Newsletter - 23.10.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy and successful half term, I would like to thank all of our children, families and staff for their hard work, support and commitment throughout the term.

This half term has been packed with exciting learning opportunities, workshops and community celebrations. It has been wonderful to see the children embracing every opportunity with enthusiasm and confidence. From our Road to 500 challenge, pupil leadership elections, school photographs, ukulele and keyboard lessons, to the fantastic opportunities provided through OPAL play, there has been so much to celebrate.

I have been incredibly proud of how our children continue to demonstrate our DREAM BIG values each day through their kindness, resilience and determination. We have loved celebrating our Dream Big Champions and Values Superstars this half term and recognising the many ways our children make a positive difference to our school community.

We have also enjoyed some fantastic events this half term, including our Family Superstar Lunches, the smoothie bike experience, Healthy Eating Week activities, and our hugely successful Halloween Bingo. Thank you to everyone who has attended events, volunteered their time or supported our fundraising efforts. Your support helps us continue to provide enriching experiences for all of our children.

A huge thank you to our staff team for their dedication and care, and to our families for the ongoing support and partnership you show the school. We are incredibly lucky to have such a supportive school community.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term break and enjoy some well-deserved time with family and friends. We look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term as we begin the countdown to Christmas.

Mrs Howard

Important Diary Dates for Autumn Term:

Monday 26th - Friday 30th October
Half Term - School Closed

Monday 2nd November
School Opens to Pupils

Wednesday 4th & Thursday 5th November
Parents Evening

Monday 9th November
Reception Open Evening

Tuesday 1st December
Reception Parent Workshop: Festive Maths & Christmas Crafts

Monday 7th - Friday 11th December
Year 6 Residential at Laches Wood

Tuesday 8th December
Nursery Parent Workshop: Health Habits, Toilet Training & Christmas Cheer

Friday 18th December
Pupils Break Up for Half Term

Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January
Half Term - School Closed

Monday 4th January
INSET Day -School Closed to Pupils

Tuesday 5th January
School Opens to Pupils

🎬🍿 Film & Popcorn Afternoon for Our Dream Big Champions! 🍿🎬

On Wednesday, we celebrated our amazing Dream Big Champions with a special Film & Popcorn Afternoon! 🌟 It was a fantastic opportunity to recognise their hard work, determination, positive attitudes and all the wonderful achievements they have demonstrated throughout the term. The children enjoyed relaxing with a film, sharing some popcorn and celebrating their success together.

A huge well done to all of our Dream Big Champions. We are incredibly proud of everything you have achieved and the excellent example you set for others. Keep dreaming big! ⭐👏🎉

A Reminder About Smoking and Vaping Near School Gates

We kindly remind all parents, carers and visitors that smoking and vaping are not permitted at the school gates or directly outside the school entrance.

We want to provide a healthy, safe and welcoming environment for all members of our school community, particularly as many children pass through these areas at the start and end of the school day.

If you choose to smoke or vape, please do so well away from the school gates and surrounding entrances.

Thank you for your support and cooperation in helping us maintain a positive environment for everyone.

🍎 Healthy Snacks at Break Time 🍎

A gentle reminder that children may bring a snack to enjoy at morning break. To support healthy lifestyles and help children stay focused and ready to learn, we ask that snacks are healthy choices, such as fresh fruit.

Please avoid sending sweets, chocolate, crisps, cakes and other sugary snacks for break time.

Thank you for your support in helping us encourage healthy eating habits across the school.

🌟 Values Superstar Family Lunches 🌟

On 16th October, we were delighted to host our very first Values Superstar Family Lunch! 🎉🍽️

It was wonderful to welcome families into school to celebrate the children who have been recognised for consistently demonstrating our school values. The lunchtime was filled with smiles, conversation and a real sense of pride as our Values Superstars shared this special occasion with their loved ones.

A huge thank you to all the families who joined us and helped make the event such a success. We are incredibly proud of our Values Superstars and the positive example they set every day. ⭐🌈

We are already looking forward to our next Values Superstar Family Lunch on 13th November, where we will once again come together to celebrate the children who embody our school values. We can't wait to welcome more families and recognise the achievements of our next group of superstars! 🏆👏💙

Reception Open Evening – Monday 9 November 2026, 4.30pm

Open Evening – Monday 9 November 2026, 4.30pm – 6.00pm
We are delighted to invite parents, carers and prospective families to our forthcoming Open Evening on Monday 9 November 2026, from 4.30pm.
As the admissions window for Nursery and Reception places opens in November, this is a wonderful opportunity for families considering joining Winshill Village Primary and Nursery School to come and look around our school, meet staff and see what makes our school such a special place to learn.

