School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 14th October	• Open Day for Sept 2025 new starters 9.30am • **Football Match St Josephs v St Giles** • KS2 Qualitas Trampolining After School Club – places still available. Please use Parent Pay to pay and book.
Tuesday 15th October	• **No FOOTBALL TRAINING TODAY** • KS1 Qualitas Archery After School Club
Wednesday 16th October	• Class 2 – Fun Run at All Saints Junior School AM. Please use ParentPay to **PROVIDE CONSENT** • Cross Country Whitworth Park – PM – selected juniors. Please use ParentPay to **PROVIDE CONSENT** • Open Day for Sept 25 new starters 5pm • Safeguarding training for volunteers in school 6pm
Thursday 17th October	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am • Swimming for Year 1 and 2
Friday 18th October	• KS2 Qualitas Tag Rugby After School Club – places still available. Please use Parent Pay to pay and book
Monday 21st October	• KS2 Qualitas Trampolining After School Club
Tuesday 22nd October	• **Parents Evening – Class 2, 3 and 4 – Appointments should be made online using School Cloud** • NO FOOTBALL TRAINING • KS1 Qualitas Archery After School Club
Wednesday 23rd October	• **Parents Evening – All Classes – Appointments should be made online using School Cloud**
Thursday 24th October	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am • **NO SWIMMING for Year 1 and 2 this week**
Friday 25th October	• Infants Stay and Play, Junior Book Look followed by refreshments in the hall (Tea/Coffee and Cakes served by our PTFA) to celebrate our recent Ofsted report 2.45pm – 4.00pm • KS2 Qualitas Tag Rugby After School Club • Break up for half Term

OTHER NEWS

- **Parents Evening** – Will take place on Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October for Classes 2, 3 and 4 and on Wednesday 23rd October for Class 1. Appointments to see your child's Teacher should be booked online using the School Cloud link.

- **We are looking forward to opening our nursery on 5th November**. Please pass this on to those who may have interest in this. More information can be found on our website.

- **School Photographs** – **Ordering and Lost Slips** -School photographs were taken in school this week. Your child should have brought home a printed access code for you to view the photographs online. ***Order by the 27th October for free delivery***. If your child has misplaced their code, please email info@capturephotographyschools.co.uk.

- **Friday 25th October** – Join us from 2.45pm in school. There will be an Infant Stay and Play and a Junior Book Look. This will be followed by tea, coffee and cakes in the hall arranged by our wonderful PTFA to celebrate our recent GOOD Ofsted report. We hope you can make it! It will finish by 4.00pm

- **NAMED UNIFORM** – Please ensure your child's name is in every item of clothing. We are already accumulating a large pile of uniform that is not named.

- **Parent Pay** – Please can we ask that you check your accounts regularly and ensure that payments are made at least every month to keep balances low.

- **Walesby Forest Residential** – The third payment for the Year 5 and 6 residential is due on Friday 25th October. Thank you if you have already paid. Please contact the school office if you have any questions at all.

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	
Monday 4th November	**INSET DAY – School closed**
Tuesday 5th November	Back to school **NURSERY OPENING DAY** Tickets on sale from today for the PTFA Family Movie Night
Thursday 7th November	Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am Swimming for Year 1 and 2
Monday 11th November	**Anti Bullying Week** ODD SOCKS DAY Bikeability for Year 6 this week
Thursday 14th November	Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am -10.30am Swimming for Year and 2
Friday 15th November	Children in Need – further details to follow
Thursday 21st November	Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am Swimming for Year 1 and 2
Thursday 28th November	Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am Swimming for Year 1 and 2
Monday 2nd December	PTFA FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT – further details to follow

Thursday 5th December	Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am Swimming for Year 1 and 2
Tuesday 10th December	Jack and the Beanstalk at Buxton Opera House
Thursday 12th December	NO SWIMMING CHRISTMAS CRAFTS AND JUMPER DAY PTFA SECRET SANTA
Tuesday 17th December	Christingle Service 2.00pm in St Giles Church
Friday 20th December	Break up for Christmas **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**
Saturday 21st December	Cakes and Carols in St Giles Church 4.00pm
Monday 6th January 2025	Back to school
Monday 27th January 2025	Class 4 to Young Voices in Sheffield
Friday 14th February 2025	Break up for half term
Monday 24th February 2025	**INSET DAY – School closed**
Tuesday 25th February 2025	Back to school
Friday 4th April 2025	Break up for Easter
Tuesday 22nd April 2025	Back to school
Wednesday 30th April 2025	Class 2 Multi Skills Festival at All Saints Juniors
Monday 5th May 2025	**MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY**
Friday 23rd May 2025	Break up for half term
Monday 2nd June 2025	**INSET DAY – School closed**
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	Back to school
Wednesday 18th June 2025	Class 2 Dance and Gymnastics Festival at All Saints Juniors
Wednesday 2nd July 2025	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4
Thursday 3rd July 2025	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4
Friday 4th July 2025	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4
Wednesday 9th July 2025	Class 2 Sports Day at All Saints Juniors
Thursday 24th July 2025	Last day of the school year **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**

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 IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.10.2024

School calendar 2024/25

DERBYSHIRE County Council

August 2024

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31				1	2	3	4
32	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
33	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
34	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
35	26	27	28	29	30	31	

September 2024

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

October 2024

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			
45							

November 2024

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2024

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31					

January 2025

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1			1	2	3	4	5
2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	27	28	29	30	31		

February 2025

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5						1	2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9						1	2
10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
12	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
13	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
14	31						

April 2025

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14		1	2	3	4	5	6
15	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
18	28	29	30				

May 2025

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18				1	2	3	4
19	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2025

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
22							1
23	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
24	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
27	30						

July 2025

Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27		1	2	3	4	5	6
28	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
29	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
30	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
31	28	29	30	31			

Denotes Bank holidays

Denotes School holiday dates

195 days – including up to 5 days to be taken

BLUE DENOTES SCHOOL SWIMMING DAYS IN 24/25