GREYTHORN PRIMARY

"Engaging hearts, equipping minds, opening doors"

Autumn Term | Weekly Newsletter | 11th September 2026

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SATURDAY 19th SEPTEMBER
10am - 12 Noon Open Morning for Sept 27 parents

MONDAY 21st SEPTEMBER
REMINDER Fun Run

WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER
6-7PM FOGSA AGM

THURSDAY 24th SEPTEMBER
Individual Photos
EYFS & Phonics Evening for parents

FRIDAY 25th SEPTEMBER
Toddler Stay & Play

WEDNESDAY 30th SEPTEMBER
9.30am - 11.30am Open Morning for Sept 27 parents

2026/27 TERM DATES

Autumn Term
1 September - 16 October 2026
2 November - 18 December 2026

Spring Term
4 January - 12 February 2027
22 February - 25 March 2027

Summer Term
12 April - 28 May 2027
7 June - 28 July 2027

INSET: 1 Sept, 2 Sept, 16 Oct, 22 Feb, 7 June



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a fabulous first full week back we've had at Greythorn!

A big well done to our new Foundation children for settling in so confidently. It was also lovely to welcome back so many of last year's Year 6 pupils, who popped in to say hello and share stories about their first days at secondary school.

I've had the pleasure of spending time in every classroom this week and I'm so proud to see our enthusiastic children engaged in wonderful learning and exciting lessons. Everyone is looking Greythorn-smart and I can't wait to see what next week brings!

Kind regards,

Mrs Carpenter

ATTENDANCE MATTERS



ATTENDANCE



Attendance Matters: Every day Counts

At Greythorn, we want every child to have the very best start to the school year and to continue thriving throughout the year. Regular attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing, friendships, confidence and overall success in school. The Department for Education states that school attendance is vital for children's learning, wellbeing and wider development.

Our school attendance target is 96.5% and above and we will be monitoring attendance closely throughout the year. Some families may already have received communication about their child's attendance and how school will be monitoring and supporting improvement. Our aim is always to work in partnership with parents and carers to identify and address any barriers to attendance as early as possible.

We are particularly keen to support children whose attendance falls below 90% (Persistent Absence), as this can have a significant impact on learning and progress. Attendance below 50% (Severe Absence) is a serious concern and requires immediate support and intervention.

Being in school every day and arriving on time helps children settle quickly, access all learning opportunities and make the most of school life. Parents and carers have a responsibility to ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually. Working together, we can ensure every child has the best possible opportunities to achieve, succeed and enjoy their time at school.

Thank you for your continued support in making attendance a priority. Together, we can help every child have a fantastic year ahead.

Known Absences and Illness Procedures

Amendment to Day 5 Home Visit
To enable the school to provide timely support to families and pupils who are absent due to illness, the home visit previously conducted on **Day 5 of absence** will now take place on **Day 4 of absence.**

This change has been made to ensure that welfare checks and support can be offered at an earlier stage, helping the school to identify any additional assistance that may be required, maintain effective communication with families and support pupils in returning to school as soon as they are well enough to do so. Early contact also helps the school to fulfil its safeguarding responsibilities and ensure that the needs of children and families are met promptly.

ATTENDANCE

GREYTHORN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

OUR ATTENDANCE TARGET IS **96.5+%**

MY CHILD IS ILL FOR MORE THAN ONE DAY...

You should report your child's absence <u>EVERYDAY</u>! Either . . .



- Phone the school office and leave a message on 0115 9149779



- Email the school office on office@greythorn.notts.sch.uk

BEFORE 8:30AM

HOW WILL SCHOOL SUPPORT?

Known Pupil Absence Procedure

Day 1 Procedure - Parent/Carer must inform the school by 8:30am if their child is going to be absent by calling the school office and leaving an answer phone message.

Day 2 Procedure - **CARE CALL** - Where there has been contact from the parent/carer but a child is still absent from school, a care call will be made from the Office or Attendance Team. This call is simply to check in and offer any support you may need to help your child return to school as soon as possible.

Day 3 Procedure - **CARE CALL** - If your child is absent due to illness for three consecutive days, a further care call will be made by the Office or Attendance Team and the arrangement of the Day 4 procedure will be arranged with you.