🌧️ OPAL – Ready for All-Weather Play! 🌧️

As we move into the colder and wetter months, please ensure your child comes to school with a coat, school jumper/cardigan and a pair of wellies every day.
Our OPAL playtimes take place in all weather conditions, and having the correct clothing helps children stay warm, dry and comfortable while enjoying outdoor play. ☔🍂
Please note that children will not be allowed onto the school field without wellies, as parts of the field can become wet and muddy during the autumn and winter months.
Please make sure all items are clearly named so they can be easily returned if misplaced.
With the right clothing, children can continue to explore, play, get muddy and make the most of the fantastic opportunities that OPAL provides! 🌟👢🧥

🎃👻 Halloween Bingo Was a Spook-tacular Success! 👻🎃

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Halloween Bingo event on Wednesday evening! 🕷️🦇

The event was a fantastic success, with families coming together to enjoy a fun-filled evening of bingo, laughter and community spirit. It was wonderful to see so many children and families joining in the excitement and supporting our school.

A special thank you goes to the Friends of Winshill Village for organising such a brilliant event, and to all the volunteers who helped make the evening run so smoothly.

Most importantly, thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event. The funds raised will help provide additional opportunities and resources for our children.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Friends of Winshill Village event! 🎉🍬🎃

🧸 Toys in School

A gentle reminder that children should not bring toys, trading cards or other personal items into school unless they have been specifically requested by their class teacher.

Unfortunately, items brought from home can sometimes become lost, damaged or cause disagreements between children. Keeping toys at home helps pupils stay focused on their learning and play safely with the resources provided in school.

If a special item is required for a learning activity, your child's teacher will let you know in advance. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a positive learning environment for all children.

👕 Lost Property – A Gentle Reminder 👕

We have a growing collection of lost property in school, including jumpers, cardigans, coats and PE kit.
To help us return items to their owners quickly, please ensure that all clothing and personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name. 🏷️
With many children wearing similar uniform, a name label makes a huge difference and helps us reunite lost items with their owners much more easily.
If your child is missing any items, please encourage them to check the lost property area.
Lost property will also be available to view during Parents' Evening, so please take a moment to have a look if your child is missing any belongings.
Thank you for your support in helping us reduce the amount of unclaimed property in school.

A Huge Thank You to Danny Carlin

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Danny Carlin for delivering such informative and engaging workshops for our families and staff.
Danny recently led an ADHD workshop for parents, providing valuable advice, strategies and practical support to help families better understand and support children with ADHD. He also delivered a range of neurodiversity workshops, helping to raise awareness and deepen understanding of the diverse needs and strengths of neurodivergent children.
The feedback received has been extremely positive, and we are grateful for the knowledge, expertise and passion Danny shared with our school community.
Thank you, Danny, for helping us continue to develop an inclusive environment where every child can thrive.

💬 A Gentle Reminder About Sharing Concerns

A gentle reminder that if you have a question or concern about something that has happened during the school day, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. They are often best placed to help and resolve concerns quickly.

If you feel a longer discussion is needed, please contact the school office and we will be happy to arrange a suitable time to talk. Where necessary, concerns can then be referred to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

We also kindly ask that concerns are raised directly with the school rather than being discussed with other parents or children. This helps us address matters fairly, sensitively and effectively.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining positive and respectful communication within our school community. 🌟



📱 Online Safety Reminder 📱

As more children are using mobile phones, social media and messaging apps, we would like to remind parents and carers to regularly check their child's device and monitor their online activity.
Please take time to review any group chats your child may be part of, including WhatsApp groups, as these can sometimes expose children to inappropriate language, content or conversations that they are not ready for.
Many social media and messaging platforms have minimum age requirements of 13 years old, including WhatsApp, TikTok, Instagram and Snapchat. We encourage families to be aware of these age restrictions and to make informed decisions about their child's online access.
Open conversations about online safety, kindness and respectful communication can make a huge difference in helping children stay safe online.
Thank you for your support in working together to keep our children safe both in and out of school.

John Taylor MAT

CEO: Mike Donoghue OBE MA (Hons), MBA, NPQH, NLE

Dear Parents/ Carers and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we announce that nominations are now open for the JTMAT Exceptional Achievement Awards (Autumn 2026) for which all John Taylor MAT pupils are eligible to be nominated for.

