Cambridge Road

Community Primary & Nursery School

Newsletter for September

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the academic year 2026–2027. What a busy and exciting start we have had! It has been absolutely lovely to welcome the children back to school and to see just how much they have grown, developed and matured. There is a real sense of excitement and enthusiasm around school and we are already looking forward to all that the year ahead will bring.

So, what's changed? We have welcomed our new Head Boy and Head Girl, along with lots of children taking on additional responsibilities and leadership roles across school. These include our School Councilors, Mental Health Ambassadors, Hospice Ambassadors, Eco Committee members and Year 6 Prefects.

We have introduced a brand-new whole-school Team Point System, with our teams currently competing as Blue, Red, Green and Yellow. This is a whole-school approach and it is already proving to be a great success. Children can earn team points for a wide range of achievements, including: exceptional behaviour, outstanding work and effort, academic achievements, sporting achievements, creative achievements, acts of kindness and consideration, showing our school values and much more. Our team point boxes are situated in the foyer and they are already beginning to fill up! Even our staff have been allocated a team, so there is definitely a little healthy competition developing around school!

We have also implemented our new Nutrition Policy and have begun a whole-school pledge to become an even healthier school. This is an important part of our commitment to supporting children's physical and emotional wellbeing. We are looking forward to working together as a whole school community to develop healthy habits and encourage children to make positive choices.



Also, we have begun our exciting work with Willowmere Lodge. All members of the teaching staff have already had the opportunity to visit the home and we were incredibly impressed by the warm welcome we received. We are really excited about developing this relationship further and creating opportunities for our children and the residents of Willowmere Lodge to learn from and support one another. We hope this will become a very special partnership for our school community. Myself, Mrs Berry (Chair of Governors), the Head Boy and Head Girl were delighted to make another visit to receive a cheque for £270. The money was raised through the raffle held during their Open Day and we are extremely grateful for the generous support.

Our Celebration Assemblies are looking a little different this year too! And we're only just getting started! There is so much happening already, and this is just the beginning.

As always, thank you for your continued support. A strong partnership between school, children and families is at the heart of everything we do and we are incredibly grateful for the role you play in making our school such a special place...our Cambridge Road family.

Here's to a fantastic 2026–2027!

Mrs. D Wellings



2nd October– Andrew Kevan is working with Y3-Y6 with a parents' meeting to follow.
Please take a moment to read my email, as this is such an important opportunity to learn more about the potential dangers and risks that devices can pose for our children.
5th October– Ostomy awareness– wear purple, no donation
12th October– 16th– the Book Fair is in our school
12th October- Parents' meetings 1.30-3.30pm (no teacher led clubs after school)
13th October– Parents' meetings 3.30-5pm (no teacher led clubs or tuition after school)
15th October– Cheshire Phoenix are visiting KS2
22nd October– Y5/Y6 Girls' TAG rugby for selected pupils
23rd October– Autumn Fun Day
23rd October– School closes for half term.

2nd November– INSET day
3rd November– Well-being sessions with Y5 delivered by Young Carers
6th November– Y5 and KS2 presentation on Escape to Safety
9th November– Blades Down assembly for selected year groups
13th November– World Kindness day and Premature Baby Awareness day
16th November– Antibullying week
17th November– Mental Health Support Team parental workshops 2-3pm
20th November– Antibullying/ Equalities day– wear RED to show racism the RED CARD

Attendance for September: 95.77%



When we talk about attendance, it is Important to remember that **this is not about the school, the staff or our attendance figures — it is about the children**. Every day in school is an opportunity to learn, develop friendships, build confidence and make progress. When a child misses even one day, they are the ones who have to work hard to catch up on what they have missed, while also keeping up with the new learning taking place when they return. Often, additional interventions and support need to be put in place to help children fill those gaps. The National Curriculum is already ambitious, challenging and full, and we want our children to be able to enjoy their learning without the added pressure of constantly having to catch up.

Every day really does count, and by working together to support good attendance, we are giving our children the very best opportunity to thrive, achieve and reach their full potential.

Meet our Head Boy and Head Girl

Anish Natkunanathan



I wanted to be Head Boy because I want to show excellent role model behaviour, make the school an even better place and take on board every suggestion from the pupils in school. I am responsible, helpful and I will make sure every pupil in the school follows the school's values.

Jaime Hunter



I wanted to be Head Girl because I believe that everyone belongs in our school. We are a Cambridge Road family. We are a kind school and I promote kindness every day. I will help every child from Nursery to Year 6 and I would welcome new visitors to the school and show them around with pride.

What an incredible achievement for Henry and Elijah, who took on the challenge of climbing Snowdon last weekend in support of an orphanage in Tanzania.

