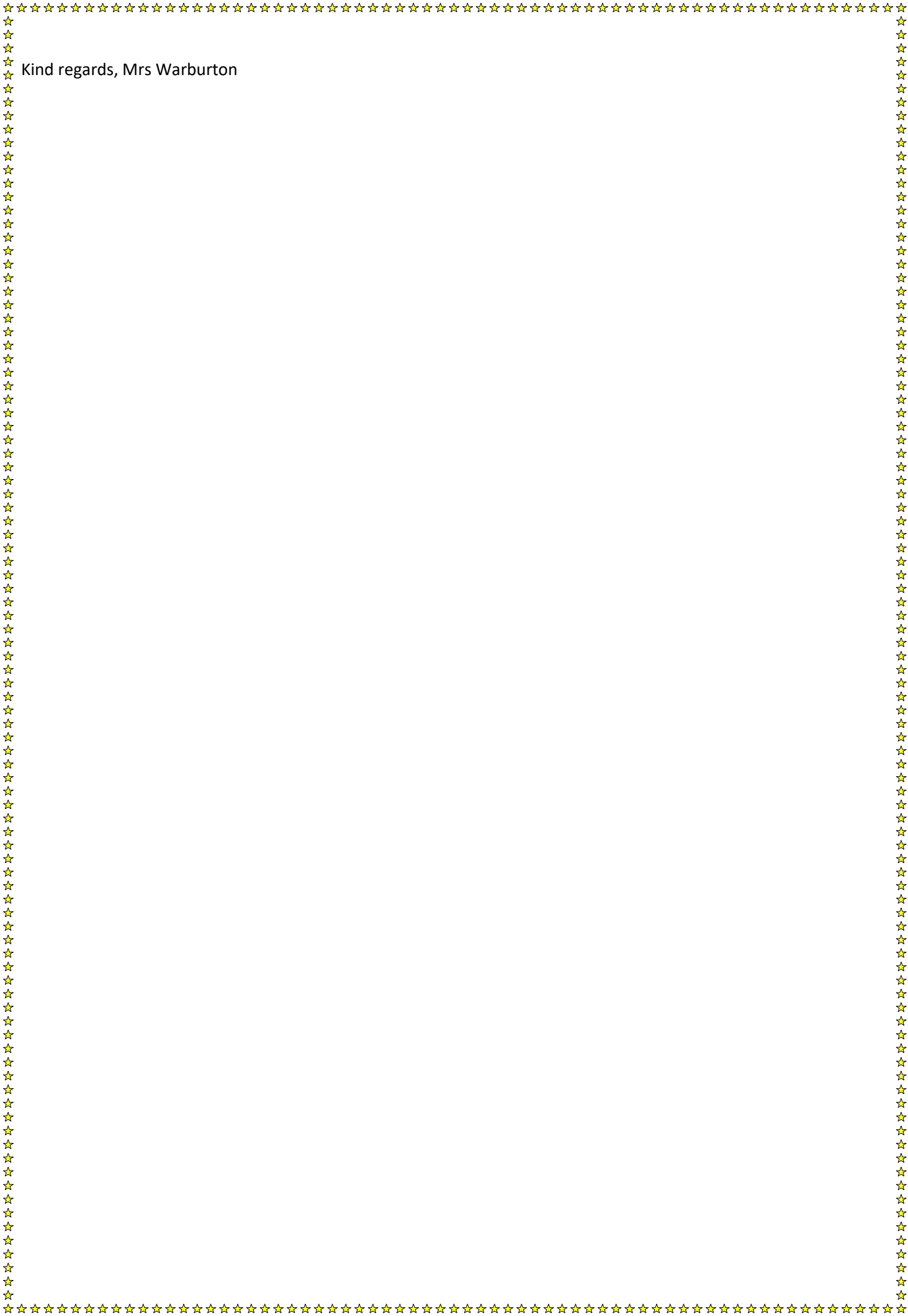
School communication: Please ensure you are logged into your school spider app so that you receive all the important messages we send out. If you need to download the app again, its 'School Spider' and then you can simply go to the log in page and click forgot password to reset your log in details.

Contacting School: If you wish to contact school then you can email us on northwalkdenprimary.pupilcontact@northwalkdenprimaryschool.co.uk and we will respond the same day or call 0161 921 2921.

DIARY DATES: Whilst we aim not to change dates once set sometimes circumstances mean we have to, please always check the dates each week and update your plans accordingly. Any changes will be highlighted.

DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	TIME	CLASS/STAFF
MONDAY 3 RD NOVEMBER	SCHOOL RE OPENS	8.45AM	WHOLE SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 5 TH NOVEMBER	RECEPTION BONFIRE WORKSHOP	9-10AM	RECEPTION PARENTS WELCOME TO ATTEND
THURSDAY 6 TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 6 EXTRA PE SESSION – PLEASE WEAR PE KIT	PM	YEAR 6
TUESDAY 11 TH NOVEMBER	2 MINUTE SILENCE IN CLASS	11AM	YEAR 3-6
WEDNESDAY 12 TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 5 FAMILY TIME WORKSHOP	9-10AM	YEAR 5 PARENTS WELCOME
THURSDAY 13 TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 3 AND 4 EXTRA PE SESSION	PM	YEAR 3 AND 4
FRIDAY 14 TH NOVEMBER	CHILDREN IN NEED – SPECIAL MEAL DAY – We have a special menu on this day. Children are not required to dress up, please come in school uniform. If you wish to donate to this cause please do so here https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/	12-1.00pm	WHOLE CHOOOL
WEEK BEGINNING 17 TH NOVEMBER	ASSESSMENT WEEK 1	ALL WEEK	YEARS 1-6
WEEK BEGINNING 17 TH NOVEMBER	CHRISTMAS SHOP ORDERS RECEIVED – THESE WILL BE SENT HOME DURING THE WEEK		ALL CLASSES
THURSDAY 20 TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 1 AND 2 EXTRA PE SESSION	PM	YEAR 1 AND 2
MONDAY 24 TH NOVEMBER	PARENTS EVENING PHONECALLS	4-5.30PM	WHOLE SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 24 TH NOVEMBER	PARENTS EVENING FACE TO FACE MEETINGS	3.30-6.30PM	WHOLE SCHOOL
FRIDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER	EXTRA PLAY IN EXCHANGE FOR CHRISTMAS HAMPER DONATION	TBC	WHOLE SCHOOL
FRIDAY 28 TH NOVEMBER	Safety Trip at GM Fire and Rescue Service	9.15AM – 3.00PM	YEAR 6
MONDAY 1 ST DECEMBER	HAMPER TICKETS GO ON SALE	9AM	ALL PARENTS WELCOME TO BUY TICKETS

THURSDAY 4 TH DECEMBER	YEAR 3 CHURCH VISIT- CHRISTMAS	1-3	YEAR 3 CLASS
MONDAY 8 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 1 SUPPER WITH SANTA	3.30-4.30PM	KEY STAGE 1
TUESDAY 9 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 2 CAROL CONCERT FOR PARENTS	9.15AM	KEY STAGE 2 PARENTS- TICKETS TO FOLLOW
WEDNESDAY 10 TH DECEMBER	EYFS CHRISTMAS SHOW FOR PARENTS	9.15AM	EYFS PARENTS- TICKETS TO FOLLOW
WEDNESDAY 10 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 2 CAROL CONCERT FOR PARENTS	2.15PM	KEY STAGE 2 PARENTS – TICKETS TO FOLLOW
THURSDAY 11 TH DECEMBER	EYFS CHRISTMAS SHOW FOR PARENTS	9.15AM	EYFS PARENTS- TICKETS TO FOLLOW
THURSDAY 11 TH DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY	ALL DAY	ALL WELCOME TO WEAR A CHRISTMAS JUMPER AND/OR ACCESSORIES
THURSDAY 11 TH DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY	11-1PM	WHOLE SCHOOL
FRIDAY 12 TH DECEMBER	‘DAZZLING DARREN ‘MAGIC SHOW	9-12	ALL CLASSES
MONDAY 15 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 1 CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA FOR PARENTS	9.15AM	KEY STAGE 1 PARENTS WELCOME
MONDAY 15 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 1 CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA FOR PARENTS	2.30PM	KEY STAGE 1 PARENTS WELCOME
MONDAY 15 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 2 MOVIE AFTERNOON	1-3	KEY STAGE 2 CLASSES
TUESDAY 16 TH DECEMBER	EYFS PARTY DAY- PARTY CLOTHES!	1-3	EYFS
WEDNESDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	KS2 TRIP TO THE THEATRE – BOLTON ALBERT HALLS – PETER PAN	9.30 – 12.30AM	KS2
WEDNESDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	HAMPER DRAW	11AM	SCHOOL COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 17 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 1 PARTY DAY- PARTY CLOTHES!	1-3	KEY STAGE 1
THURSDAY 18 TH DECEMBER	NON UNIFORM DAY- CHRISTMAS THEME £1 DONATION	ALL DAY	WHOLE SCHOOL
THURSDAY 18 TH DECEMBER	SCHOOL CLOSSES	2PM	WHOLE SCHOOL



Kind regards, Mrs Warburton