Day 4 Procedure - **SAFE AND WELL CHECK (HOME VISIT)** - If your child is absent due to illness for four consecutive days, a safe and well check will be carried out by two of our Attendance Team. This will involve a home (doorstep) visit to check in and offer any support you may need to help your child return to school as soon as possible.

YEAR 6 REMINDER

ATTENTION

IMPORTANT



Year 6 parents Secondary School applications

Please be aware that the secondary transfer form needs completing online by **31st October**. It is really important that you complete all 4 school choices on your application form. In the past we have had children placed at Hall Park in Eastwood and Chilwell School because their parents didn't put 4 local choices. If you need any help or advice, please contact Mrs Parkin or Mrs Cox.

Secondary school open evenings

The West Bridgford School 28th September 2026

The South Wolds Academy 17th September 2026

The Nottingham Emmanuel School 24th September 2026

East Leake Academy 24th September 2026

Rushcliffe Spencer Academy 17th September 2026

Farnborough Spencer Academy 16th September 2026

The West Bridgford School

RUSHCLIFFE SPENCER ACADEMY

The South Wolds Academy

FARNBOROUGH SPENCER ACADEMY

The Nottingham Emmanuel School
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

EAST LEAKE ACADEMY

THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Foundation

This week in Foundation, the children have settled wonderfully into their first full week of school. They have shown great confidence and resilience while demonstrating our Greythorn values so well. The children have already begun forming lovely friendships and have fully immersed themselves in all of our exciting learning activities. We are very proud of how positively they have embraced their new school routines and experiences.








THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Year 1/2

Year 1/2 have enjoyed launching their new enquiry for the term. They will be learning about what makes a memory. They enjoyed thinking about memories they have, exploring old and current toys as well as collaging for our display.











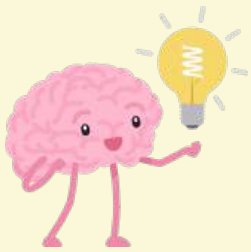


















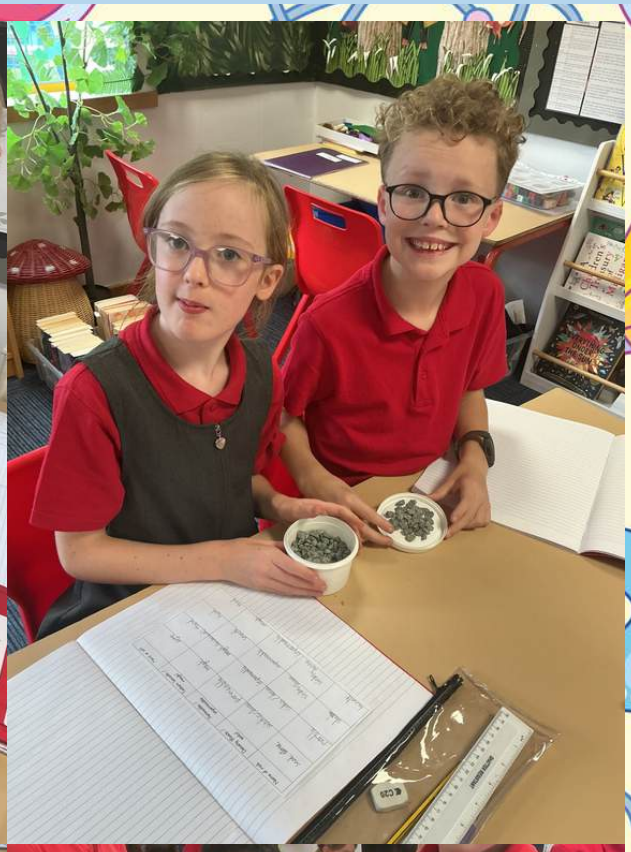


THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS

Year 3/4

This week, Year 3/4 kicked off their new science unit on rocks! The children put their investigation skills to the test by exploring key properties—testing for density, permeability and hardness. They had a fantastic time comparing different rock types and working like real scientists.









