



19.9.25

	Hawthorn Community Primary School <i>The Hawthorn Herald</i>	
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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another fantastic week at Hawthorn. It is always lovely to see how enthusiastic the children are towards their learning and when I have walked around the classes this week, there has been a busy buzz of children trying hard and challenging themselves. We are continuing our focus on Times Tables at the moment and it has been great to hear the children in KS2 reciting their tables and seeing progress in their speed and accuracy.

I continue to be very impressed with how our new Reception children have settled into Hawthorn. Already, the classroom routines have become established and the children are learning how to manage themselves in the busy environment. I have noticed children displaying our value of Respect - for themselves, for adults and also for each other. It has been great to see them moving quietly around the school out of respect for those who are learning.

Wizard of Oz

On Wednesday (24th) we welcome M&M Theatre Productions in to perform a classical adaptation of the Wizard of Oz (KS2 only). Payment of £4 was due in this week. If you have not yet paid please pay on MCAS (select Outstanding Payments and add to your basket).

Come and Play Session

Miss Larkin, our Family Support Worker, will be hosting a Come and Play session for Reception children and their parents on Wed (24th), starting at 2.15pm. Booking is essential on this link:

[Come and Play - Reception](#)

Maths workshop

Thank you to all the Reception parents who joined us on Wednesday for our phonics workshop. It was great to see so many of you and share how we teach our children to read. Next Friday (26th) we will be holding a Maths workshop for Reception parents, at 2.45pm in The Palm. Please enter via the Hawthorn Road gate.

Please let us know that you will be coming by filling in the form:

[EYFS Maths Workshop](#)

Summer Reading Challenge

A reminder that we have until tonight to complete this year's Summer Reading Challenge. Let's have a final push Hawthorn and see if we can clinch top spot again!

Sponsored Bounce!

Our whole school Sponsored Bounce has been a great success this week. Thank you to everyone who supported this by raising money for school funds, it is greatly appreciated. All the monies raised will go towards the celebration events held at Hawthorn: Toast and Tales, Celebration Assembly Afternoon Teas and book prizes for the reading raffle, etc.

Harvest Festival

On Friday 3rd October we will be holding our school Harvest Festival. Parents are welcome to join us on the playground for the celebration. The Broadway gates will open at 2.25pm ready for a 2.30pm start.

We will be collecting donations for Home Start Kettering. More than 30 Home Start volunteers visit families across Kettering at home each week, supporting parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle. The scheme also holds a Christmas party for the families they support, and each family is provided with a food hamper to take home with them.

Please bring donations into school on the morning of Friday 3rd October. Donations can include tins, packets, sweets, essentials such as toothpaste, shower gel or luxury items.

Please do not send in fresh produce.

Parents Evenings – Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th October

Our first parents evenings of this academic year will be held in October. We encourage all parents to attend as this is an opportunity to discuss how your child is progressing with their teacher. Appointments can be booked online via MCAS under “Parents Evening”. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers.

Bookings can be made from today and will close on Monday 6th October at 4pm for Tuesday bookings and Wednesday 8th October at 4 pm for Thursday bookings. Should you wish to make any changes after this please contact the school office.

Mrs Martin, Inclusion Leader, will also be available on both evenings. If you would like to make an appointment to see her please telephone the office and we can arrange this for you.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Emma Jacox

Head Teacher

Reception Intake 2026

Applications have now opened for children who will be of school age next September. You can apply for a primary school place on [Apply for a primary school place | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](#) We would be delighted if you consider Hawthorn for the start of your child’s education. We have several school tours taking place throughout this term. Please ring the office on 01536 512204 to book your place on one of our tours.

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!



Oaks and Silver Birches are joint winners this week with 98%. Great job everyone.

Oaks: 98%

Silver Birches: 98%

Apples: 97%

Elm: 97%

Willows: 97%

Redwoods: 97%

Cherries: 96%

Ash: 96%

Cedars: 96%

Bay: 93%

Maples: 91%

Travelling Safely to and From School



We want all of our children to be safe as they travel to and from school, whether walking, on a bike or scooter, by public transport or by car.

The road safety message of ABC is an important one to share with children along with the Green Cross Code for safely crossing the road.

***A** for awareness (traffic is dangerous and can hurt people)*

***B** for behaviour (things you should do to stay safer)*

***C** for choice and campaigning (how to make safer choices and to help others make these choices too).*

*To follow the **Green Cross Code** everyone should:*

- find a safe place to cross*
- stand on the pavement near the kerb*

- *look all round for traffic and listen*
 - *if traffic is coming - let it pass then look all round again*
 - *when there is no traffic near, walk straight across the road*
 - *keep looking and listening for traffic while crossing.*
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Bike and Scooter Safety

As part of being a healthy school we encourage children to walk, scoot or cycle to school. Scooter and cycle racks are available for children to leave their scooters and bikes during the day. For safety reasons we ask that when on the school site, scooters and bikes are pushed rather than ridden so that no one is accidentally bumped into.