The awards are an opportunity for young people to be recognised and celebrated for their achievements, and pupils may be nominated based on the following criteria:

Primary Aged Pupils (Early Years, KS1 & KS2)	Secondary Aged Pupils (KS3, KS4 & KS5)
▪ County, National or International status in any given activity in the last 18 months ▪ Grade 1 or above at KS1, or Grade 3 or above in music or singing at KS2 ▪ Performing in televised programme/ film or National stage production ▪ Fundraising for a charity over £2000 ▪ Success in overcoming adversity	▪ National or International status in any given activity in the last 18 months ▪ Grade 8 or above/ Diploma in music or singing ▪ Performing in televised programme/ film. ▪ Fundraising for a charity over £5000 ▪ Success in overcoming adversity

Please complete the online form via this link:
John Taylor MAT- Exceptional Achievement Award Nomination Form (Autumn 2026) – Fill in form

The form will ask you to complete a short paragraph; as a guide, **please work to a minimum of 50 and a maximum of 250 words** for the nomination to be fully considered. Please be as specific as possible and provide a good amount of information regarding the achievement.

Once you have made your nomination, please be advised that, if successful, you will be invited to attend an online presentation ceremony, where Mike Donoghue OBE, CEO, will speak about each of the incredibly talented recipients, who will then be presented with a very special gold pin-badge and certificate from their Headteacher in school; parents will be welcomed to attend via Teams.

Please be advised that the presentation is scheduled for **Friday 11th December 2026 at 9:00-10:15am**; once you submit your nomination, please hold space in your diary to be available to attend.

Please be advised that we may request supporting evidence regarding your nomination, which you should provide to the student's headteacher.

Please be advised that, regretfully, we cannot accept nominations for students who have previously been successful in securing an award in a very similar activity/ discipline; we understand that you will be incredibly proud, and have every right to be, particularly where progress has been achieved in a given activity where the young person has already displayed a great talent, however, they will be ineligible to receive another award on this basis.

We very much look forward to seeing our school community embrace this opportunity and celebrate those who achieve the award. The deadline for nominations is **4pm on Wednesday 18th November 2026** and we will be in contact with all who have made nominations shortly after that date to notify whether their nomination has been successful.

If you have any enquiries, please email jtmat-subjectexcellence@jtmat.co.uk

Sent on behalf of Gill Martin and Lisa Farmer, Directors of School Improvement, John Taylor MAT.

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE SCHOOLS & GPs

NHS

CAMHS

CRISIS & INTENSIVE SUPPORT TEAM

Support • Advice • Guidance



AVAILABLE 7 DAYS A WEEK | **9:00am – 10:00pm**

CALL NHS 111 → OPTION 2

Before directing any child or young person under 18 to A&E

STOP & CALL FIRST

If you are concerned about the mental health of a child or young person under 18, please contact our CAMHS Crisis & Intensive Support Team to speak to a CAMHS Practitioner **before** directing them to hospital.



OUR AIM

To reduce avoidable attendances at local A&E departments and ensure children and young people receive the **right support**, in the **right place**, at the **right time**.

HOW WE CAN HELP

- Mental health advice and guidance
- Risk assessment support
- Clinical support and intervention
- Assistance in determining whether an A&E attendance is appropriate

AFTER 10PM

Calls will be answered by a call handler who will ensure CAMHS receives the information for appropriate follow-up the next morning.

NHS 111 – OPTION 2

CONTACT CAMHS BEFORE REFERRING UNDER 18s TO A&E

We are MPFT

NHS Midlands Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

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 DISCORD

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ (with a 17+ app rating on app stores)

Launched in 2015, and with over 90 million daily active users, Discord has become one of the main ways gamers communicate – with text, voice, and video chat helping people connect around shared interests. For many young people, Discord can be a useful way to talk with friends, join communities, and explore hobbies. However, like any online platform built around communication, it also carries risks around strangers, inappropriate content, spending money, and time spent online. This guide looks at what parents and educators need to know.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A CHANNEL FOR EVERYTHING

While Discord is strongly associated with video games, it also hosts communities for almost anything you can imagine, such as books, music, influencers, cooking and sport. Some large servers focus on popular games like Minecraft or Fortnite, but many are private, invite-only spaces where friends or communities with shared interests can chat across phones, computers, and gaming consoles.

REAL-LIFE DISTRACTION

Like many social platforms, Discord can become a real time-sink. Although it does not rely on endless scrolling in the same way as some apps, constant messages, group chats, and voice channels can keep young people engaged for long periods, especially in larger servers. As Discord is closely linked to gaming, it may also increase the time they spend playing games.

STRANGER DANGER

Users can choose to stay within private servers with only people they know, but joining public servers will most likely bring them into contact with strangers. Many users are just friendly enthusiasts, yet others could have harmful intentions, including grooming, extortion, or radicalisation. In these types of environments, anyone can claim to be another teenager, which can make it harder for young people to judge who is safe to talk to.

