

# NS82° School Newsletter



Dear Parents, Carers, and Pupils,

Welcome back to a new school term! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing break. As we begin this exciting chapter, our focus remains on creating an environment where every child can thrive and achieve their very best.

This term, we continue to live by our core values: Navigate, Success Together, Ambition, and Relevance.

These guide everything we do—from supporting pupils in their learning journey to working closely with families and the wider community. Together, we aim to

raise aspirations, celebrate achievements, and ensure that every experience in school is meaningful and engaging.

We have lots to look forward to in the coming weeks, including new learning opportunities, enrichment activities, and events that bring us together as a school community. Thank you for your continued support and partnership—it truly makes a difference.

Let's make this term a successful and inspiring one for all.

Warm regards,

Mr Byrne, Headteacher

Dear Parents, Carers, and Pupils,

Welcome back to a new term! We hope you had a restful break and are ready for an exciting and productive few weeks ahead.

One important date for your diary is **Pupil Review Day on Wednesday, 3rd December**.

This is a valuable opportunity for you to come into school, meet with teachers, and see how your child is progressing. We strongly encourage all families to attend, as working together is key to every child's success.

We also want to remind everyone about the importance of **excellent attendance**. Every day in school matters—regular attendance ensures pupils can make the most of their learning and achieve their full potential.

Finally, please remember that **we are here to support you and your child**. If you need any help—whether it's with learning, wellbeing, or anything else—do not hesitate to reach out. Together, we can make this term a successful and positive experience for all.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mr Marsh, Assistant Headteacher



## Our Mission

We **Navigate Success Together** with **Ambition** and **Relevance**

# What have we done this week?

Owls class have had a fantastic first week back, with the classroom environment feeling settled and familiar. Class academic work has been brilliant, with numerous pieces of work being put into the Gold Book. Other highlights of the week include Minecraft-themed team building games with Mr. Wilson and developing friendships in Social Skills afternoons.






In kestrels we have had a great start to term 2. We enjoyed our first science experiment of the term by making oobleck from cornflour and water. We were fascinated by its ability to appear like both a liquid and a solid.



This week in Hawks, we began exploring our new English topic with a WOW day, making our very own Junk monster. In Science, we began looking at the solar system and



## This term's Focus Sport is Basketball!

This week, we have been learning how to **dribble the ball** . Dribbling means **bouncing the ball**  to keep control and possession. Pupils have also been learning why it is important to **keep the ball away from the defender** .



This week Sparrow class conducted a science experiment to learn how germs spread. We put paint on our hands to represent the germs then saw how quickly they spread



around the classroom as we did different tasks. Afterwards, we learned how to wash our hands properly to get rid of germs.



Kingfisher class have had a busy week back at school. The children have made rain makers in English as well as coming up with actions for our new text! I have been particularly impressed by the children's maths - as they have all been focusing on number sentences. A few children have even been moved onto column addition and subtraction! The children really enjoyed creating art in forest school this week and were very proud of their

# SAVE THE DATE!



## **Pupil Review—Pupil Review Day on Wednesday, 3rd December.**

This is a valuable opportunity for you to come into school, meet with teachers, and see how your child is progressing. Our Trust Governors will be attending our pupil review day, this will be a great opportunity for you to meet them .

**Nativity—Friday 19th December.** We are very excited to invite you all to our Christmas Nativity play. All pupils will be involved with the Nativity. Please save this date and keep an eye out for arrival times and start time.

**PBL Showcase—Wednesday 3rd December.** We will be exhibiting a showcase of our Project Based Learning Curriculum. This will be a showcase of some of the fantastic work your children have produced during term 1 and 2.

## Engagement Page



The first week back after a half term is often tricky for our children. It has been amazing to see everyone put so much effort into their learning and work so hard on showing positive behaviour. We have seen children using their 5-point scales and behaviour strategies to support themselves in self-

regulation as well as allowing adults to support. Those children who are on interventions with the behaviour team are continuing to work hard on their social and emotional skills as well as working on turn taking.

**WELL DONE!**

We have some exciting things to announce over the course of next week, one as a reward and one to support the children throughout the interventions so ensure to keep an eye out for these.





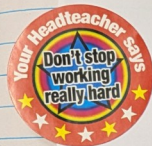
Our Mission

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# The Gold Book

Paddy

NORTH STAR 82%	Date: 4/11/25	Absent <input type="checkbox"/> Out of class <input type="checkbox"/> Refusal <input type="checkbox"/> Postponed to _____							
	Retrieval activity: Punctuation activity - what do I need in my writing?								
	Learning Focus: Cold Task - I can complete a cold write								
Success criteria									
Core	I can say my sentence aloud before writing it.	Student	✓	✓	✓	Staff	✓	✓	✓
Stretch	I can use my sound mat to spell words.	Student	✓	✓	✓	Staff	✓	✓	✓
Challenge	I can write in full sentences with capital letters and full stops.	Student	✓	✓	✓	Staff	✓	✓	✓
This work was completed: Independently <input type="checkbox"/> With some help <input type="checkbox"/> With 1:1 support <input type="checkbox"/> With emotional support <input type="checkbox"/> Scribed <input type="checkbox"/>									
Absence catch up, (date): 1to1 Focus Group Detention Hub/LSR Next lesson catch up LM <input type="checkbox"/>									



Write a story about defeating a sea monster.



Find 3 adjectives in the dictionary to describe monster:

1. Giant
2. monstrous
3. evil

Once upon a time there was a giant monster. He was the monster of the sea. He said I will eat you all. With a booming voice but a wave man said I will kill you. So they fought but the wave man won. He protected his village with all his might. He will win in the end.

