

NORTH WALKDEN PRIMARY – Aiming High, Striving for Excellence

Newsletter – 6th March 2026

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
Theo Evie	Ninu Freddie	Jude Leah	Kevin FiyinfoLuwa	Ollie Nico	Sheldon Otis	Daisy Nicholas	Phoebe Iyla H



Attendance and Punctuality: I was very pleased to see that **Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3** all reached their class attendance target of **96% this week** – well done to everyone for supporting us with this.

Each child also has an **individual attendance target of 96%**, which is the expectation set by the Government for all pupils. This target is in place because regular school attendance has a significant impact on a child’s learning, progress and wellbeing. When children attend school consistently, they are able to build strong routines, develop friendships and keep up with the learning taking place in class. Even a small amount of absence can quickly add up to lost learning time,

which can make it harder for children to keep pace with their peers.

Our **Attendance Policy** is available to view on the school website should you wish to read more about how attendance is monitored and supported in school.

It was disappointing to see a **high number of late marks recorded this week.**

Punctuality is just as important as attendance. When children arrive late, they often miss the calm and structured start to the school day, which usually includes important instructions, morning routines and the introduction to the day’s learning. Missing this time can make it more difficult for children to settle and can impact their confidence and readiness to learn for the rest of the day. Punctuality is monitored closely and, where persistent lateness is affecting attendance and learning, the **Local Authority may become involved** to provide support and take further action if necessary. Thank you for your support in helping your child arrive at school on time each day.



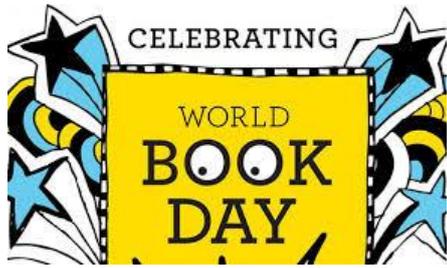
Parents Evenings: This is a reminder to book your appointment for Parents’ Evening through **Arbor**. Attending is a valuable opportunity to discuss your child’s progress and achievements with their teachers. It’s quick and easy to book—simply log in, go to the **Guardian Consultations** section, and choose your preferred time slot.

If you experience any difficulties booking, please contact the school office and we will be happy to assist. Thank you for supporting your child’s learning.

Exciting Events This Week

It was wonderful to see so many **Year 3 parents and family members** joining us for the **Family Time workshop** this week. The children absolutely love seeing their parents in school and sharing their learning with you. We hope you enjoyed the experience just as much as the children did.

Our **Reception class** had an amazing time on their trip to **Imagine That! in Liverpool**. During their visit, the children explored a range of interactive zones where they were able to take part in creative art activities, experiment with hands-on science experiences and enjoy imaginative play in the role-play village. Trips like this give children the opportunity to explore, discover and learn through exciting real-life experiences.



Thursday was **World Book Day**, which is always a highlight in the school calendar. We were delighted to welcome **Altru Drama**, who spent the entire day in school delivering engaging workshops for all classes. Their sessions bring stories to life through drama, movement and role-play, helping children to explore characters, settings and themes in a creative and memorable way. Drama-based learning encourages confidence, teamwork and communication skills while also deepening children’s understanding of the stories they read.

It was fantastic to see so many **creative and colourful costumes** across the school. Days like World Book Day are a wonderful way to spark imagination and inspire a love of books and storytelling.

Reception class enjoyed dressing up and taking part in a range of activities linked to their favourite stories today.

Reading is one of the most important skills children develop in primary school. It supports learning across all subjects, helps to build vocabulary and understanding, and allows children to explore new ideas, places and experiences through stories. Encouraging a love of reading from an early age helps children to become confident, curious and lifelong learners.

Looking Ahead to Next Week: Please remember to check the **diary dates below** for upcoming events.

Next week we will be **collecting donations for our Easter hamper raffle**. Donations can be sent into school at any point during the week. As a small thank you, the children will be rewarded with **extra playtime on Friday**.

We truly appreciate your continued **support in helping us raise funds for the school**. Your generosity helps us provide additional experiences and resources that benefit all of our children. 🎧



Help your child stay safe online - Kids Online Safety: This website introduces a government campaign called “You Won’t Know Until You Ask”, which is all about helping parent and carers feel more confident talking to their children about what they see and do online. It offers simple, practical tips—like how to start conversations, what questions to ask, and how to support your child if they come across upsetting or harmful content.

