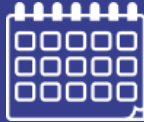




Dates for Your

**DIARY**



### School Events

**Energisers – Year 6– Every Tuesday,  
Wednesday and Thursday morning—8.10-  
8.40am**

**Great Fire of London Y2—21/03/25**

**Florence Nightingale Y1 31/03/25**

**Y5—Tower of London Trip - 25/04/2025**

**Y6 - East Mersea 9th –11th June 2025**

**Y1&2 Walton On The Naze - 27/06/2025**

**Reception—Hertfordshire Zoo 02/07/25**

# NEWSLETTER

## A message from the Head of Academy



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the Half Term break.

This term, we have had many exciting events that the children have really enjoyed. From classroom projects to outdoor learning experiences, our aim is to inspire curiosity and foster a love for learning. Please refer to our school website, where you will see an overview of what your child will be learning about this term and regular updates with regards to learning which has taken place.

In addition to the regular curriculum, we will be focusing on promoting kindness, respect, and resilience across the school community. We had two Police Officers visit us recently who spent lunchtime with our pupils discussing these values. These values are at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to creating a positive, supportive environment for all our pupils.

Some of our KS2 pupils represented us as part of the Young Voices choir at the O2 Arena. They represented our academy fantastically and we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. They performed some of their songs to the school as well and it was lovely to see the children come alive and express themselves. A big thank you to Miss Nelmes and Mrs O'Connell who have run club every week to get the children ready for this and to Mrs Demetriou and Mrs Hale who supported the children at the event.

We have also taken part in Mental Health week and joined a live assembly which was experienced by thousands of children all over the country. The Children have also been learning about keeping themselves safe online as part of Internet Safety Day. Our CEO, Derek Trimmer, from the Academy Transformation Trust (ATT) also visited our Academy and commented on how well the children are doing. He was incredibly pleased with everything he saw. Our Kingsmoor Way was evident in every classroom and children are responding well to new techniques in the classroom such as Cold Calling, No Opt Out and Right is Right. Please speak to your child or your child's class teacher should you wish to find out more about these techniques.

Year 5 will continue to have Swimming lessons. World Book Day is also coming up on 6<sup>th</sup> March as well as PJ Parties organised by our hard-working PTA. Year 6 have Crucial Crew and Year 2 have workshops all about The Great Fire of London. We will also be celebrating Comic Relief and Year 1 have a Florence Nightingale workshop to look forward to. Years 5 and 6 will also be going to Stewards to watch a production of Disco Inferno. We also look forward to seeing you in March for Parent Consultations where you will receive feedback with regards to your child's progress for this term. .

Warm regards Mrs Angie Skinner

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS



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.



@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

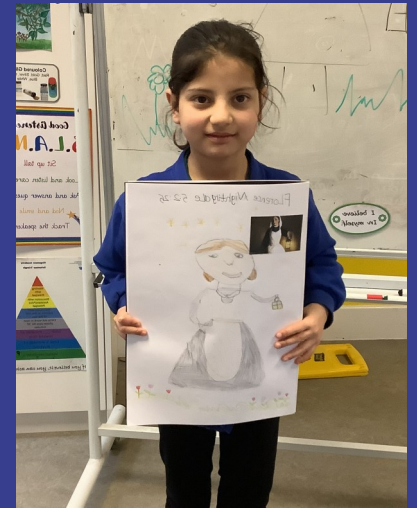
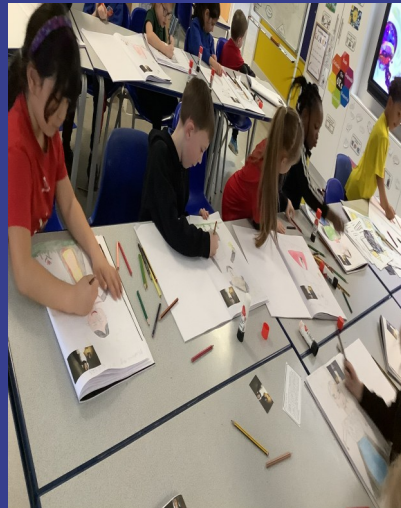
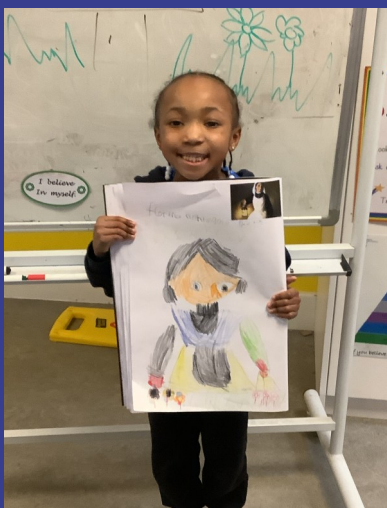
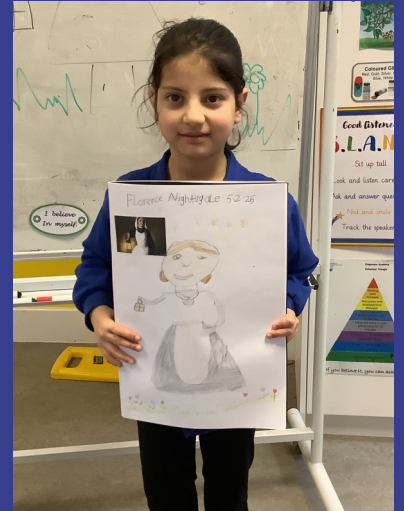
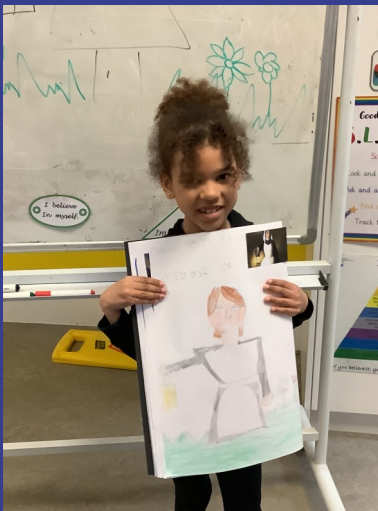
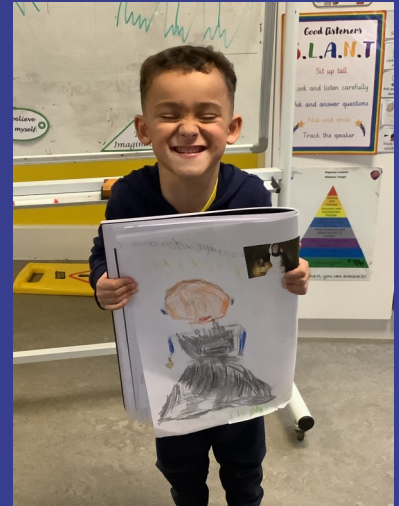
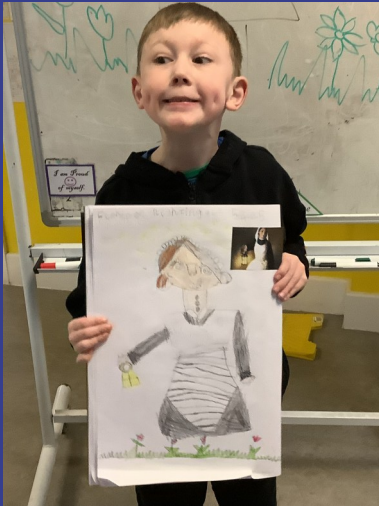
@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

