



EBOR GARDENS
Primary Academy

Weekly News

FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2025 - ISSUE 2

A MESSAGE FROM MRS WATHEN AND MR SPINK

Good afternoon everyone.

We are really getting back into the swing of things here at Ebor Gardens. We have even had our first trip of the year with Year 3 heading off to Cannon Hall Farm. They had a wonderful time and met lots of animals (*see our Facebook page for pictures*).

Next week, our after-school clubs begin. Please remember that these clubs finish at 4pm and you should pick up children promptly from the school hall doors. On a Tuesday and Wednesday we have some paid clubs run by our friends at GT Sports. These clubs finish at 4:15pm. Children should also be picked up from the hall promptly for these clubs.

Every week our Weekly News includes an overview of the week's attendance. We aim for 96% and above as our attendance target. Biscuit Bear visits each class with the highest attendances and he takes some biscuits with him as a treat. Classes with 97% attendance or more get an extra playtime reward, while classes who get 100% attendance for the week will be treated to a Pizza Party to celebrate such good attendance. Let's all try our best to be at school on time, everyday this year.

Have a super weekend and we look forward to seeing you all at 8:30am on Monday.

N - 100%	RBT - 96%	RDO - 86%
1AD - 92%	1MM - 98%	2HW - 96%
2RK - 95%	3JH - 98%	3NB - 99%
4NP/RM - 96%	4RA - 96%	5CS - 100%
5HW - 96%	6FA - 91%	6LB - 100%

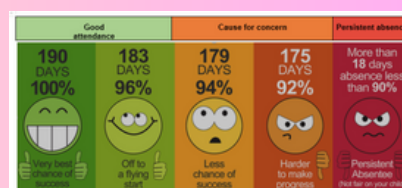
Whole School attendance this week is 96%.

We are aiming for 96% or above.

Biscuit Bears: 3NB, 5CS & 6LB

Extra Play (97%+): 1MM, 3JH, 3NB, 5CS & 6LB

Pizza Party (100%): 5CS & 6LB



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DIARY DATES 2025

Monday 15th September 2025 - After-School Clubs start

Thursday 25th September 2025 - Y5HW Art Gallery Trip

Friday 26th September 2025 - Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thursday 2nd October 2025 - Y5CS Art Gallery Trip

Tuesday 14th October 2025 - Show Racism the Red Card assemblies

Wednesday 15th October 2025 - Y3/4 Museum Trip

Tuesday 21st October 2025 - Autumn Discos

Wednesday 22nd October 2025 - Y3/4 Museum Trip

Friday 24th October 2025 - School closes for half-term

Monday 3rd November 2025 - Return to school

Monday 8th December 2025 - Pantomime in school

Wednesday 10th December 2025 - Y3 Theatre trip

Friday 19th December 2025 - School closes for Christmas (1pm)



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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>



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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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EPEC ~ Being a Parent

Because children don't come with instructions 



What is the EPEC ~ Being a Parent?

Empowering Parents Empowering Communities (EPEC) ~ Being a Parent (BAP) is a parenting programme designed to help you address behavioural difficulties, support child development and outcomes, parenting skills, family resilience and family relationships.

From melt down to magic !

Join like-minded parents and carers in a supportive group, where you are encouraged and supported to explore:

- Positive behaviour management and discipline strategies.
- Managing parent and family stress.
- Understanding and managing children's feelings.
- Parent listening, communication, play and interaction skills.
- Attachment and parent-child relationships.
- Parenting roles, expectations, and culture.

Why is it different?

Being a Parent groups runs over 8 weeks, 2 hours a week and is completely free.

It is run for parents by parents.

Their experiences, backgrounds, skills, and qualities make each session inviting, engaging and fun.

Who is it for?

All parents and carers in Leeds who have one or more children between the ages of 2 to 11 years. The content relates well to getting children school ready.

Before Being a Parent begins there is a welcome session where you can learn more about what is involved and meet the other parents that are interested in joining the group too.

It's your time, no children, just you!

Where and when is it?

Swarcliffe Community Centre (Shop)

65 Stanks Gardens, LS14 5LS

Wed 17th Sept, 9:30 ~ Tea & toast information session.

Wed 24th Sept, 11:00 – 1:00, 8-week group starts (no group at half term).

Free lunch for group members

Please note: there is no transport or childcare available

Interested in finding out more – Come along to the Tea & Toast info session

or email Leeds.epec@leeds.gov.uk Or call/message Barbara (EPEC coordinator) on 07891 270311



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