

# NORTH WALKDEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

## 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### 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
Asif Alex	Whole Class	Fareedah Zac	Maya Harvey	Esther Aliza	Ahmed Carter	Callum Billie-Mae	Gabriel Alfie

On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February North Walkden will be holding a 'French Day'.

As you may be aware our chosen Modern Foreign Language in school is French. The children will be taking part in a range of activities in class to support their learning of the French Language and to explore French culture.

The children are invited to come to school in non- uniform, either with a French theme or in the French flag colours (red, white and blue).

We hope that the children enjoy learning something new about another country!



**Children's Mental Health Week:** Children's mental health week is approaching, starting 5<sup>th</sup> February. Our Theme for this year is Child's Voice. Attached is a poster which is also displayed in school also to offer children support on what to do if they feel worried. Also attached is the poster for Place2Be, the counselling service we offer in school so please take a look.

### Road Safety Champions:

Dear Parents / Carers / Pupils, you may have noticed the Road Safety Champions around school this week.

We are Finley, Rocco and Amina and we are the ones wearing the yellow HI-Vis vests. We know that lots of our school friends were lucky enough to receive new bikes and scooters for Christmas. So, we thought it would be interesting to see how many of them arrived, safely by wearing their helmets. We carried out a survey to find out, because helmets can help protect us from having a serious or fatal injury if we have an accident and fall off.

This is what we found out from our one morning of observations.

- 17 Children arrived at school on bikes or scooters.
- 2 Children were wearing a helmet. Well done to those children, please continue with this.

**Please can we ask that if the other 15 children that were not wearing their helmet, please do so as soon as possible.**

Thankyou.

NWPS Road Safety Champions.

**PE Days and Swimming:** Please note the days below for PE and swimming. On these days children should come to school in their PE kits which is dark blue/black jog pants, white T-shirt, dark blue/black tracksuit top or school jumper/cardigan. You can also wear the school tracksuit. Please note that children should not wear named sportswear. Thank you

Reception – PE on FRIDAY

Year 1 – PE on Tuesday

Year 2 – PE on Tuesday

Year 3 – PE on Monday

Year 4 – PE on Monday / Swimming on Thursday from 16.11.23 – 18.01.24

Year 5 – PE on Wednesday / Swimming on Thursday from 25.01.24 – 21.03.24

Year 6 - PE on Wednesday





**Weather warning:** We are expecting some cold weather next week. Please ensure children have hats, scarfs, gloves and warm coats to wear. Please also ensure these have names on so they do not go missing!

**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	88	97	93	85	94	94	89	92
Late arrivals	2	2	5	4	9	3	7	7	39

**Term Dates:** these dates are available on the school website.

Term Dates 2024 - 2025		
Term	School closes at 3.15pm (2.00pm at the end of each full term)	School re-opens at 8.45am - gates open from 8.35am
Autumn Term 1		Wednesday 4th September 2024 (staff training 2nd and 3rd September)
Autumn Half Term	Friday 18th October 2024	Monday 28th October 2024
Christmas Holidays	Thursday 19th December 2024 - 2pm	Monday 6th January 2025
Spring Half Term	Friday 14th February 2025	Monday 24th February 2025
Easter Holiday	Friday 4th April 2025	Tuesday 22nd April 2025 (Bank Holiday 18th April and 21st April)
Bank Holiday	School closed - Monday 5th May 2025	
Summer Half Term	Thursday 22nd May 2025 (staff training 23rd May)	Wednesday 4th June 2025 (staff training 2nd and 3rd June)
Children Finish for Summer Holiday	Wednesday 23rd July 2025	

**Online Safety:** We have some helpful advice below about Among Us and we will share different supportive advice each week in the newsletter.

# 10 WAYS GAMING CAN SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES in Children and Young People

Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games, with almost 70% of primary school aged children doing likewise. If enjoyed in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. Check out our top ten tips on how gaming online can sometimes work to your child's advantage ...

## THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Gaming is so popular because at the base level, it's enjoyable for the player. Succeeding in any game or contest releases dopamine in our brains: the 'feel-good' chemical that makes us happy or excited. Those emotions can be incredibly beneficial for mental wellbeing – as long as young players don't become reliant solely on playing video games to make themselves feel happy.