THIS WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS





Year 5/6
Children showed their creativity skills by producing some beautiful ceramic coasters, inspired by Islamic patterns, which links to this term's enquiry question: Why was the Islamic civilisation known as the Golden Age?







SCHOOL MENU



WEEK COMMENCING

14th September
5th October
16th November
7th December
18th January
8th February

AUTUMN-WINTER MENU 2026/27

WEEK 3

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red Option	Quorn dippers (v) Gluten with cheesy mash (v) Milk sweetcorn & tomato ketchup	Big Beefy burger Gluten Sulphur Dioxide Sesame OR Crispy American style burger (ve) Gluten Sesame with potato balls (ve) & vegetable sticks	Roast chicken with OR Planet friendly roast, (v) Milk Egg Yorkshire pudding (v) Gluten Egg Milk, mashed potatoes, (ve) carrots, green cabbage & gravy (ve)	Cosy chicken sausage casserole Gluten Celery Sulphur Dioxide OR Hearty sausage casserole (ve) Gluten Celery Soya Sulphur Dioxide with mashed potatoes (ve) & green beans	Breaded fish Gluten Fish OR Ocean friendly fingers (ve) Gluten with oven chips, (ve) peas & tomato ketchup
	Bread & spread (ve) Gluten Soya, Fresh fruit				
Pudding	Little pot of Caramel (v) Milk	Soft scoop ice cream (v) Milk & a wafer (ve) Gluten Soya	Very berry muffin (v) Gluten Egg Milk	Chocolate Krispie (v)	Pancake (ve) Gluten Egg Milk with a raspberry splash (ve)

Contains Allergen
May Contain Allergen
(v) Vegetarian
(ve) Vegan

vertas
Making the difference

Nottinghamshire County Council

FOGSA NEWS


Friends of
GREYTHORN
SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
FOGSA AGM
SEPTEMBER 23RD 6-7 PM
MEET AT SCHOOL RECEPTION
EVERYONE IS WELCOME
CELEBRATE ALL WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN 25/26!
FIND OUT MORE ABOUT FOGSA
GET INVOLVED OR EVEN JOIN THE COMMITTEE!
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DRINK AFTER AT THE DORSET*
*NOT FUNDED BY FOGSA

Greythorn Primary School

FUN RUN

Monday 21st September 2026



Parents can join in with their children.

GREYTHORN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Flying High Partnership

A VERY WARM WELCOME

AWAITS YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN



WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN DEVELOPING HAPPY CHILDREN WHO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES.

COME AND SEE OUR **WONDERFUL SCHOOL**

OPEN DAYS

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 10AM - 12 NOON
WEDNESDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 9.30AM -11.30AM
WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER 9.30AM - 11.30AM
SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 10AM - 12 NOON
SATURDAY 9TH JANUARY 10AM - 12 NOON

office@greythorn.notts.sch.uk 0115 914 9779 www.greythornschool.co.uk
Greythorn Drive | West Bridgford | Nottingham | NG2 7GH

