



Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Welcome Back - Spring Term (2<sup>nd</sup> Half) 2025**



Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term. As ever, we have lots of activities planned for our learners and are looking forward to working in partnership with you.

**Chicken Pox - Update**



**Over the past few weeks, we have seen a noticeable increase in cases of chicken pox and general illness among our students.** We want to reassure you that we are taking every possible measure to minimize the spread of infections and germs within our school. Our dedicated team is working tirelessly to maintain a clean and safe environment for all our learning community.

Chicken pox is a highly contagious disease that spreads through direct contact with an infected person or through the air by respiratory droplets. To help prevent the spread, we encourage you to keep children who are unwell at home, ensure they practice good hand hygiene, and avoid close contact with others until they are fully recovered.

**How to treat chickenpox at home**

Important: Stay off school or work

**You'll need to stay away from school, nursery or work until all the spots have formed a scab.** This is usually 5 days after the spots appeared.

**Do**

drink plenty of fluid (try ice lollies if your child is not drinking) to avoid dehydration

take [paracetamol](#) to help with pain and discomfort

cut your child's fingernails and put socks on their hands at night to stop them scratching

use cooling creams or gels from a pharmacy

speak to a pharmacist about using [antihistamine medicine](#) to help itching

bathe in cool water and pat the skin dry (do not rub)

dress in loose clothes

**Don't**

do not use [ibuprofen](#) unless advised to do so by a doctor, as it may cause serious skin infections

do not give aspirin to children under 16

do not go near newborn babies, or anyone who is pregnant or has a weakened immune system, as chickenpox can be dangerous for them

do not scratch the spots, as scratching can cause scarring

Non-urgent advice: Speak to a GP if:

you're not sure it's chickenpox

you're concerned about your child



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Tell the receptionist you think it might be chickenpox before going in to a GP surgery.

Edwards and Ward Catering Firm Update



Unfortunately, we have been made aware that the catering company that provides lunches for the school is due to increase their meal prices due to cost pressures. See below:

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 school meal prices will increase from £2.95 to £3.20 this change will not come into effect until 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

Online Safety - Presentation/Workshop



Just a reminder that on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March Mrs. Percival our ICT Lead will be sharing a presentation/workshop with a focus on on-line safety. **As Parent/Carer you are invited to attend with your child. There are two sessions on offer one at 09:00am - 9:30am and one at 5:00pm - 5:30pm.**

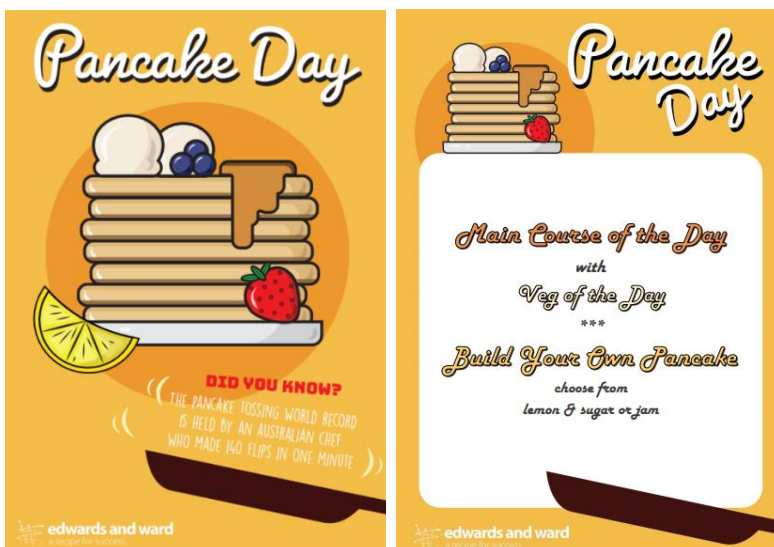
A text has been sent out for you to reply to so that you can confirm if you will be attending. We look forward to seeing you.

Pancake Day - Special Menu - Dinners Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Edwards & Ward, our Catering Providers are having a themed "Pancake Day". This will take place on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. If you would like your Child/Children to have a school dinner on this day then please let their Teacher know.

The main course will be a choice of .....





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### Year 4 Leaver's Hoodies Orders



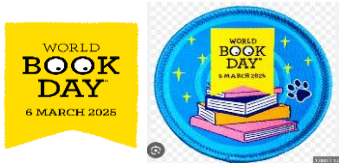
It is that time of year where we start to plan ahead for our Year 4 leavers with a special keepsake! We are excited to offer leavers hoodies for 2025 at a cost of £18.50 each. This price includes a high-quality hoodie with the school logo embroidered on the front and a back print featuring the names of all the leavers. **Closing date for website 17/3/25.** If you would like your child's name to be included on the hoodie, please complete the permission form available here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/VeCOS3qKhW>

Additionally, for an extra £3, you can opt for further personalisation to make the hoodie even more special. Let's make this a memorable farewell for our Year 4 students!

To buy a hoodie please visit the following link: <https://smartuniform.co.uk/product/squirrel-hayes-leavers-hoodies/>

### World Book Day - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025



This Year we will be joining many schools in celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025.** As part of our celebrations we would like to invite our learners to come to school dressed as one of their most loved story characters. You do not have to buy any fancy costumes as we also love to see your own 'creations'.