Online Safety: Snapchat

At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](https://www.thenationalcollege.com) 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. Primarily developed by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, facts and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

With over 900 million active monthly users and billions of 'snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

AGE RESTRICTION 13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' character and AI-generated filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inappropriate responses, generate unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Automated filters and messages can also be used to identify potentially harmful or inappropriate content, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boasts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks. Daily streaks encourage continuous use and a streak is taken going for a few days, users will see it as a goal. The number of streaks it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to 'restart' it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app over other apps.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then blackmail them by threatening to share those images to friends and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2023, Snapchat introduced more than 100 new filters, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is more accessible than a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make security harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of inappropriate communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for a child. The features used to group content are determined by the platform, so even an innocent search term could return age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share adult images or language - or being pressured to do so - that is associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Treated with guidance from a trusted adult, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its key features for users. It is recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's Hub can be easier to navigate if you mature someone's dialogue. Talk about online and offline safety before letting children sign up. If they're faced with a warning, encourage them to talk you immediately. Talk openly and use judgement about what's on the platform can have harmful consequences.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger contacts with a child on Snapchat and make them feel uncomfortable by harassing them by sending or receiving unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots at the person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a detailed reporting section under the 'Harass and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's a 'report' option commonly for harassment or to help identify explicit images or videos.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

It down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings. As a general safety tip, the app lets them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a great opportunity to explore why some settings are safer than others, enhancing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friend group.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and conducted research for the Australian Government concerning internet and social media behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

Source: See full reference list on guide page of <https://www.thenationalcollege.com/wake-up-wednesday>

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For information on talking with child about social media, please click on the following link which will take you to the Internet Matters website: [Internet Matters: Talking with your child about social media](https://www.internetmatters.org/talking-with-your-child-about-social-media/)

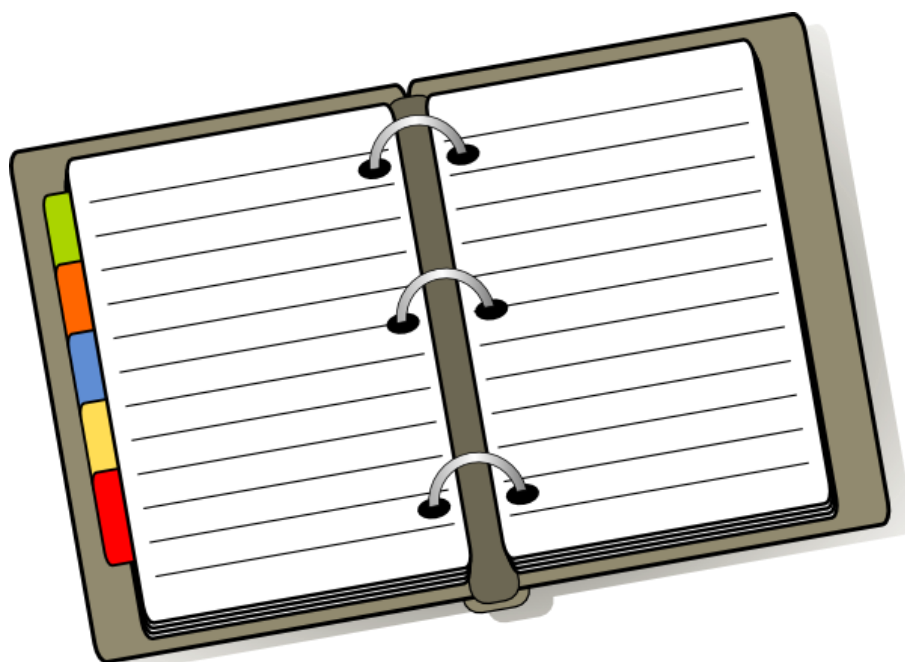
Community News & Events

Please follow the link below to the school website to find information on events happening in Kettering and surrounding areas:

[Hawthorn Primary - Community News and Events \(hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk\)](http://hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk)



Dates For Your Diary...



Fri 19th Sept: Sponsored Bounce

Weds 24th Sept: KS2 Theatre Visit and Workshop: The Wizard of Oz

Reception Come and Play session with Miss Larkin (2.15pm)

Thurs 25th Sept: New Reception Intake 2026 Tour (4pm)

Fri 26th Sept: Maths Workshop for Reception parents (2.45pm)

Tues 30th Sept: Toast & Tales (Y4)

New Reception Intake 2026 Tour (4pm)

Weds 1st Oct: Toast & Tales (Y3)

Fri 3rd Oct: Harvest Festival (2.30pm)

Mon 6th Oct: Whole school flu vaccinations

Tues 7th Oct: Toast & Tales (Y2)

Parents' Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

Thurs 9th Oct: School photos

Parents' Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

Fri 10th Oct: World Mental Health Day

WMHD Coffee and Crafts with your child (2pm)

Tue 14th Oct: Toast & Tales (EYFS)

New Reception Intake 2026 Tour (4pm)

Thurs 16th Oct: Wonderdome in for UKS2

KS2 Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Y6 Cake Sale (3.10pm)

New Reception Intake 2026 Tour (4pm)

Fri 17th Oct: KS1 & EYFS Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Break Up

*******HALF TERM*******

Mon 3rd Nov: Back to School

Fri 28th Nov: Y5 Cake Sale

Tues 2nd Dec: KS1 & EYFS Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Thurs 4th Dec: KS2 Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Thurs 18th Dec: Kingswood Christmas Lunch

Fri 19th Dec: Carols Around the Tree

Break Up

**Dates for Christmas events to be confirmed*



ANCHORED SCHOOLS



GOLD AWARD