He said I will always protect my village!

This week's Gold book winner is Paddy Lynch. Paddy showed great care, pride and presentation in his English work. Well done Paddy!

Primary

### Boys

- ◇ Black tailored trousers
- ◇ White school or plain shirt (with collar)
- ◇ Navy school jumper logo
- ◇ Black, plain, sensible
- ◇ Hijab – Navy Blue or



### Girls

- ◇ Black school skirt
- ◇ Sensible black tights to be worn with school skirt
- ◇ Black tailored trousers polo
- ◇ White school or plain polo shirt with
- ◇ Navy jumper
- ◇ Black, plain, sensible shoes (open-toed or backless sandals are not appropriate) shoes Black
- ◇ For safety reasons, high heels are not acceptable

**Free school Meals/Pupil premium:** Your child could be entitled to receive free school meals as well as pupil premium funding for the school. Please read this important letter for more information about how to claim. You can apply to see if you are eligible for Free School Meals here: [Apply for free school meals - GOV.UK](#)

If you are not entitled to free school meals a hot meal can be purchased for £2.90. Payments can be made over the phone or by sending in cash or cheque, payable to North Star Academy Trust and via Arbor app. Payments for meals are needed in advance.

**Our new supplier Aspens will be taking over the catering in our school In term 2. We will keep you updated with any menu changes in due course.**

A message from the office;

In the event your child is ill please contact the school office on **01173772175**. Choosing option 2 to report the absence.

If you need to update any information we hold for your child such as contact numbers or address changes you are now able to do this via the Arbor app. If you have yet to log in please visit <https://login.arbor.sc> and click **Forgot your password?** to finish setting up your account.

## Breakfast Club!

We are excited to introduce our new Breakfast Club, available every morning for all children. This is a great way for pupils to start the day with a nutritious breakfast and a positive, calm environment before lessons begin. We look forward to welcoming everyone—no need to book, just come along and join us!

## Antibullying week:

To mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week, Monday 10th November is Odd Sock Day! Child are encouraged to wear odd socks to school to celebrate diversity and express themselves!

## Our Mission

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**We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about POKÉMON TCG POCKET

AGE RESTRICTION  
**PEGI 3**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pokémon TCG Pocket is a mobile version of the hugely popular Pokémon Trading Card Game, downloaded over 100 million times on Android and iOS. Players collect cards, battle others online, and open packs of cards – known as booster packs – to expand their decks. While the core game can be fun and helps develop tactical and numeracy skills, its design encourages spending and can feed addictive behaviours – making it important for adults to understand the risks.

### ADDICTIVE PACK OPENING

Booster packs rely on probability to provide rare or powerful cards. The excitement of opening them – and the dopamine rush when finding a sought-after card – can become addictive. Unlike purely cosmetic loot boxes, the cards here are integral to competitive gameplay, adding extra pressure for serious gamers to collect more.

### QUICK BUT ABSORBING

Card battles last around five to six minutes, making it easy to fit in “just one more game”. This quick format, combined with the drive to win, can lead to prolonged play sessions and increased screen time without noticing. With limited-time Ranked Match seasons constantly being refreshed – an opportunity to accumulate points and earn profile emblems – players may find themselves drawn into this game mechanic repeatedly.

### PREMIUM PASS PRESSURE

A monthly subscription gives players access to exclusive missions, rewards, and an extra daily booster pack. Missions and rewards are replaced each month, providing an incentive to stay subscribed. While some premium rewards are exclusive, others are available through free play – making the pass more about faster progression and obtaining cosmetic items than true necessity.

### ENDLESS PACK LOOPS

New themed sets of cards are released each month, ranging from around 85 to over 370 cards per expansion. This constant cycle encourages players to keep opening packs in an effort to complete collections or improve their battle decks, potentially promoting unhealthy spending habits. With the introduction of limited-time booster packs, some players may feel increased pressure to collect these cards while they're still available.

### COST OF BOOSTER PACKS

Although free to play, with set rewards and two free booster packs given daily, players can exchange Poké Gold if they wish to open more, and a small amount of Poké Gold is rewarded for free as the player levels up. Poké Gold is also sold in bundles that are often just short of what players need to open extra packs, encouraging them to buy additional bundles.

### COMPETITIVE ONLINE PLAY

Interactions in Pokémon TCG Pocket are relatively safe – there's no messaging between players, friend requests require player approval, no real names are used, and card trading is restricted to fair trades between friends. On the other hand, the competitive nature of online play can still cause frustration, over-investment, and isolation if children spend too much time focused on the game.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MONITOR SPENDING HABITS

Set clear boundaries around in-game purchases. Treat Poké Gold as an occasional rather than routine reward, helping children develop healthier attitudes towards digital spend.

### SET REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

Talk about the unpredictable nature of booster packs and prepare children for disappointment when duplicates appear or rare cards don't surface. Understanding probability can help minimise disappointment – use the game's built-in offering rates guides to find out more about it.

### PLAY TOGETHER

Card battles can help children learn tactics, problem-solving, and rule-following, as well as numeracy skills. Playing alongside them is a great way to share in their enjoyment, while also modelling balanced play and keeping an eye on how much they're investing in the game.

### TEACH FAIRNESS

Losing a battle can be discouraging, especially when money has been spent on collecting the cards to build a deck. Support children in recognising the importance of fairness, learning from both wins and losses, and making considered choices when trading cards.

### Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and children's book author with over 15 years of experience. Specialising in technology and gaming, he has written extensively on how digital platforms affect young people and has been playing games for more than three decades.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College