



Newsletter March 2026

A Message from Mrs Harvey, Head Teacher

As we approach the Easter Holidays, I would just like to say a big thank you for your continued support.

I really appreciate all of you who took the time to fill in our attendance questionnaire. Attendance at school is vital - the DFE continue to make correlations between pupils who do not attend school regularly and attainment, hence our constant plea to get your children to school.

Sports competitions continue to happen in abundance as does Netherton's success - I hope this continues to prosper. Due to the clubs we offer, we are blessed to see so much talent, and we can always guarantee to pick from a huge selection of willing children. I hope you continue to use and appreciate the clubs we have on offer, and the amazing staff who give their time up to make them possible.

After Easter, we have a number of visitors who will be welcomed to Netherton - we will be having an RE audit and a School Improvement visit. It is always good to have our practice and pedagogy validated by external visitors, so I look forward to sharing the outcomes with you.

We also have Year 6 SATS beginning the week of 11th May. We need all of year 6 in every day that week, along with plenty of sleep and rest, ready to give the best version of themselves in their tests. Please use Easter to do some last minute revision. We will be providing Year 6 with some booklets to help them with their revision, I hope they will be helpful.

I wish you all a Happy Easter holiday, enjoy and rest, and try not to eat too many Easter Eggs!

Mrs Harvey

Attendance

As part of our attendance monitoring, we look at the reasons for absence. We are noticing that some pupils are being reported as ill numerous times within a term / this academic year. It is unusual for a child to be ill repeatedly. Please may we remind you that children can come to school with minor ailments and refer you to the NHS website for guidance [is my child too ill for school? - NHS](https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/) www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

Up to date contact details

Please may we ask that you check that your contact details are up to date on Arbor. School needs a minimum of 2 emergency contacts for each pupil and the pupil's current address.

We have had a few instances recently, where we have found that we do not have the most up to date address for some pupils.

If you need to change/add/ remove any contacts, or up date your address, phone number or email address, you can do this via the Arbor Portal or you can speak to Miss Grove in the office.

Spring Term 2 Dates

Fri 27th March - break up for Easter

Summer Term 1 Dates

Mon 13th April - School reopens to pupils

Mon 4th May - Bank Holiday

Thursday 7th May - Voting Day - school closed

Mon 11th May - SATs Week (Y6)

Friday 22nd May - Break up

Tues 2nd June - school reopens for pupils

Inset Days

Mon 1st July 2026

Mon 20th July 2026

Easter Break

Mon 30th Mar - Fri 10th Apr 2026

Whitsun Break

Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May 2025

Summer Holidays

Mon 20th July - Mon 31st Aug

2026-27

Tuesday 1 September

INSET

Wednesday 2nd September

INSET

Thursday 3rd September

School reopens for pupils

Monday 4th January 2027

INSET

IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?

yes

until...

NHS

CHICKENPOX	At least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over.
DIARRHOEA AND VOMITING	48 hours after their last episode.
HIGH TEMPERATURE	If your child has a high temperature, keep them off school until it goes away.
IMPETIGO	Their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics.
MEASLES	4 days after the rash first appeared.
MUMPS	5 days after their swelling started.
SCABIES	They've had their first treatment.
SCARLET FEVER	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics.
WHOOPING COUGH	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics.



NO



CONJUNCTIVITIS	You don't need to keep your child away from school if they have conjunctivitis. Do get advice from your pharmacist. Encourage your child not to rub their eyes and to wash their hands regularly.
COUGHS & COLDS	It's fine to send your child to school with a minor cough or common cold.
HAND, FOOT & MOUTH	If they seem well enough to go to school, there's no need to keep them off. Encourage your child to throw away any used tissues straight away and to wash their hands regularly.
HEAD LICE	There's no need to keep your child off school. You can treat head lice and nits without seeing your GP.
THREADWORMS	Speak to your pharmacist, who can recommend treatment.
SORE THROAT TONSILLITIS	You can still send your child to school if they have a sore throat. But if they also have a high temperature, they should stay at home until it goes away.
SLAPPED CHEEK	You don't need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they're no longer infectious.

Lots of learning, every day

The children have been incredibly busy this half term. Here is a taste of what's been going on...

Nursery - Living and Growing

In nursery, we have been exploring the topic of life cycles; one of our stories being Jack and Beanstalk. To bring the book to life, the children have become mini-gardeners, carefully planting their own beans and learning exactly what a



EYFS - Little Owl Farm

Our Reception children had a wonderful time on their trip to Little Owl Farm! They enjoyed bottle feeding the lambs and took part in a special animal encounter where they met a bearded dragon, a rabbit, and a guinea pig. The children also had lots of fun playing together on the adventure playground, building friendships and confidence. It was a fantastic day filled with excitement, hands-on learning, and a great opportunity to bring our farm topic to life!

