Chater Junior School

Making lives better

Friday 2nd October 2026

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandella.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Friday, we were delighted to welcome members of the Watford Rotary Club to our Celebration Assembly. They kindly donated high-quality dictionaries to all our Year 6 children. This generous gift will support them throughout their school journey and beyond, helping to strengthen their vocabulary, confidence and independence as learners. A heartfelt thank you to the Rotary Club for their continued support of our school community.

On Wednesday 30th September, our Year 5 boys and girls enjoyed a joyful and energetic morning taking part in the Cross-Country race at Fullerians Grounds, next to Watford Boys School. The challenging 1800m course tested their determination and endurance, and we are incredibly proud that every single member of the Year 5 team completed the race. Many of our runners achieved outstanding results, with several finishing within the top 50 competitors. Their resilience, sportsmanship and passion shone throughout the event, and their enthusiasm and support for one another made it a truly memorable morning.

A special congratulations to Rex, who finished 10th - an exceptional achievement. Well done to all our Year 5.

A huge well done to Malala Yousafzai Class for delivering the first class sharing assembly of the year. The children spoke clearly and confidently, projecting their voices beautifully. They knew their lines by heart, worked exceptionally well as a team, and delivered a wonderful, polished performance. We are very proud of them.

Parents’ Evening letters have been sent out. We strongly encourage you to make an appointment to speak with your child’s class teacher. This meeting will give you an overview of how your child has settled into school life this half term, along with their academic progress so far.

It is also a valuable opportunity for you to ask questions and discuss any concerns you may have - whether academic or related to your child’s wellbeing. Your partnership and engagement make a real difference.

Term dates for the **2027–2028 academic year** are now available on the school website under **News and Dates**. Please take a moment to view these so you can plan ahead for the year.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Khindey

Halloween at church farm

24th - 31st October

Visit
Church Farm Ardeley
A real working farm!

- Spooky Farm Trail to see the farm animals & Halloween Décor
- Big Bale Play
- Tractors & Digger Ride-Ons
- Creepy Fairy Woodland Play
- Spooky Photo Opportunities
- Spot the Pumpkin & sweet treat prizes
- Scarecrow Trail
- Find the Spooky Fairy Doors
- Find your unique Witch and Halloween name
- Spooktacular Costume Stickers for the best dressed boys, girls & dogs
- Halloween Activity Pack, 'I've Been to Church Farm' Sticker
- Puzzles and Colouring-in fun
- Farm Sensory Trail

Additional Activities

Pumpkin Picking & Carving

Trick or Treating in our Spooky Wood (4-6pm)

Horrid Hay Tractor & Trailer Rides

Eerie Egg Collecting

Ghoulish Goat Walking

Book online **www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk**

CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience

Congratulations

Headteacher Award

Well done to the following children who received the Headteacher Award in our Celebration Assembly.

Saami
Class: Walter Tull

Abdullah
Class: Queen Elizabeth II

Hamza
Class: Martin Luther King

Amelia
Class: Malala Yousafzai

Mustafa
Class: Florence Nightingale

Aiza
Class: Ernest Shackleton

Rex
Class: Greta Thunberg

Tarun
Class: Usain Bolt

Attendance Award- Martin Luther King

Attend Today,
Achieve Tomorrow
Every School Day Counts!

National Target- 95%
Whole School Target - 96%
Whole School Attendance- 97.9%

Walter Tull	99.2%
Florence Nightingale	98.1%
Queen Elizabeth II	99%
Ernest Shackleton	98.3%
Martin Luther King	99.3%
Greta Thunberg	96.7%
Malala Yousafzai	97%
Usain Bolt	96%

Golden Table Award

Well done to the following children for showing excellent manners and behaviour at lunchtime.

Amina
Class: Walter Tull

Keona
Class: Queen Elizabeth II

Eileen
Class: Martin Luther King

Beatriz
Class: Malala Yousafzai

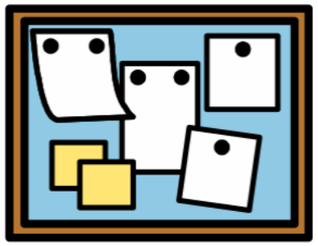
Mustafa
Class: Florence Nightingale

Abdul
Class: Ernest Shackleton

Tony
Class: Greta Thunberg

Ayad
Class: Usain Bolt

Notices



Autumn Term Diary Dates

Monday 5th October	New Hope Trust Assembly
Tuesday 13th October	Individual/Sibling Photographs Parents Evening 4pm-7:10pm
Thursday 15th October	Parents Evening 3:40pm-5:00pm
Tuesday 20th October	Greta Thunberg Class Assembly – 9:30-9:45am Year 3 Trip to Chiltern Open Air Museum Year 6 Trip to Lincolnsfield
Thursday 22nd October	Year 5 Ancient Greek Workshop
Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October	Half-Term
Monday 2nd November	INSET DAY 2- School closed
Tuesday 3rd November	Pupils return to school Chater Celebrates Diwali
Wednesday 4th November to Friday 6th November	Year 6 at PGL
Monday 9th November to Friday 13th November	SEND Parent's Evening week Year 5 Bikeability
Monday 9th November	Year 6 Height & Weight Checks with school nurse
Wednesday 11th November	PTA Meeting - Christmas Fayre Preparation 9am-10am
Thursday 12th November	Year 4 Sports hall Athletics Festival Year 6 Sports hall Athletics Festival
Monday 16th November to Friday 20th November	Anti-Bullying week- Break the Silence
Thursday 19th November	Flu Vaccinations session 2
Friday 27th November	PTA Non Uniform Day to raise tombola donations for Christmas Fayre
Week beginning 30th November	Last week of School run Clubs
Tuesday 8th December	Tricia Bastable (Watford School's Trust) Christmas Assembly
Wednesday 9th December	PTA Christmas Fayre 3:30-5:00pm
Thursday 10th December	Christmas School Lunch
Tuesday 15th December	Christmas Performance 1 2:00-3:00pm
Wednesday 16th December	Christmas Performance 2 9:30- 10:30am Rocksteady Christmas Concert 2:00pm
Friday 18th December	End of Autumn Term- school finishes at 1:15pm.

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.

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

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