## ACHIEVEMENT & PRIDE

A sense of achievement is incredibly important to all of us and can be particularly valuable to someone who's feeling unhappy or distracted. It's easy to get caught up in our thoughts, which can sometimes take a negative turn. So even achieving something small – like finishing a difficult level in a Mario or Sonic game – can feel like conquering Everest and give us renewed optimism.

## SOCIAL SALVATION

Gaming can be an incredibly social activity. When playing online with trusted friends, what usually start out as chats specifically about the game can often develop into conversations about school and life. Even if they've had a bad day, simply knowing that a friend is there, on the other end of their headset, can provide young gamers with a sense of security and some welcome laughs.

## TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

In many online games, teamwork is crucial to winning. Often, people who are struggling with their mood tend to feel like they fail or let others down a lot. Working as a team with trusted friends or family in a game can reinforce a young person's self-importance: striving for a common goal and succeeding together can remind them that they're an integral part of something bigger.

## REAL-WORLD RELATABILITY

Because many major releases are shooting or action games, when some people hear "gaming" they think of guns, explosions and violence. What's less recognised is how many titles explore relatable issues such as overcoming anxiety or coping with grief. These games allow young players to understand their emotions more deeply and realise they aren't alone in how they might be feeling.

## A DIGITAL COMFORT

Video games can provide a reliable constant. No matter what happens in school or between friends, playing a favourite game is something that youngsters can look forward to all day and can help them de-stress. Let's not forget, games are fun – and, when approached safely, an interactive activity in which the player has a degree of control over what happens next can feel immensely reassuring.

## PROBLEM-SOLVING PRACTICE

It can be difficult for young people to handle the feeling that nothing is going right or that their problems are insurmountable. Gaming can help alleviate that by presenting challenges to be overcome, either solo or alongside trusted friends. Defeating a powerful monster or solving a tricky puzzle reminds young gamers that even the most daunting obstacles can be faced and conquered.

## THE GREAT ESCAPISM

A certain amount of escapism is fabulous – allowing us to temporarily park some stress while exploring a world other than our own. For children, gaming can be like reading a novel or watching a film: a moment in the day when the fantastical becomes real, firing their imagination and immersing them in a story. Who wouldn't want to venture to the stars? Or battle monsters to save the planet?

## TRIED & TRUSTED

There can be reassurance in repeating tasks. It often promotes a controlled outcome, which is ideal when life feels overwhelming or out of control. Replicating an experience, such as playing the same level of a game over and over to perfection, gives the player a sense of control and familiarity: it's like listening to a favourite song that always makes you feel happy or confident.

## ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Inventiveness is a huge part of many modern games: in Minecraft and Roblox, for example, players regularly dream up amazing structures or new ways to play. Using our imagination to create something (whether digitally or physically) is massively beneficial for the brain; that's why Lego is sometimes used in the medical sector as both a stress reliever and a brain injury rehabilitation tool.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipcombe is a writer who specialises in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. Author of 15 guidebooks for children on games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft, his work has also been published in the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247.



Source: [https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/l\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/234809/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/l_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234809/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf)

**School communication:** Please ensure you are logged into your school spider app so that you receive all the important messages we send out. If you need to download the app again, its 'School Spider' 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@salford.gov.uk](mailto:NorthWalkdenPrimary.PupilContact@salford.gov.uk) and we will respond the same day or call 0161 921 2921.