Many children spend a lot of time online, and it’s not always easy for parent and carers to know what they are being exposed to. This guidance is useful because it helps you open up regular, relaxed conversations, build trust, and make sure your child knows they can come to you if something doesn’t feel right. It’s a helpful starting point for keeping your child safe and supported in today’s digital world.

<https://kidsonlinesafety.campaign.gov.uk/>

Year 1 Forest School: A reminder that **Forest School takes place every Friday morning for Year 1**. Children will be outdoors in all weathers, taking part in nature-based activities that develop teamwork, resilience, confidence and practical skills. Activities may include den building, exploring habitats, seasonal crafts and learning about the natural environment.

Please ensure your child comes to school with **appropriate outdoor clothing**, including:

- A warm, waterproof coat
- Hat and gloves (in colder weather)
- Wellies

Thank you for your support in helping us ensure the children can fully enjoy this valuable outdoor learning experience.

Easter Support: We are pleased to share that **Community Little Hulton** are supporting school once again this year by providing Easter eggs for families who may need a little extra support at this time of year.

If you feel that your family would benefit from this support, please complete the survey link below before **Thursday 19th March**. All requests will be treated sensitively and confidentially.

[Easter Egg - request for support – Fill in form](#)

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

WELL DONE TO RECEPTION, YEAR 1, YEAR 2 AND YEAR 3 WHO ACHIEVED THEIR CLASS ATTENDANCE TARGET

Well done to Reception and Year 4 for achieving their attendance target – 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	87	96 BRONZE	97 SILVER	97 SILVER	97 SILVER	94	87	95	94
Late arrivals	3	3	3	4	11	5	7	4	40

School communication: Please ensure you are logged into your Arbor app so that you receive all the important messages we send out. If you need to download the app again, its 'Arbor' 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.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING
18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'Intimacy Levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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
WEDNESDAY 11 TH MARCH	CRUCIAL CREW TRIP – letter emailed 30.01.26	12 – 3PM	YEAR 5
THURSDAY 12 TH MARCH	RECEPTION CLASS HEIGHTS AND WEIGHTS	9.30AM	RECEPTION
THURSDAY 12 TH MARCH	EXTRA PE FOR YEAR 3	1-2PM	YEAR 3
FRIDAY 13 TH MARCH	EXTRA PLAY IN EXCHANGE FOR A DONATION FOR THE EASTER HAMPER	VARIOUS TIMES	WHOLE SCHOOL
WEEK BEGINNING 16 TH MARCH	ASSESSMENT WEEK FOR YEARS 1-6	ALL WEKK	YEARS 1-6
THURSDAY 19 TH MARCH	EXTRA PE FOR YEARS 1 AND 2	1-3PM	YEAR 1 AND 2
FRIDAY 20 TH MARCH	RED NOSE DAY	ALL DAY	WHOLE SCHOOL
MONDAY 23 RD MARCH	HAMPER TICKETS GO ON SALE	2 WEEKS	ALL WELCOME TO BUY TICKETS
MONDAY 23 RD MARCH	PARENTS EVENING	3.30-4.15PM	WHOLE SCHOOL – DETAILS TO FOLLOW
WEDNESDAY 25 TH MARCH	PARENTS EVENING	3.30-6.00PM	WHOLE SCHOOL- DETAILS TO FOLLOW
THURSDAY 26 TH MARCH	NURSERY STAY AND PLAY	9AM OR 1PM BOOKING SYSTEM	NURSERY PARENTS WELCOME
THURSDAY 26 TH MARCH	YEAR 5 EASTER CHURCH VISIT	1-3	YEAR 5
TUESDAY 31 ST MARCH	JUNGLE BOOK THEATRE PERFORMANCE £2 DONATION PER CHILD	9.15AM	NURSERY-YEAR 6
TUESDAY 31 ST MARCH	EYFS AND KEY STAGE 1 EASTER HAT PARADE	BRING DECORATED HATS TO SCHOOL	EYFS AND KEY STAGE 1 CHILDREN
WEDNESDAY 1 ST APRIL	EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE DRAW	2PM	SCHOOL COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 1 ST APRIL	KEY STAGE 2 EGG DISPLAY COMPETITION	BRING ANY EGG DISPLAYS TO THE HALL 9AM	KEY STAGE 2 CHILDREN WELCOME TO ENTER
THURSDAY 2 ND APRIL	NON UNIFORM DAY FOR £1 DONATION	ALL DAY	WHOLE SCHOOL
THURSDAY 2 ND APRIL	SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR EASTER HOLIDAY	2PM	WHOLE SCHOOL

Kind regards, Mrs Warburton