

An Award Winning School

A Maths Mastery School

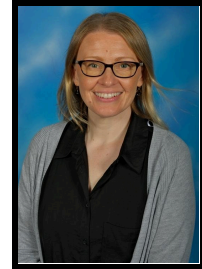


Newsletter

June 5, 2026

Weekly update! A message from Mrs Benton, Head of School.

We would like to welcome back all of the families to Westbrook.



It has been a very different week following the flood that occurred during the half term holiday. Despite all of the damage caused to the first floor of the building and the loss of much school equipment the school was only closed to pupils for one day to allow time to reorganise the classrooms. I have been **very impressed** by how well the children have **adjusted to the changes** this week, including moving classrooms. They have shown high levels of **resilience** and are **enthusiastic** to enjoy their final half term of this academic year. I would like to say a massive **thank you** to the staff for all coming together on Monday to sort through the damaged items and reorganise all of the classrooms to ensure that school reopened as quickly as possible. I would like to say special thank you to **Mr Brace**, our site manager. He has worked tirelessly since the incident occurred to ensure everyone onsite is safe and that the repair works are overseen properly.

This week children in **Year 4** have begun the **Multiplication Tables Check** and this will continue into this next week.

Next week the reception children will receive their height, weight and vision check which will be carried out by the **community nursing team**.

It has come to our attention that there are several children in **Year 6** who have accounts with social media platforms. These platforms, which include Tik Tok and Snap Chat, have an **age restriction of 13**. These age-restrictions are in place to **safeguard our children**, who are too young to access these platforms. There are also concerns regarding the **group chats** that pupils have set up, the content that might be accessed whilst browsing these platforms and the time of night that the children are communicating with each other. **We would request that parents follow the age restrictions and regularly check your child's phone.** *(Please see guidance for parents later in the newsletter.)*

Celebrating pupil successes! 🌟

This week we would like to congratulate the following children for achieving their **Superstar Learner certificates**; a fantastic array of learning from across the school was presented in our **Golden Assembly** on Thursday.



Class	Pupil name	Class	Pupil name
Little Chicks	Rayan	Chaffinch	Whole Class
Robin	Sukhpreet	Sparrow	Taha
Barn Owl	Shenae	Wren	Whole Class
Snowy Owl	Azan	Cuckoo	Whole Class
Tawny Owl	Whole Class	Magpie	Whole Class
Flamingo	Whole class	Woodpecker	Whole Class
Swan	Chaitanya	Eagle	Whole Class
Heron	Binameen	Hawk	Macie
Kingfisher	Whole Class	Osprey	Ana
Jay	Whole Class	Falcon	Ethan
		Harrier	Jayveer
		Kestrel	Manat

Attendance Ted

Well done to **Eagle Class and Osprey Class, Year 5** who all achieved best overall attendance this week. They had **100%** attendance - an amazing achievement! We are sure that Attendance Ted will enjoy his week in your classroom!



House Points at Westbrook

Well done to **Walliams House (Red)** which has achieved the most points this week - congratulations! Let's see if one of the other houses can take the lead next week.



Birthday Books 🎂

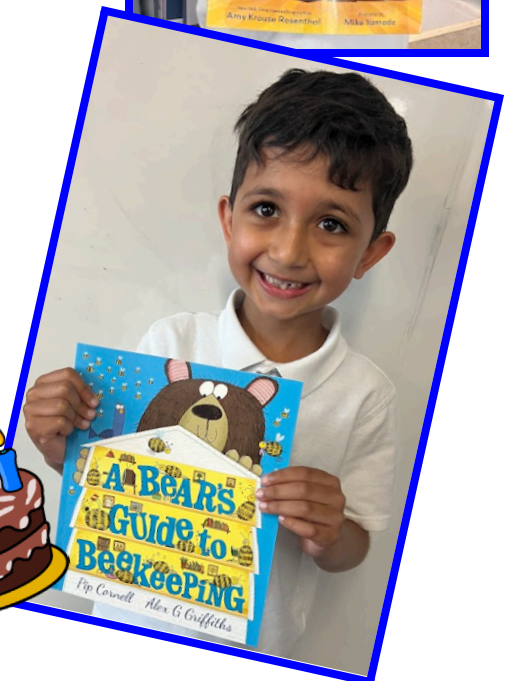
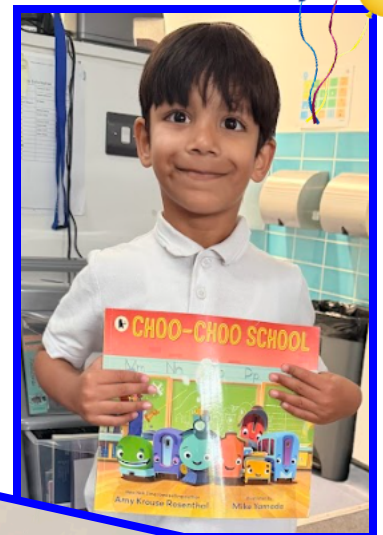


We would like to wish **Merab** from **Barn Owl Class** a very **happy 5th birthday**, **Divyank** in **Tawny Owl Class** a very **happy 5th birthday** and **Huzaima** from **Jay Class** a very **happy 7th birthday**!

