



**EBOR GARDENS
Primary Academy**

WEEKLY NEWS

Friday 7th March, 2025 - Issue 23

A Message from Mrs Wathen and Mr Spink

Good afternoon everyone.

This week we had the joy of World Book Day. The children enjoyed coming into school dressed up as either book characters or wearing their pyjamas. (See Facebook for photographs.) After school we enjoyed our annual Big Bedtime Read for World Book Day. As is always the case, this was very well attended and the hall was full of children, parents and teachers enjoying a book or a story on the big screen. Thank you so much for making this event a success. Also this week, Year 6 pupils found out which secondary school they have been placed in - exciting times!

Next week Year 2 are looking forward to a trip to the Thackray Medical Museum. We are so lucky to have such a wonderfully informative place on our doorstep.

The Community Hub will be open as usual on Wednesday next week for our foodbank. Please remember to only take one of each item and only if you need it. This way, more people get to enjoy the benefits of the food bank.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

N - 94%	RBT - 92%	RDO - 93%
1AD - 95%	1MM - 91%	2HW - 99%
2RK - 99%	3JH - 96%	3NB - 99%
4CS - 98%	4RM - 98%	5NP/LW - 94%
5HW - 98%	6FA - 96%	6LB - 98%

Whole School attendance this week is 96%.

We are aiming for 96% or above.

Biscuit Bears: 2HW, 2RK & 3NB
Extra Play (97%+): 2HW, 2RK, 3JH, 3NB, 4CS, 4RM, 5HW & 6LB
Pizza Party (100%):



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DIARY DATES 2025

Thursday 13th March 2025 - Y2 Thackray Medical Museum Trip

Friday 21st March 2025 - Red Nose Day

Thursday 27th March 2025 - Class Photos

Wednesday 2nd April 2025 - Easter Discos

Friday 4th April 2025 - School closes for Easter

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 - School reopens for Summer 1

Tuesday 23rd April 2025 - Guide Dog visit to Reception

12th - 15th May 2025 - Y6 SATs Assessments

Wednesday 21st May 2025 - Yr 3 Trip to Cannon Hall Farm

Friday 23rd May 2025 - School closes for half-term

Monday 2nd June 2025 - School reopens for Summer 2

23rd & 24th June 2025 - Y4 Residential Trip

7th - 9th July 2025 - Y6 Residential Trip



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Please be sure to park very safely and sensibly around school at Breakfast Club, morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. On some occasions, the main gate has been blocked by parents/carers cars. Parents/carers and visitors must not park in front of the main gate so that cars (including emergency service vehicles) can get in and out at all times.



Child Friendly Leeds City Centre Map

Find out what activities and events are going on in the city centre
www.breezeleeds.org/places-to-go-and-things-to-do

- Covered Picnic Area
- Food Stalls
- Play Area
- Bowling
- Cinema
- Escape Room
- Big Screen
- Public Piano
- Community/Library Hub
- Indoor Golf

- Car Park
- Park & Ride Stop
- Water
- Taxi Stop
- Hospital
- Cycle Rack
- Free Wifi
- ATM
- Toilets
- Changing Places

- Museums/Art Gallery/Library
- Shopping Centre
- Transport
- Education
- Theatre & Area
- Status & Landmarks
- Pedestrianised Area

wearechildfriendlyleeds.com
[@childfriendlyleeds](https://www.facebook.com/childfriendlyleeds)

Love Exploring is a FREE fun app that uses the magic of augmented reality to bring to life amazing local sights – opening up magical worlds including Dinosaur Trails, Bug Hunts, Fairy Walks and more.

Scan this QR code for local bus and train info.



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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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13-16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

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the feeling of gifting your pre-loved books



Children's **Book** Project

The Childrens book project gift books that children have grown out of to families with very few books of their own. Find your nearest drop off point on their website.

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