After an early start and a demanding eight-hour challenge, they successfully completed the climb — a fantastic achievement that they can both be extremely proud of. However, what made the challenge particularly special was the reason behind it.

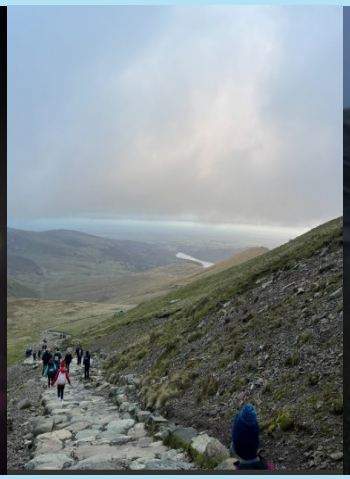
The money they raised will help support children living in an orphanage in Tanzania, providing vital opportunities for education, shelter and care. Many of the children have experienced circumstances that are difficult for us to imagine, with some arriving as babies after losing their mothers during or shortly after childbirth.

For Henry, who will be visiting the orphanage in November, this challenge has provided an opportunity to do something tangible to support the children he will soon meet. For Elijah, it has been an equally valuable experience — helping him to understand that childhood can look very different around the world and encouraging him to appreciate the safety, education, opportunities and support that we can sometimes take for granted.

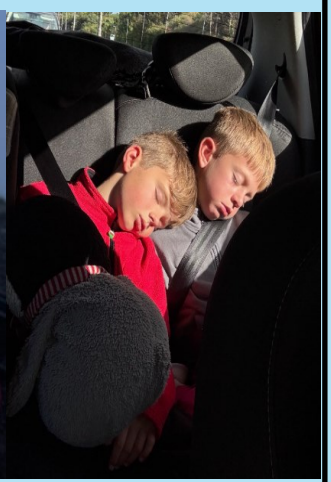
It is wonderful to see children not only taking on a physical challenge, but doing so with a purpose that extends far beyond themselves. **A huge well done to Henry and Elijah — your determination, compassion and willingness to make a difference are something to be incredibly proud of.** You can still donate to this worthy cause:

https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/orphans-in-the-wild-snowdon-walk-?fbclid=IwdGRjcAUd4IxwZG9mAWZkaWQWUO2Lk2CbaZK6YXXs1qtrzJ8I4GpgN2V4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydGMGYXBwX2lkCjY2Mjg1NjgzNzkAAR4qivltD80psWwjEHPOvNiS88ocYzFZgC1hQeGyJovkiR-7vHvB3w8gxkfy7A_aem_05eoRf2PF7qztzbt2QHN4w









A huge thank you!

PLEASE ADDRESS REPLY TO
THE COMMANDANT

AND QUOTE

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01 September 2026

Mrs. Heather BERRY
Chair of Governors

Mrs. Donna WELLINGS
Headteacher

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DONATION TO JAMAICA
OPERATION CADET CARE

On behalf of the Officers, Adult Other Ranks, Permanent Staff Instructors, and Cadet Other Ranks of the Jamaica Combined Cadet Force (JCCF), I wish to extend our deepest appreciation for your invaluable support of "Operation Cadet Care."

This vital initiative directly benefited over two hundred Cadets who were severely affected by the devastation caused by Hurricane Melissa in Western Jamaica in October 2025. The generous contributions from your staff, parents, and students made a profound difference in our relief efforts.

The recipients of your kindness are extremely grateful, and they have specifically asked us to convey their heartfelt thanks to your entire institution.

Your community's solidarity and civic spirit during a time of national crisis embody the true essence of service. Thank you once again for standing with the Jamaica Combined Cadet Force.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas TAYLOR, JP, CCM
Colonel
Commandant

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Jeans for Genes day. We have raised a total of £173.00. Jeans for Genes is the annual fundraising event for the genetic condition community and these donations will support families and children who are affected.

JEANS FOR GENES DAY
WEAR JEANS CHANGE LIVES

REMINDER: **Free breakfast club for Reception to Year 6 children**—As part of a government initiative to provide all primary school children with access to a free breakfast club, we are pleased to offer a free Breakfast Club for all pupils from Reception to Year 6 . The children need to enter through the Hall door next to the Year 6 classroom, using the gate on Cambridge Road.

Booking and Important Information To help us plan staffing and food requirements, we ask that families book a place via the Arbor app as soon as they know they will need to use the Breakfast Club, and no later than 6:00pm the evening before.

Children attending will be offered a breakfast of cereal and toast, with a choice of milk or water.

Please note that children will not be admitted after 8:20am, so that everyone has sufficient time to eat breakfast and settle before the start of the school day.

Breakfast Club is also available to Nursery children; however, there will be a charge of £5 per session for Nursery pupils.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ (with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

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



See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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