



EBOR GARDENS
Primary Academy

WEEKLY NEWS

Friday 25th April 2025 - Issue 28

A Message from Mrs Wathen and Mr Spink

Good afternoon everyone.

Welcome back to the first half of the Summer term. We have ahead of us a five week half term – the shortest half term of the academic year. In this half term, we will see Year 6 sitting their SATs. They have been working hard all year to demonstrate how brilliant they are in these tests and in the coming weeks, we will be continuing to prepare them for SATs week which takes place in the week beginning 12th May. Please do encourage your children to attend the booster groups that take place in the mornings as part of our free Breakfast Club.

After school clubs begin soon and will run into Summer 2. Clubs finish at 4pm (4:15 for the paid clubs). Please pick up your child promptly after clubs. Have a lovely weekend. See you all on Monday.

N - 90%	RBT - 98%	RDO - 92%
1AD - 95%	1MM - 93%	2HW - 95%
2RK - 95%	3JH - 98%	3NB - 99%
4CS - 96%	4RM - 96%	5NP/LW - 94%
5HW - 93%	6FA - 100%	6LB - 99%

Whole School attendance this week is 95%.

We are aiming for 96% or above.

Biscuit Bears: RDO & 6FA
Extra Play (97%+): RDO, 3JH, 3NB, 6FA & 6LB
Pizza Party (100%): 6FA



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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.



Picking-up Your Child Early

If you need to pick your child up before the end of the day (for an appointment etc), please let the school office know in the morning so that they can have your children ready for you in the main office.



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DIARY DATES 2025

Tuesday 22nd April 2025 – School reopens for Summer 1

Wednesday 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

Thursday 5th June 2025 – Y5 Countryside Show Trip

23rd & 24th June 2025 – Y4 Residential Trip

7th – 9th July 2025 – Y6 Residential Trip



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NATASHA'S LAW

NATASHA'S LAW, WHICH CAME INTO EFFECT ON OCTOBER 1ST, 2021, REQUIRES SCHOOLS TO CLEARLY LABEL ALL PRE-PACKAGED FOOD SOLD/GIVEN OUT ON-SITE WITH A FULL LIST OF INGREDIENTS, EMPHASIZING THE 14 ALLERGENS, TO PROTECT STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SCHOOLS?

SCHOOLS MUST ENSURE THAT ALL PRE-PACKAGED FOOD THEY SELL, SUCH AS SANDWICHES, SALADS, OR CAKES HAVE A FULL LIST OF INGREDIENTS AND THAT ALLERGENS ARE CLEARLY HIGHLIGHTED.

THIS MEANS THAT ANY FOOD GIVEN TO SCHOOL FOR BIRTHDAYS AND CELEBRATIONS MUST HAVE A FULL LIST OF INGREDIENTS (INCLUDING ALLERGENS) SO THAT THEY CAN BE SENT HOME FOR PARENTS TO DECIDE IF THEIR CHILD CAN HAVE THEM.

YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION FROM THE FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY AND [THE NATASHA ALLERGY RESEARCH FOUNDATION](#).



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ZEPETO

AGE RESTRICTION
14+

ZEPETO is a fast-growing app blending social networking with a virtual world experience – attracting around 20 million monthly users, with 15% from Europe. Players create 3D avatars to explore immersive environments, play games and interact with others; however, with minimal safety controls, anonymous chat and monetised content, ZEPETO poses a number of online safety concerns that parents and educators should be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

Although ZEPETO is intended for users aged 14 and up, it lacks built-in parental controls or age verification, instead relying on safety features on the device it's played on. This lack of a parental controls feature raises concerns about whom children may be interacting with on the platform.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As a mix between a virtual world and a social media platform, ZEPETO features a wide range of user-generated content. Some areas may reference mature themes, such as TV series aimed at adults, or include inappropriate material created by other users – all of which children may stumble across without warning.

STRANGER DANGER

By default, users can message and interact with anyone else. This open communication creates an environment where predatory individuals can pose as peers to gain trust, potentially leading to grooming, scams, and exploitation, such as blackmail.

Hi there...

CYBERBULLYING RISKS

As with many social platforms, children can be targeted for bullying, harassment or exclusion by both strangers and their peers. Unfiltered chat and avatar-based interaction can allow bullying and other forms of harassment to continue, impacting children's wellbeing and mental health.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY

Daily log-in rewards, such as coins, and in-game incentives can encourage compulsive behaviour, with some users feeling pressure to check in constantly to avoid missing out. This can lead to excessive screen time and conflict with schoolwork or offline hobbies or commitments.

SPENDING REAL MONEY

While the game is free to play, ZEPETO includes a store offering virtual clothing and accessories for avatars. These items are bought with 'ZEMs' – a paid currency – and the appeal of exclusive items or branded collaborations can make it easy for children to overspend.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Visit the child's profile settings to restrict who can send messages – options include Everyone, Followers Only, or No-one. Encourage children to avoid sharing any personal information on their profile, as this is visible even on private accounts.

LIMIT IN-APP TIME

Use parental controls on Android (Google Family Link) or iOS (Screen Time) to restrict app usage by setting hours or daily limits. Encouraging breaks can help children develop healthier habits and reduce app dependency.

CONTROL SPENDING

To prevent accidental purchases, set up purchase approval systems such as Apple's Ask to Buy or Google's Purchase Approvals. Alternatively, consider removing payment methods or using pre-paid cards with set budgets.

HAVE REGULAR CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about whom they interact with online and the kinds of things they see or experience. Encourage them to speak up if someone makes them uncomfortable or if they come across inappropriate content. Teach them how to recognise red-flag behaviours such as asking for secrets, giving gifts, or requesting personal information.

Meet Our Expert

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



#WakeUpWednesday

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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. Trigger Warning: This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sexortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 26-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 12-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.



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