Y1 - Trip to WILD

On Thursday 12th March, Year 1 went to WILD Zoological Park. In Science, they have been learning about different animal groups so they went to see these different groups, bringing their learning to life



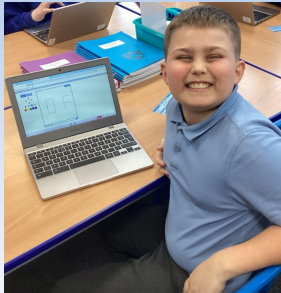
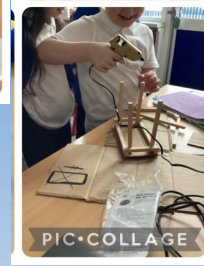
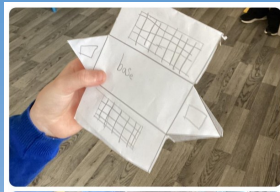
Y2 - DT - Kites

In DT, Year 2 designed and made kites. They then took advantage of the recent nice weather to test out how functional they were.

They had great fun testing them out.

Year 3 - DT

For their DT unit of work this half term, Year 3 were asked to design and make a mini green house.



Year 4 - Computing

In their computing lesson, Y4 have been inputting commands into Logo to create different letters of the alphabet. The children are becoming more skilled at debugging problematic codes



Year 5 - DT

Year 5 have designed and made catapults for their DT unit of work this half term, and of course, they had great fun testing them!



Year 6 - History

On Thursday 26th March, Year 6 spent the day taking part in an Anglo Saxon workshop.



The Hive - DT

In DT, the children in The Hive, designed and made their own healthy sandwich and made the packaging.

Looks like the sandwiches were delicious - it doesn't look like they needed the packaging!



Book Week

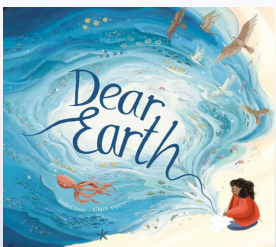
We celebrate World Book Day every year.

World Book Day - Dress as a book character

On Thursday 5th March, World Book Day, the school was filled with a host of characters from the children's favourite books.



Dear Earth



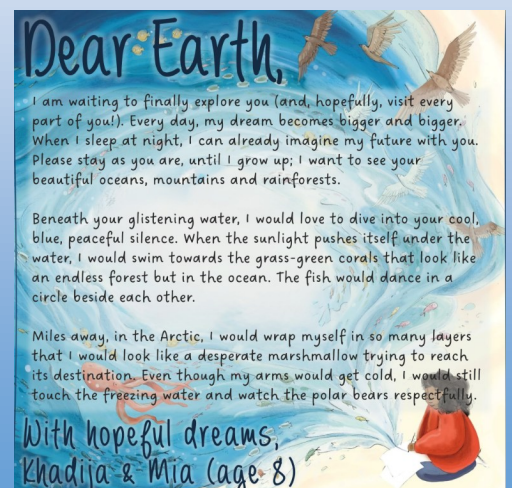
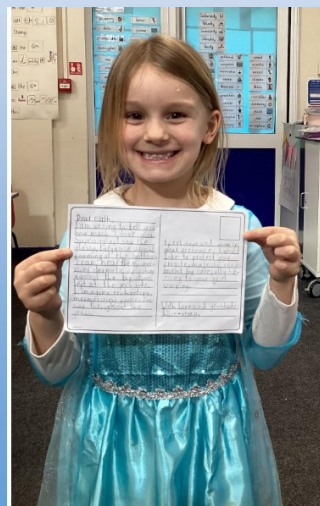
Each class in school shared the book, Dear Earth by Isabel Otter

The children were captivated by the beautiful illustrations as they journeyed through the many breathtaking parts of our amazing world, whilst also thinking carefully about how and why we must protect it.

The classes then completed different activities based on the book.

Writing based on 'Dear Earth'

Some of our younger children wrote gorgeous postcards to Earth, the older children wrote poignant letters, sharing their favourite things — from blooming meadows to sparkling blue lagoons — and discussed what they can do in the future to help care for our wonderful yet fragile planet.



Art Work based on Dear Earth

Each class produced some art work based on the book; this ranged from dot paintings inspired by the land animals featured in the story,; to sketches of arctic animals ; to colour studies of different settings in the book.