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# Florence Nightingale

The 'Lady with the Lamp'



Children in Year 1 have been working on their Florence Nightingale portraits in art class with Mrs Everest.

# Safeguarding

## Information from the National College:

The social media network formerly known as Twitter has undergone numerous alterations since its change of ownership and rebranding as X – and many of these recent developments have proved controversial. With any user now simply able to pay a fee for account verification, for example, the once-reliable ‘blue tick’ system has become largely meaningless.

It’s just one of several changes that have set the social media giant on what many consider a concerning path in online safety terms. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide provides a run-down of the most significant tweaks made to X; their potential safeguarding implications; and how to help ensure young people minimise the risks while they continue to use the service.

We remind our children to be SMART online

## Online Safety

Follow the SMART rules to help stay safe online.

### Safe

**S**

Stay **safe** online by not sharing your personal information.



### Meet

**M**

Do not **meet** anyone who you have only become friends with online.



### Accept

**A**

Do not **accept** messages and friend requests from people you do not know.



### Reliable

**R**

Not everything online is **reliable**. People online are strangers and you can't always trust everything they say.



### Tell

**T**

**Tell** an adult you trust if anything happens online that you do not like.



Be careful what you share online!

Stop and think before you share information online. Don't say or do anything that you wouldn't do in the real world!



## Health Information

This week we celebrated Children Mental Health Week by taking part in an assembly with the School of Kindness ([www.schoolofkindness.org](http://www.schoolofkindness.org)).

We learnt about what mental health is, why it's important and the many different ways we can improve our mental health. We also heard about this year's theme, which is **Know Yourself, Grow Yourself!** And finally, we chatted about the importance of kindness - to ourselves and to others. (Nominations for the national Kindness Awards are open – do you know someone who deserves an award?

Nominate them here

[www.schoolofkindness.org/kindnessawards](http://www.schoolofkindness.org/kindnessawards))

## Getting Your Child to School Really Matters!

### Did you know...?

In a school year, if your child is late every day by...

Your child would have lost approximately...

or they would have missed approximately...

5 minutes	3.5 days from school	20 lessons
10 minutes	7 days from school	41 lessons
15 minutes	10 days from school	55 lessons
20 minutes	14.5 days from school	82 lessons
30 minutes	22 days from school	123 lessons

Please encourage punctuality to maintain attendance

# Attendance

## This term

Year 1 Ghana: 91%

Year 1 Italy: 94%

Year 2 Poland: 96%

Year 2 Egypt: 97%

Year 3 Cuba: 96%

Year 3 India: 97%

Year 4 China: 95%

Year 4 Brazil: 96%

Year 5 Japan: 95%

Year 6 Kenya: 97%

Year 6 Australia: 95%



# Kingsmoor Academy

Is your child due to start Reception  
in September 2025?  
Book a place on our 'Academy Tour'.



We offer:

- ❖ Vibrant and fun Classrooms.
- ❖ Qualified, dedicated and experienced staff.
- ❖ Fantastic outdoor areas providing stimulating learning experiences.
- ❖ Fresh and healthy food cooked on the premises.
- ❖ Our very own forest school!



Will your child have turned 4 by the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2025? If so, you can now book a place on our 'Academy Tour'. Please contact the school office for more information.



**Kingsmoor Academy**  
**Ployters Road**  
**Harlow**  
**Essex**  
**CM18 7PS**

For more information, please contact:  
**Telephone: 01279 306136**  
**E-mail: [KIN-admin@attrust.org.uk](mailto:KIN-admin@attrust.org.uk)**  
**[kingsmooracademy.attrust.org.uk](http://kingsmooracademy.attrust.org.uk)**