School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 3rd March	• KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Archery – Book / pay on ParentPay
Tuesday 4th March	• KS1 Qualtias After School Club – Fundamental Skills – Book / pay on ParentPay • **Football Training after school until 4.15pm**
Wednesday 5th March	• KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Athletics – Book / pay on ParentPay
Thursday 6th March	• **WORLD BOOK DAY – Children are invited to dress as a book character or bring in their favourite book. We are also asking for donations of any unwanted books for the PTFA Book and Cake Sale which is tomorrow after school. Please send these in with your child today. We would also love to see any photographs of your child reading in any unusual places!** • Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am • SWIMMING - CLASS 3 - please be mindful of changing for swimming when choosing World Book Day costumes
Friday 7th March	• **PTFA Book and Cake Sale after school – Donations of Cakes would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.**
Monday 10th March	• KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Archery – Book / pay on ParentPay
Tuesday 11th March	• KS1 Qualtias After School Club – Fundamental Skills – Book / pay on ParentPay • **NO FOOTBALL TRAINING TODAY – Match on Thursday**
Wednesday 12th March	• KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Athletics – Book / pay on ParentPay
Thursday 13th March	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am • Swimming – Class 3 • **Football Match after school – St Giles v Castle View Your child will be informed if they are involved**
Friday 14th March	• **Class 3 Benchball event - Ashbourne Leisure Centre. Children should arrive at school by 8.10am PROVIDE CONSENT on ParentPay**

OTHER NEWS

- **WORLD BOOK DAY COSTUME SWAP -** You are still welcome to donate your unwanted costumes and take one for your child ready for **World Book Day on Thursday 6th March.**

- **PTFA BOOK AND CAKE SALE – Friday 7th March** after school. We would be grateful for donations of cakes and unwanted books. Thank you for your support!

- **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea – Tuesday 25th March**



🌸 Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Invitation! 🌸

We would love to invite all the wonderful **mothers, nannas, sisters, aunties, or special female figures** to join us for a lovely **Afternoon Tea** in school! 💖

Come and enjoy a delightful afternoon with your child(ren), filled with **tea, coffee, soft drinks, delicious cakes, and fun crafts to create together!** 🎨☕🍰

This is a special opportunity to relax, chat, and celebrate the amazing female figures in our children's lives.

We can't wait to see you there! 💖

- **BOOK LOOK – Tuesday 25th March – Following the Afternoon Tea there will also be an opportunity to look at your children's books from 3.15pm until 4.00pm**

- **STAY AND STUDY!**

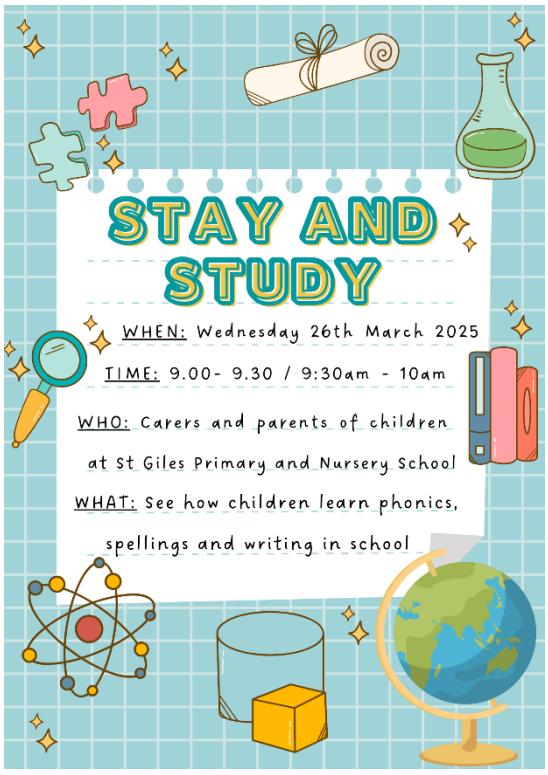
Following feedback from our recent parent survey, we would like to invite parents into school on **Wednesday, 26th March**, to observe how we teach phonics, spellings, and writing.