**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
WEDNESDAY 3 <sup>RD</sup> JANUARY	SCHOOL RE OPENS	8.45AM	WHOLE SCHOOL
FRIDAY 12 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	STOCKPORT AIR RAID SHELTER VISIT	9-3	YEAR 6
WEDNESDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	YEAR 3 FAMILY TIME WORKSHOP	9-10AM	YEAR 3 PARENTS WELCOME
WEDNESDAY 17 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	YEAR 6 SATS AND CONDOVER MEETING FOR PARENTS	3.20PM	YEAR 6 PARENTS
THURSDAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	YEAR 4 LAST SWIMMING LESSON	PM	YEAR 4
THURSDAY 25 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	YEAR 5 1 <sup>ST</sup> SWIMMING LESSON	1-3	YEAR 5
WEDNESDAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY	FRONT ROW MUSIC CONCERT – Y1-Y6 TO WATCH	2.45 – 3PM	PARENTS OF THOSE HAVING MUSIC LESSONS AT LUNCH
THURSDAY 2 <sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY	FRENCH CELEBRATION DAY – children invited to wear French themed clothes or colours	KEY STAGE 2	KEY STAGE 2 CHILDREN
WK BEG 5 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	MENTAL HEALTH WEEK	ALL WEEK	ALL CLASSES
TUESDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	SAFER INTERNET DAY	9-3	ALL CLASSES
WEDNESDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	MULTIPLICATION TIMESTABLE CHECK (MTC) – PARENTS MEETING	3.20 – 3.30PM	YEAR 4 PARENTS
FRIDAY 9 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	COMFY CLOTHES DAY – as part of children's voice – we have listened and arranged a comfy clothes day – children to wear the clothes they feel most comfortable in i.e. onsie, tracksuit, pyjamas, dress up etc....	ALL DAY	WHOLE ACHOOL
WEDNESDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	RECEPTION CLASS VALENTINES WORKSHOP	9-9.45	RECEPTION PARENTS WELCOME
WEDNESDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	EYFS VALENTINES DISCO	2.15-3PM	EYFS
WEDNESDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	KEY STAGE 1 VALENTINES DISCO	3.30-4.30PM	KEY STAGE 1
THURSDAY 15 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	END OF TERM SINGING SHOWCASE	1.15PM	YEARS 1-6
FRIDAY 16 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	COFFEE MORNING FOR PARENTS	9AM	ALL PARENTS WELCOME
FRIDAY 16 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	ZUMBA DAY	9-3	YEARS 1-6 ON A ROTA
FRIDAY 16 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	SCHOOL CLOSSES FOR HALF TERM	3.15PM	WHOLE SCHOOL
DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	TIME	CLASS
MONDAY 26 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	SCHOOL RE OPENS	8.45AM	WHOLE SCHOOL

MONDAY 4 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	YEAR 6 – CRUCIAL CREW TRIP	12 – 3PM	YEAR 6
WEDNESDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	YEAR 6 CONDOVER RESIDENTIAL TRIP	WEDNES DAY - FRIDAY	YEAR 6 AB EC TW
WEDNESDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	YEAR 2 FAMILY TIME WORKSHOP	9-10	YEAR 2 PARENTS WELCOME
THURSDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	WORLD BOOK DAY - Altru Drama workshop Y1-6. All children are invited to come dressed in an outfit that represents their continent – this will be advised in the WBD letter	9-3	WHOLE SCHOOL
THURSDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	NURSERY STAY AND PLAY- READING AND STORIES	9-10	NURSERY PARENTS WELCOME
FRIDAY 15 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	CHOCOLATE DONATION IN EXCHANGE FOR EXTRA PLAYTIME		WHOLE SCHOOL
MONDAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE TICKETS GO ON SALE	2 WEEKS	WHOLE SCHOOL
MONDAY 18 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	PARENTS EVENING PHONE CALLS	3.45 -5.00	WHOLE SCHOOL
WEDNESDAY 20 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	PARENTS EVENING FACE TO FACE	3.30-6.30	WHOLE SCHOOL
THURSDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH	YEAR 5 LAST SWIM	1-3	YEAR 5
WEDNESDAY 27 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	RECEPTION EASTER WORKSHOP	9-9.45AN	RECEPTION PARENTS WELCOME
WEDNESDAY 27 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	EYFS AND KEY STAGE 1 EASTER HAT PARADE	ALL DAY	EYFS AND KEY STAGE 1 CHILDREN
WEDNESDAY 27 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	EASTER HAMPER RAFFLE DRAW	2PM	
THURSDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	COFFEE MORNING	9AM	ALL PARETNS WELCOME
THURSDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	KEY STAGE 2 EGG DISPLAY	9-12	KEY STAGE 2 CHILDREN
THURSDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	BREAK UP FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS	2PM	

More dates will be added so please keep your eye on the diary dates each week.

Kind regards, Mrs Warburton