In support of the celebrations our kitchen team will be offering a special menu which can be ordered on the day with your child's class teacher. This can be seen below:





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**Unwanted/old school uniform?**



We are excited to announce a new initiative in collaboration with our uniform provider, Smart School Uniform. If your child has outgrown their school uniform, we kindly ask you to consider donating any items that are still in good condition.

You can bring the unwanted uniforms to the school, and we will pass them on to Smart School Uniform. They will then include these items in their pre-loved uniform service, offering them free of charge to other parents and carers in need.

This initiative not only helps other families but also promotes sustainability by giving uniforms a second life.

**Wake up Wednesday - What Parents & Educators Need to Know about: Marvel Rivals**

Marvel Rivals has skyrocketed to success in recent months, currently boasting 40 million players but popularity doesn't always mean 'safe' This week's guide and the latest episode of the #WakeUpWednesday Podcast offers expert advice on the risks of this competitive online game, with tips on safeguarding younger players.

Download here >> <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/marvel-rivals>

Listen here >> <https://nationalcollege.com/.../what-parents-educators...>

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS**

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 50,000 in mere weeks. The player versus player (PvP) online game is a host of recognizable comic-book characters, pitting their heroes of all 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**  
 Unlike other online players to support their team in a competitive environment, Marvel Rivals is a team-based game where players can chat with each other in real-time. This means that players can be exposed to inappropriate language, harassment, and even sexual content. Parents and educators should monitor their child's chat history and encourage them to report any inappropriate behavior.

**IN-GAME PURCHASES**  
 While Marvel Rivals is free to play, there is an in-game store where players can purchase cosmetic items like skins, emotes, and voice lines. These items are not necessary to play the game, but they can be tempting for children. Parents should set up parental controls to limit in-game purchases and discuss the value of money.

**CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**  
 Like most online games, Marvel Rivals allows players to communicate with others. This can be a great way to meet new friends, but it can also be a way for strangers to contact children. Parents should encourage their children to be cautious about sharing personal information and to report any suspicious contacts.

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**VIOLENT CONTENT**  
 There is a lot of action in Marvel Rivals, and the game is rated PEGI 12. While the violence is cartoonish, it can be intense for younger children. Parents should discuss the game's content with their children and ensure they are comfortable with the level of violence.

**INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**  
 The game includes a variety of cosmetic items and emotes that can be purchased with real money. Some of these items may contain inappropriate content, such as sexual references or profanity. Parents should be aware of the in-game store and discuss the value of money.

**FAMILIAR CHARACTERS**  
 The inclusion of popular comic-book characters can be a double-edged sword. While it can be fun for children, it can also be a way for them to be exposed to inappropriate content. Parents should discuss the game's content with their children and ensure they are comfortable with the level of violence.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

**FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS**  
 The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals is 'TEEN' (13+). This means that the game is suitable for ages 13 and older. Parents should check the ESRB rating for any game their child is playing and discuss the rating with their child.

**FAMILIARISE YOURSELF**  
 The game is a collection of fun, recognizable characters in a fun, fast-paced, plus it's free to play. However, there are several risks to be aware of. Parents should familiarise themselves with the game's content and discuss the value of money.

**MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT**  
 Like most online games, Marvel Rivals allows players to communicate with others. This can be a great way to meet new friends, but it can also be a way for strangers to contact children. Parents should encourage their children to be cautious about sharing personal information and to report any suspicious contacts.

**DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS**  
 Parents should ensure their child's payment options are secure. This means using a credit card or a payment method that offers fraud protection. Parents should also discuss the value of money and the risks of in-game purchases.

**Meet Our Expert**  
 Lloyd Coombes is a former officer of the Derbyshire Constabulary and has been involved in the gaming industry for many years. He is a regular contributor to the Wake Up Wednesday Podcast and has provided expert advice on the risks of online gaming.

**WakeUpWednesday The National College**

Useful links: @wake\_up\_weds, www.thenationalcollege.com, @wake.up.wednesday, @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is accepted. Current as of the date of release: 25.02.2025



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**Important Dairy Dates**



Please find below a table of events that have been planned for the Spring Term. Please note that we always try our best to stick to the planned dates and times but on occasion's changes have to be made due to unforeseen circumstances. If this is the case, we will always try to give you as much notice as possible. *Please note dates in blue have been added or changed:*

**SPRING TERM 2<sup>nd</sup> Half 2025**

DATE	EVENT	CLASS
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Online Safety Presentation/activities 9:00am - 9:30am 5:00pm - 5:30pm	Parents/Carers invited with child
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Pancake Day - Special Menu	All Classes
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	World Book Day - children invited to come to school dressed as a book character	All Classes
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Inspire Dance Show -Biddulph High School	Inspire Dance leaners
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Full Governing Body Meeting 6:00-8:00pm	Governors
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Parent Consultations 1.00pm - 3.00pm & 3.30pm-6.00pm	All Classes
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025	Zoolab - Educational Workshop in school	All Classes
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Academy Photography	All classes
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Celebrations Assembly - Easter Bonnet and Easter Scene creations - 9:30am	Parents/Carers invited
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for pupils and staff at 3:15pm for the half term holiday.	All classes
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	School re-opens for staff and pupils 08:45am	All classes

Yours sincerely,  
 Mrs E. J. Pickford (Headteacher) & Team