Thank you for each donating a book to your class library! We hope your friends enjoy reading them.

If parents / carers would like to donate a book to mark their child's birthday, please see the school office for a

'**Birthday Book**' label. We really do appreciate the donations.



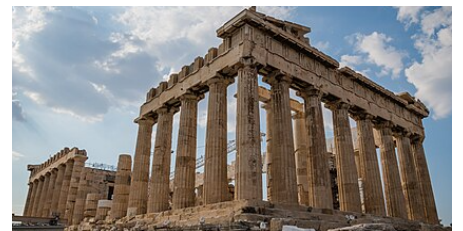
Learning at Westbrook - Nursery

Nursery children have been learning about **Eid al Adha**. The children explored some religious artefacts including **prayer beads** and **mats** and **religious clothing**. The children used the 3D blocks to make their own **mosques**.



Learning at Westbrook - Year 5 🎵

History - This half term, **Year 5** has begun to learn about **The Greeks**, and in particular “**What did the ancient Greeks leave behind that still matters to us today?**” The children have started the topic by looking at **unity** and division in ancient Greece and how different city states often went to war but would also be unified for trade. The coming weeks will include some exciting learning including Greek Gods, the differences between Athens and Sparta and the legacy of the ancient Greeks.



Music - After a fun time learning about looping and remixing last half term, the children had an enjoyable lesson this week learning about musical theatre. It was a delight to hear a lot of the children singing along to “**Mamma Mia**” and we hope their enthusiasm and enjoyment will grow even further as they work towards performing their own musical scene.

Westbrook Summer Fair - 19/06/2026

Summer Fair
Friday 19th June 2026 - 2pm till 4pm



School will be closing at **2pm**.

All children must be collected at **2pm**.

Please pick up your children promptly and then go and enjoy the fair!

All tickets for our **School Summer Fair Raffle** are now available to purchase! All purchases will automatically enter you into our prize draw.

Tickets are **just £1** each and can be purchased via **School Gateway**. You may buy as many tickets as you wish, so feel free to increase your chances and support our school fundraising efforts at the same time.

We have some fantastic prizes up for grabs, including:

- 1st Prize – 42" Smart TV
- Amazon Kindle
- Bluetooth Speakers
- Toys
- And many more wonderful prizes such as:
Our Art set prize (215 pieces with easel) for this year's Summer Fair Raffle **is sponsored by**
TWIN TRAILS (Independent Travel Agent) ✈️
Speak to your friendly neighbourhood travel agent at the **Summer Fair on Friday 19 June, 2-4pm** and plan your getaway the easy way!

Please support our school fundraising and come and try your luck with our raffle.

The raffle will be drawn at our Summer Fair on Friday 19th.

If you run a business and would like to donate/sponsor a prize for our summer raffle then please do get in touch.

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to seeing you at the fair!

Open Days at Westbrook

Throughout the year we will have the following open mornings for parents looking to join Westbrook Primary School. Tours start at 9:30am and last approximately 1 hour.

- **Wednesday 24th June**

There will be a presentation from the Head of School followed by an opportunity to see the school in action on a tour with our head boy and head girl. To book a place on one of our open mornings, please contact the School Office on **0208 5709942** or email office@westbrookprimary.co.uk

Parent / carer information relating to online safety...

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 SNAPCHAT

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 'streak' emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2023, Snapchat introduced a new tier called 'Lens+', giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, relieving their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

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.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's following feed shows videos from known creators, while the default 'For You' feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £3.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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Community news...

If your child is interested in cricket lessons outside of school please look at the flyers below:



Diary of dates

Date	Day	Event	Time
10th June	Wednesday	School Food Showdown (Years 2, 3, 4 & 5)	various
12th June	Friday	Snowy Owl Class assembly	9:00am
19th June	Friday	Tawny Owl Class assembly	9:00am
19th June	Friday	Summer Fair 🎪	2:00-4:00pm
22nd-24th June	Mon-Wed	Year 6 Residential (PGL)	various
24th June	Wednesday	Exit Point - Year 3 (school hall)	2:30pm
26th June	Friday	Barn Owl Class assembly	9:00am
29th June	Monday	Exit Point - Year 2 (school hall)	9:15am
3rd July	Friday	Heron Class assembly	9:00am
7th July	Tuesday	Open Evening for Parents / Carers	5:00pm

14th July	Tuesday	Y6 Production 🎭👏	tbc
15th July	Wednesday	Y6 Production 🎭👏	tbc
16th July	Thursday	Y6 Leavers' Ball @ Westbrook Primary 🌟	6-8pm
17th July	Friday	Y6 Leavers' Assembly	9:00am

[Read more on our website](#)

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www.westbrookprimary.com

020 8570 9942

Head of School: Mrs. C. Benton

CEO: Dr. M. Tatters