



NEWSLETTER 4 – 26TH SEPTEMBER 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

HAPPY TEACHING ASSISTANT APPRECIATION DAY!

It has been another incredibly busy week here at school, and the last one as a Local Authority school. as we convert to an academy and join the Wessex Learning Trust next Wednesday 1st October.

None of the hard work or pupil achievements in school would be possible without the support and dedication of our Teaching Assistants. Today is National Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day, and I know as Headteacher, the school would not continue to be an effective place of learning without my amazing and hardworking team. Today is about raising awareness about the indispensable role TAs play in supporting both students and teachers. We are very lucky to have the Teaching Assistants that we do, and hopefully they have enjoyed their treats in the staff room!



PTFA

Thank you to those parents who were able to join us for our PTFA meeting on Thursday. I understand that not everyone was able to make the meeting who wanted to, so I will continue to update everyone via the newsletter on PTFA events.

As well as the Christmas fete, the PTFA will be holding a Halloween Disco on Friday 17th October. More details will appear soon, but if you are able to help with either setting up, music, or clearing up afterwards, please let the school know.

More events are planned for the coming year, and I am pleased to say there is to be more staff involvement and suggestions are already coming in for future events.

The PTFA are also looking at how the funds raised can be spent, and discussions are happening all the time about how the money can be used to benefit all the children, from coach costs being paid for to hopefully a travelling theatre company coming to perform!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Stars of the Week' are...

Hedgehogs - Otis
Badgers - Layla
Foxes - Nathan

Our 'Values Ambassadors' this week are...

Hedgehogs - Reid
Badgers - Ellie
Foxes - Kaila-Rose

Attendance:

The class with the best attendance this week was...

Hedgehogs- 100%!!!

Our year to Date attendance as a school is...

93.6%

CHRISTMAS FETE

It is never too early to mention the 'C' word, so please start thinking about donations for our Christmas fete. This year we are holding it on a Saturday at the village hall.

NSPCC 'SPEAK OUT, STAY SAFE'

For the first time in seven years, I am delighted to say that the school will be taking part in the NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' campaign. Later this year, we will be inviting their volunteers into school to talk to the children, as well as being involved in whole school assemblies and workshops to share the NSPCC's vital work.

FOCUS ON BADGERS CLASS

This week, we look at what Badgers class have been learning during their time with our new member of staff, Mr Maydew. From poetry about plastic to creating clay sculptures, Badgers class is an exciting and busy place to be! To support the class and each individual pupil's learning, I am fortunate to teach the Year 2 children every day for English and Maths. This allows these children to focus on their phonics and end of Key Stage 1 learning, whilst Years 3 and 4 are able to gain new knowledge in the core subjects through a sequenced mixed-age curriculum.



Which class will we be looking at next time?

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We try and offer as many extra-curricular opportunities as we can, whether that be lunchtime clubs or those that run after school. As well as gym club and craft club, which will be on again very soon, we are delighted to offer an after school multi sports club on a Thursday. This club is run by our external sports coach, and I know the feedback from staff and pupils about our new coach is excellent.



NURTURE SESSIONS

Our nurture sessions continue to be both popular and effective for our children. These sessions, run by Miss Knight support pupils' social and emotional needs in a calm and nurturing environment. Thanks to Miss Knight, we are now able to hold these sessions three times a week, allowing children to build their confidence, teamwork skills and resilience.



KEY DATES

1st October

Academy conversion day

14th/16th October

Parents' Evenings

16th October

Harvest Festival

24th October

INSET DAY

27th–31st October

Half term Holiday

24th November

Nasal Flu Immunisations

29th November

Christmas fete

10th December

Whole School trip to Bristol Museum



PUPILS ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

As a school, we have a duty of care to you and your children to ensure they attend school every day if possible.

We are noticing some children are regularly arriving late to school. This can not only affect your child's attendance but also their attainment and ability to learn. Being late also disrupts the rest of the class' learning.

If you need support from school to get your child in on time, please do speak to Mr Champs or a member of staff.

Every minute counts



Lateness = lost learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

Don't let your child miss out!

What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

Get your child to school on time. If they are late they have a bad start to the day.

If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could affect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

As of September 2013, no school is allowed to grant holiday requests under new legislation.

Therefore, any request for term time absence will need to be put in writing, in advance, to the Headteacher. Each case will be considered individually and the absence will only be authorised in specific circumstances.

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority of all unauthorised absences and a penalty notice may be given by the LA.

DID YOU KNOW that if a child is taken away for a two week holiday every year during term time and has an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, then by the time they leave at sixteen they will have missed a year of school?

PARKING

I am very grateful to those parents who choose to park away from the school entrance and off the zig zag yellow lines. We have, however, had a recent issue with one of our neighbours where a parent had parked their car over a neighbour's driveway who needed to get out.

Please consider our neighbours when parking. I have asked North Somerset Council to send an enforcement officer to the school at pick-up times to talk to parents who cannot park respectfully or correctly.

YOUTH VIOLENCE

Violence among young people is a growing concern – but we're not powerless to act. Our latest guide unpacks the causes and signs of youth violence, including when and where it's most likely to happen. It also offers compassionate, practical advice for parents, carers and educators.

From peer pressure to online influences, there are many reasons why young people may engage in or fall victim to violence. This week's guide shares expert insight from the Ben Kinsella Trust to help parents and educators spot the risks, start sensitive conversations, and help keep children safe.

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 YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim (e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being promoted), while not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the areas they live in, and 81% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-raised public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone, support is available.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their thinking brain. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can help. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or CrimeStoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit benkinsella.org.uk

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 24.09.2025

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a concern about any child in our school, then it is your responsibility to say something to us. Remember, 'Safeguarding' is everybody's responsibility! You can speak to any member of staff in school. We also have a team of designated safeguarding leads - Mr Champs (DSL), Mrs Mann (DDSL), Miss Speller (DDSL) and our School Safeguarding governor, Mrs Phippen.



They can be contacted on 01934 623430 or office@kewstokeprimaryschool.co.uk
 As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:-
 NSPCC: 0800 800 5000
 888 808

Care Connect: 01275

November 2025

Tuesday 11th - 4:00pm - 5:30pm

Thursday 27th - 5:00pm - 6:30pm



COUNTY LINES

WEBINAR SESSION



For Parents & Carers

Our gang and county lines parents' session consists of speakers with lived experience within the criminal justice system to unpack and explore the realities and consequences of county lines, gang involvement, and serious youth violence.

Perspectives from previous perpetrators and runners/ transporters, combined with relevant case studies, aid audiences in gaining an authentic and credible understanding of this complex and cross cutting issue.

The session will help parents and carers to identify the signs and triggers that a child or young person might be involved in county lines and gain an understanding of how to appropriately respond to such indicators.

For more information and to secure your place, please email vrp@n-somerset.gov.uk specifying which date you would like to attend.

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