This is a fantastic opportunity to see our teaching methods in action and gain an insight into the language and vocabulary we use, particularly during phonics and spelling lessons. To ensure the morning runs smoothly without disrupting learning and to accommodate families with children in different classes, we have organised the sessions as follows:

Early Years & Year 1/2 (Nursery, Class 1 and Class 2) Parents: 9:00 - 9:30 AM (Phonics and Spellings lessons)

Key Stage 2 (Class 3 & 4) Parents: 9:30 - 10:00 AM (English lesson)

We look forward to welcoming you into our classrooms!



- **ParentPay – Thank you for your support in keeping accounts up to date. Please ensure all accounts are clear of outstanding debts from last term if you have not already done so.**

- **INSET DAYS FOR 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR**
  The five INSET Days for the next school year have been agreed as follows:
  Thursday 4th September 2025
  Friday 5th September 2025
  Monday 24th November 2025
  Monday 23rd February 2026
  Monday 1st June 2026
  School is closed to pupils on these dates. The first day of the Autumn Term will be Monday 8th September 2025.

- **Walesby Forest Residential – The next instalment of £30 is now due. The final instalment is due at the end of March. Thank you if you have already paid. There are some outstanding payments from the January instalment – please pay these as soon as possible.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email with any questions or queries.

Friday updates can be found in the Newsletters section of our school website.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Thursday 20th March	Swimming for Class 3
Friday 21st March	**Red Nose Day**
Tuesday 25th March	**Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 2.30pm – 3pm** **Book Look for All classes 3:15pm – 4pm**
Wednesday 26th March	**Stay and Study – Please see poster above for more information 9 – 9:30am (Class 1 and 2 parents) 9:30 – 10am (Class 3 and 4 parents).**
Thursday 27th March	Non uniform day in return for donations of chocolate for the PTFA Easter Event Swimming for Class 3
Monday 31st March	PTFA Easter Event after school
Tuesday 1st April	Easter Service
Thursday 3rd April	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Friday 4th April	**Air Ambulance awareness Day. Children are invited to wear something yellow and bring in a small donation. The Air Ambulance will be coming into school to talk to the children regarding their roles in their jobs.** Last day of the Spring term
Monday 21st April	**Easter Monday**
Tuesday 22nd April	**Back to school – Start of the Summer Term**
Thursday 24th April	Swimming for Class 3
Wednesday 30th April	Class 2 Multi Skills Festival at All Saints Juniors This Girl Can – Whitworth Park 9.30 – 11.30
Thursday 1st May	Swimming for Class 3
Monday 5th May	**MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY**

Thursday 8th May	Swimming for Class 3
Monday 12th May	KS2 SATS – English Grammar Punctuation and Spelling
Tuesday 13th May	KS2 SATS – English Reading Paper
Wednesday 14th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Papers 1 and 2
Thursday 15th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 3
Friday 16th May	Year 6 Celebration at Whitworth Park
Friday 23rd May	Break up for half term
Monday 2nd June	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Tuesday 3rd June	**Back to school**
Thursday 12th June	South Peak Sports – Darley Dale Primary School
Wednesday 18th June	Class 2 Dance and Gymnastics Festival at All Saints Juniors
Thursday 19th June	Class 3 Activity Day and Sleepover – Details to follow Reserve Date for South Peak Sports
Thursday 26th June	Year 6 Primary Athletics at Moorways, Derby
Tuesday 1st July	Highfields Transition Day for Y6 pupils
Wednesday 2nd July	**Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4**
Thursday 3rd July	**Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4** FINAL SWIMMING LESSON FOR CLASS 3
Friday 4th July	**Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4**
Wednesday 9th July	Class 2 Sports Day at All Saints Juniors
Thursday 10th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 17th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 24th July	**Last day of the school year** **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**
Friday 25th July	First Day of the summer holidays
ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026	
Thursday 4th September	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Friday 5th September	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Monday 8th September	**First day of the Autumn Term**

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 MARVEL RIVALS

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 12

ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.

DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert



Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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