Relax & Read

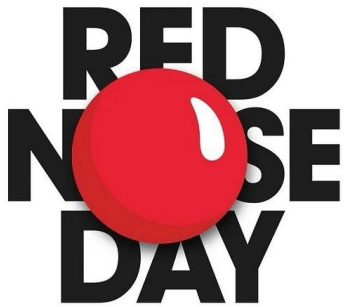
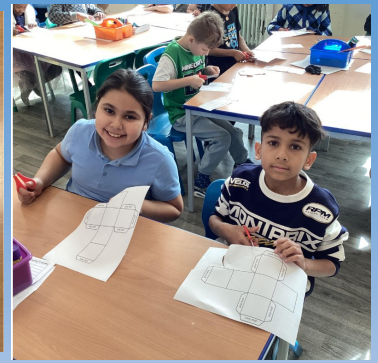
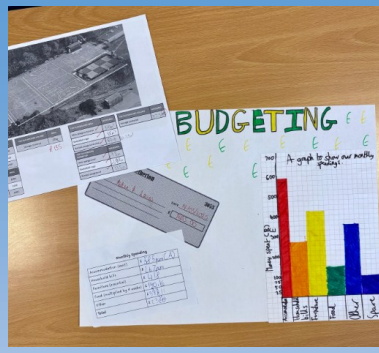
As always, the children were encouraged to read—on their own, with friends, in the classroom, outside—it doesn't matter as long as they read!



International Number Day

On Thursday 26th March, the whole school celebrated International Maths Day.

Everyone came dressed in clothes with numbers, shapes or patterns. Classes were off timetable, completing a day of maths activities ranging from budgeting, planning a holiday, measuring & weighing in order to cook.



Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

On Friday 20th March, Year 1 arranged for the school to raise money for Comic Relief. All of the children and staff were invited to donate £1 and wear red. They also sold cakes at breaktime.

As a school we raised £282.10- thank you for supporting a good cause.

The Book Bus

On Monday 23rd March, the Book Bus arrived at Netherton CofE!

The children had a fun time browsing the many books available to buy and some of our children enjoyed a story session aboard too.

Thank you to all of you who bought books, this contributed to us earning £296 to spend on books for our school.



Netball

On Thursday 5th March, our netball team played against Priory, losing 0-14, but they recovered their form to beat Cotwall End 8-0, on Thursday 12th March. Well done, team!



Football Matches

The Y5/6 boy's football team have played 2 matches this term. We played against Thorns Primary, beating them 12 v 3, with hat tricks from Edward and James and other goals from Charlie B, Harley x 2, SJ, Blake, Leo. We also beat Peters Hill Primary - 7 -4

We currently sit top of the league table with 3 wins out of 3! Well done boys!



Year 1 & 2 Multi Skills

Some pupils from Year 1 & 2 took part in a Multi Skills competition, finishing 2nd out of 8 schools. The children had to score points at 8 different stations doing a series of challenges including shuttle runs, target throw, ball catch, balancing and jumping. Mr Ludlam and Miss Harrold are extremely proud of all the children.

Cross Country Team

Took part in The Dudley Primary School Cross Country Event at Summer Hill Secondary School running 2.5km. Edward & Indie were our two fastest finishers both coming 6th out of 204 runners. The girls team did amazingly with all of them finishing into the top 60 meaning that they won the event overall



PE & Jewellery

Please may we remind you that the **children must remove earrings for PE**. If your child cannot remove them themselves, please could we ask that you take them out for them before they come to school.

Dance Showcase

On Friday 13th March, 150 of our pupils from Reception to Year 6 , chosen for their dance talent, took part in the Dance Showcase.

Ms Harrold & Mr Ludlam organised this dance extravaganza which was staged at The Link.

The pupils were all fabulous .



We are pleased to inform you that Miss Harrold will be running a Sports Camp during the Easter break from Tuesday 31st March to Thursday 2nd April, from 9:45am to 3:00pm each day.

The camp will provide a range of fun and engaging sporting activities for children to enjoy in a safe and supportive environment.

Cost:

- £20.00 per day
- £50.00 for all 3 days

A light Lunch will be provided each day.

If you would like your child to attend, please confirm your place as soon as possible, as spaces may be limited using the Arbor app.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Easter Holidays - DUDLEY LA HAF Program

Just a reminder that during the Easter holidays, **Dudley HAF** will have over **8,800 FREE activities** available for school-aged children (5-16 years) eligible for benefits-related **Free School Meals**.

We have a wide range of activities and events available across the 2 weeks – many based in local Dudley schools, and there is something for everyone!

Please sign up for HAF if they haven't already, so they can book these great activities.

Useful Links

To register for Dudley HAF and full eligibility criteria, [Dudley Holiday Activities | Children's activities | Dudley HAF](#)

To book for families who are already registered [HAF Booking Service](#)

REMINDER - applying for Free School Meals

All pupils get free school lunches whilst in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. However, from Year 3, school lunches have to be paid for unless you are entitled to free school meals.