GREYTHORN
PRIMARY SCHOOL

TODDLER
STAY AND PLAY

A VERY WARM WELCOME

AWAITS YOU

AND YOUR CHILDREN

For Parents/Carers with Children (age 0 - 4 yrs) living in the local community

Come and join us for playtime, chat and refreshments



Free of Charge

Friday

9.15AM - 10.15AM

25th September

9th October

6th November

20th November

4th December





office@greythorn.notts.sch.uk 0115 914 9779 www.greythornschool.co.uk

Greythorn Drive | West Bridgford | Nottingham | NG2 7GH

COMMUNITY NEWS

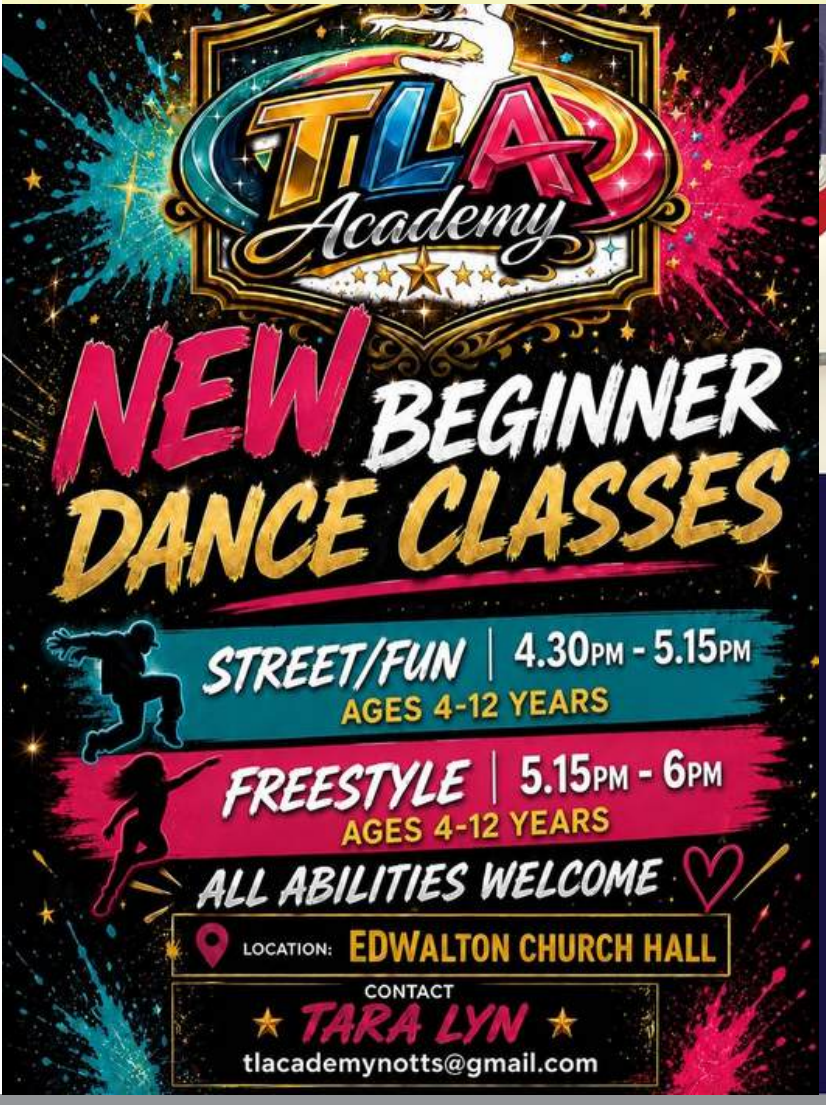
ATTENTION ATTENTION

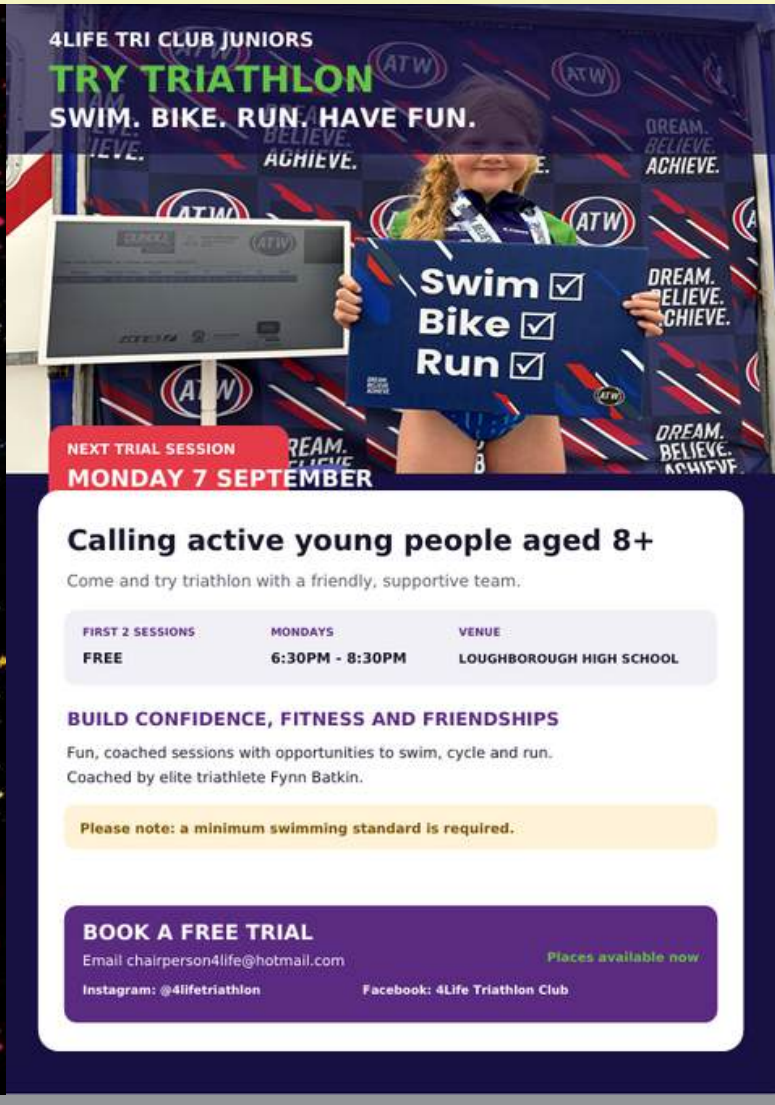
Parking

Please do not use **Hyde Park Close** to park on or for dropping off. The road does not have a pavement and it is not safe to be manoeuvring around pedestrians in such a small space.

The same applies to **Uppingham Crescent** and **Regents Park Close**. Please do not park on this road or on the pavement. Pavement parking leaves very little space for school pedestrians, making it unsafe, and parked cars are also causing difficulties for vehicles trying to pass along the road.

ATTENTION ATTENTION





COMMUNITY NEWS



BRITISH CYCLING GO-RIDE

BEESTON ROAD CLUB Est. 1945

BEESTON ROAD CLUB

🧒 **Youth coaching (Ages 6–16)**
School Term. Mondays. 6.30pm
@Harvey Hadden Sports Village

🚴 **Other organised rides**

- Sunday runs
- Tuesday & Wednesday evening socials from Beeston

GET IN TOUCH

email: admin@beestonrc.co.uk
instagram: @BeestonRC
website: https://beestonrc.co.uk/

SCAN ME for our website

Learn to Swim with Core Aquatics

Core Aquatics

A Multi-Award Winning, Local Swim School