A HARASSMENT RISK

There is also a risk from people a young person already knows in the real world. Bullying in the real world can continue online, and Discord servers can make this feel more intimidating, especially if someone uses anonymous or multiple accounts to carry out threatening behaviours. Because Discord works across computers, phones, and gaming consoles, unwanted contact can follow young people into online spaces that should feel safe and private.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

This huge amount of choice can help young people "find their tribe", especially when they have niche interests. However, because users can create servers around almost any topic, younger users may still encounter unsuitable or distressing content. Even in spaces linked to child-friendly games, Discord cannot directly control every conversation, image, or video shared by other users.

A MONEY DRAIN

Discord is free to use, but users can still spend real-world money on it. This may include Discord 'Nitro', a monthly subscription that unlocks customisation features and larger media uploads, or purchases through the 'Shop' for profile cosmetics and game-related items. Small purchases can add up quickly, especially if spending controls are not in place.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE FAMILY CENTRE

Parents and carers should make use of Discord's 'Family Centre', which gives an overview of a younger user's activity while respecting their privacy. Messages are not shared, but adults can view an activity feed and receive weekly email summaries. Discord says this is designed to support conversations about online behaviour, rather than be about constant monitoring.

MANAGE TIME ONLINE

Agree clear expectations around when and how Discord can be used, especially during homework, bedtime, and family time. Encourage young people to turn off unnecessary notifications and leave servers that feel overwhelming. If Discord is mainly used alongside gaming, discuss healthy limits for both activities so that schoolwork, sleep, and offline friendships are not affected.

CHECK, TALK, REPORT

Review Discord's privacy settings together, including who can send them friend requests or private messages. Use this as a chance to talk to them about strangers, privacy, and personal information, making sure young people know to question suspicious behaviour, such as requests to keep conversations secret. Show them how to block and report these kinds of users and reassure them that asking for help will not get them into trouble.

REVIEW SPENDING CONTROLS

Talk openly about paid features such as Discord Nitro, profile cosmetics, and in-game purchases. Make sure the young people in your care understand that digital items still cost real money. Check payment settings on the device they use, avoid storing card details where possible, and consider adding approval requirements for purchases, particularly for younger or more impulsive users.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard, and The New Statesman.



See full references on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake_up_weds /www.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 23.09.2026

Winshill Village
Learning without limits

Winshill Childcare

Fae's AFTER SCHOOL WRAPAROUND CARE







Arts & Crafts | Baking | Outdoor Play | Films | Games

We provide high-quality after-school childcare exclusively for pupils in a safe, nurturing, and familiar environment. Whether you need regular care or occasional support, we've got you covered!

£4.80 per hour for school-aged children
£5.30 per hour for EYFS (Nursery & Reception)







07493 064560

fae_alisontipper
@winshillchildcare.com

Charity Number : 1142920

BURTON ALBION FC
COMMUNITY TRUST

OCTOBER

FOOTBALL HOLIDAY CAMPS







MONDAY 26 OCTOBER - FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

£22.00 PER SESSION

AGES 4-12

09:00AM - 15:00PM

SCAN ME

BURTON ALBION COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE (3G) PRINCESS WAY, BURTON ON TRENT, DE13 0AB

OR FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL: NATHAN.BOWEN@BURTONALBIONCT.ORG



Friends of Winshill Village
Parents, Teachers and Friends Association



The parents lottery

Support your school with every ticket

WIN £25,000 and SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Various prizes up for grabs each week!
Buy your tickets at **theparentslottery.org**

Choose us on The Parents Lottery list → Each ticket only £1 → Play with up to six tickets → Prize draw every Friday → Each ticket supports our school



The Parents Lottery is a weekly lottery promoted by Parentkind Enterprises Ltd (PEL Company no: 5884281), a wholly owned subsidiary of Parentkind. It is run under our remote operating licence (Licence no: 057904). The Parents Lottery is strictly 18+ only. Playing a lottery is a form of gambling. If you, or someone you know, needs information and/or help with a problem gambling, please call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 8020 133.

GambleAware GAMBLING COMMISSION LOTTERIES COUNCIL

Parentkind

The parents lottery

DO YOU NEED HELP WITH TOILET TRAINING?

NHS
Midlands Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

ERIC is the UK's leading Children's Bowel & Bladder Charity and supports children, teenagers, and their families

ERIC free Helpline: 0808 801 0343
Mon to Thursday, 10:00 - 14:00

Potty Training.....

How to start | Podcast | free webinar | child with additional needs | other languages

0-19 Health professionals in our Hubs can respond to any questions or concerns you may have about their child's wee, poo or toileting

Staffordshire Parents/Carers phone: 0808 178 0611

Stoke Parents/Carers phone: 0808 178 3374

ChatHealth **text messaging service**

Living in Stoke-on-Trent text: 07312 277161

Living in Staffordshire text: 07520 615722