To apply for Free School Meals with Dudley council - <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/>

Safeguarding Spotlight

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils is our first priority and naturally, this extends to their families. Part of this role is to share the latest information on issues that may affect our young people; share guidance and signpost support. There is a wealth of information on our website under Key Information ~ Safeguarding.

Online Safety

Keeping our children safe in a world of technology continues to be a priority.

Each Wednesday, on Dojo, we share **#Wake Up Wednesday** from The National College.

This is a weekly guide which focuses on an aspect of technology; the risks and tips to keep your child safe. The guides are in an easy-to-follow format. A new one is published each Wednesday on Dojo.

A recent guide focused on Generative AI Safety and we thought it would be worth sharing this again.



The remarkable growth of generative AI tools like ChatGPT has opened up exciting new opportunities for young learners. Used wisely, AI can be a powerful tool in boosting creativity, learning and problem-solving skills. However, without proper guidance, young people may stumble into challenges including inaccurate information, data security risks, and a growing reliance on AI over their own critical thinking.

From setting clear usage boundaries to teaching digital hygiene and promoting independent thought, this guide offers parents and educators practical advice on the safe, positive use of AI.

With the right understanding and guidance, you can ensure that generative AI becomes a positive influence, rather than a potential pitfall in young people's digital lives.

Safeguarding: If you have any concerns or need support, please call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) between 9am & 5pm on telephone 0300 5550050 or telephone 0300 555 8574, if out of hours.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GENERATIVE AI SAFETY

Generative AI tools – such as ChatGPT – are now commonly used by children. In fact, 3 in 4 pupils in the 2024 Annual Literacy Survey reported using generative AI, up from just 2 in 5 the previous year. While these tools can boost learning and creativity, they also raise concerns around misinformation, privacy and overuse. This guide explores the key risks and how to support safe use.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISINFORMATION AND ACCURACY



Generative AI can sometimes produce false or misleading content. Children – and even adults – may assume the information is accurate and trustworthy. This can affect learning and understanding of important topics. It's vital to teach children to critically assess all information, even when it comes from AI.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Because generative AI is trained on vast datasets from across the internet, there is a chance it may occasionally generate harmful or inappropriate content. Without supervision, children could encounter disturbing or unsuitable material. Active monitoring and clear usage boundaries can help reduce this risk.

PRIVACY AND DATA SECURITY

Some AI tools ask for personal details or store users' interactions. If privacy settings are not correctly configured, children's personal data could be exposed or misused. Teaching good digital hygiene and setting strong privacy controls is essential for protecting children online.

REDUCED CRITICAL THINKING



Relying too heavily on AI-generated responses may reduce children's willingness to think independently. If they consistently use AI to solve problems or complete tasks, it could impact their ability to reason, analyse and form their own ideas. Encouraging thoughtful reflection is key.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY



Regular use of generative AI can contribute to increased screen time and less real-world interaction. If left unmanaged, it may affect physical activity levels, sleep, and social development. Striking a healthy balance between online and offline activities is important for wellbeing.

UNCLEAR ETHICAL BOUNDARIES



Children may not fully understand the ethical implications of using AI to complete homework or creative tasks. This can lead to unintentional plagiarism or dishonest academic practices. Conversations around responsible use and academic honesty are crucial.

IDEAS

Advice for Parents & Educators

ESTABLISH CLEAR GUIDELINES

Set clear, age-appropriate rules for when and how generative AI can be used. Reinforce these regularly to help children develop a healthy, respectful and informed relationship with the technology.



ENCOURAGE CRITICAL EVALUATION

Help children to question the accuracy of AI-generated information and seek out additional trusted sources. This builds essential digital literacy skills and supports better decision-making.



PROMOTE ACTIVE SUPERVISION

Keep an eye on how the children in your care use AI tools. Check in regularly to ensure they're using them appropriately and be ready to step in if something doesn't feel right.



ENHANCE PRIVACY AWARENESS

Talk to children about the importance of keeping personal information private. Make sure privacy settings are in place and explain how data shared with AI tools could be used.



Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe, Deputy Headmaster and Director of Digital Strategy at Easton House School, has extensive expertise in digital safety, safeguarding, and generative AI in education. As an author and speaker on digital literacy and online safety for institutions such as The National College, Brendan guides parents and educators in creating safe digital learning environments.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



YOU'RE INVITED TO JOIN OUR

CHILDREN'S EASTER WORKSHOP

Crafts



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH NETHERTON

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL 2026

10.30AM-12.30PM

Stories



Egg Rolling



Chocolate Eggs



Refreshments



Spaces Limited

Text to book: 07711049310

Children must be accompanied by an adult.