Children 3+ Years and Adults of ALL ABILITIES

- Teachers in the Water
- Small Class Sizes (4,5 or 6 Per Group)
- Fun and Engaging Lessons
- Individualised Programmes
- Regular Progress Updates
- Experienced and Supportive Team

Nottingham High School
Children's Classes:
Saturday 1330-1800
Sunday 1400-1800

West Bridgford School
Children's Classes:
Wednesday 1800-1845
Saturday 0800-1000, 1645-1845
Sunday 1530-1900
Adult Classes:
Sunday 1900-1930

We maintain waiting lists for children under 3 years. Please contact us to register.

hello@coreaquatics.co.uk | www.coreaquatics.co.uk | 07920 687331

GOLD MEMBER 2024 · STAmark · SWIM STAR SWIM SCHOOL · STA JUNIOR LIFEGUARD ACADEMY · LEVEL WATER

SCHOOLS DISCOUNT NOTTINGHAM

10TH - 20TH SEPTEMBER
WOOLATON HALL PARK | NG8 2AE

Get **20% OFF** grandstand and ringside tickets with code:

SCHOOLS20

not valid on opening night. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer and t's & c's apply



WWW.GANDEYSCIRCUS.COM

ROCKLEY MUSIC TASTER DRUM LESSSONS

A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPACES WILL BE AVALIABLE FOR GROUP DRUM TUITION FOR YEAR 1 AND UPWARDS

LESSONS ARE 20-25 MINUTES AND ARE HELD WEEKLY DURING SCHOOL HOURS.

LEARN HOW TO PLAY THE DRUMS ALONG TO YOUR FAVOURITE SONGS

DRUMMING IS FANTASTIC FOR:

- COORDINATION
- REGULATION
- BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
- CONFIDENCE



PRICING IS £56 PER HALF TERM FOR 6 LESSONS

contact info@rockleymusic.co.uk or call 01949 829285 to book, or visit rockleymusic.co.uk for more info.

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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2026