

NS82° School Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,



What an incredible week it has been! We have seen outstanding efforts from our pupils—not only in the quality of their work but also in the way they have interacted socially. The sense of collaboration, kindness, and enthusiasm across the school has been truly inspiring. Thank you for continuing to support and encourage these positive behaviours at home.

Looking ahead, **Pupil Review Day on Wednesday, 3rd December** is an important date for your diary. This is a fantastic opportunity to:

- View your child's work and celebrate their progress.
- Meet our Governors and learn more about their role in shaping our school.
- Explore our **Project-Based Learning (PBL) Showcase**, where creativity and critical thinking come to life.
- Discover how **LIFT** can support you and your child..

We strongly encourage all families to attend—your involvement makes a real difference.

Finally, excitement is building for our **Nativity performance**, which will take place at the end of term. The pupils are already rehearsing with great energy, and we can't wait to share this special event with you. More details will follow soon.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a vibrant and caring community.

Warm regards,

Mr Byrne, Headteacher

Dear Families,

I want to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support—not only for your children but for our school community as a whole. Your involvement and encouragement make a huge difference, and we truly appreciate everything you do.

We'd also like to remind you about **LIFT**, our support service designed to help families and pupils thrive. If you'd like to learn more or feel you could use some extra support, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can reach us in the following ways:

- **Email:** lift@northstar-academy.co.uk
 - **WhatsApp or Text:** 07352 743648
 - **Class Dojo:** Send us a message anytime
- We're here to help—please reach out if you need us.

Warm regards,

Tom Marsh, Assistant Headteacher



Our Mission

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

What have we done this week?

Sparrows have been practicing their orienteering skills all term. This week, they



took their skills out of the playground and into Blaise Castle Park. We followed our map to find different



points and discussed what each symbol on the map represents.

This week we have been digging up the last layer of mud so we can make our fire pit area in the garden. It has taken so long and the children have worked so hard, I am really proud of them all.



This week, we have been busy and creative! We learned how to subtract 4-digit numbers with one exchange, developing our confidence in written methods. In science, we predicted and evaluated our marble run designs, thinking carefully about forces and motion. We also completed our exciting 'Conquering' hot write, showcasing our best writing skills. Alongside this, we played games to strengthen our friendships and team-work.



Kestrels have been putting their knowledge of the Vikings into practice by making Viking style clothes for their dolls. We had great fun making their capes and trying to make leg wraps and shoes for their tiny feet. The Action Vikings have since been busy exploring the book corner.



This week in P.E we have been working on improving passing accuracy to keep possession of a Basketball and developing our overall team-work and positive communications skills too.



This week in Robins we have been building marble runs as part of our whole school science project. We have been working in teams to design, evaluate, and decorate our marble runs.



In English this week we have been learning our new Trip Adviser Text about the North Pole, written by Penny the Penguin!



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



It has been an **excellent week across the school!** We are so proud of how our children have been using their strategies effectively and showing fantastic self-regulation skills. Watching them manage challenges and support one another has been truly inspiring.

To finish the week on a high, some of our pupils have enjoyed a **brilliant trip to the cinema**, which was a wonderful way to celebrate all their hard work and positive attitudes. The excitement and smiles said it all!

Thank you for your continued support in helping our pupils thrive—together, we make every week a success.





Our Mission

We Navigate Success Together with Ambition and Relevance

The Gold Book

HL 25/11

Compare capacity and volume White Rose MATHS



1 Put the glasses in order of the amount of water they contain. Start with the least amount of water.

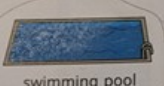

A B C D



B D A C

least most

2 In each pair, circle the object that holds more water.

a)  
 kettle bath

b)  
 swimming pool fish tank

c)  

3 Which measuring container has more liquid?

A B

500 ml
450 ml
400 ml
350 ml
300 ml
250 ml
200 ml
150 ml
100 ml
50 ml

1,000 ml
500 ml

Container B has more liquid.
Explain your answer.

4 Here are two jugs.

A B

1,000 ml
500 ml

1 litre
 $\frac{1}{2}$ litre

a) What is the volume of liquid in jug A? 500 ml

b) What is the volume of liquid in jug B? 450 ml

© White Rose Education 2022

This week's Gold Book winner is Harley Lovell. For you're incredible maths work, enthusiasm to learn and multiple entries to this week's Gold Book. Well done.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12–15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

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

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 26.11.2025



Would you like support with....

Education

Communication

Physical and Mental Health

Support with your Local Offer

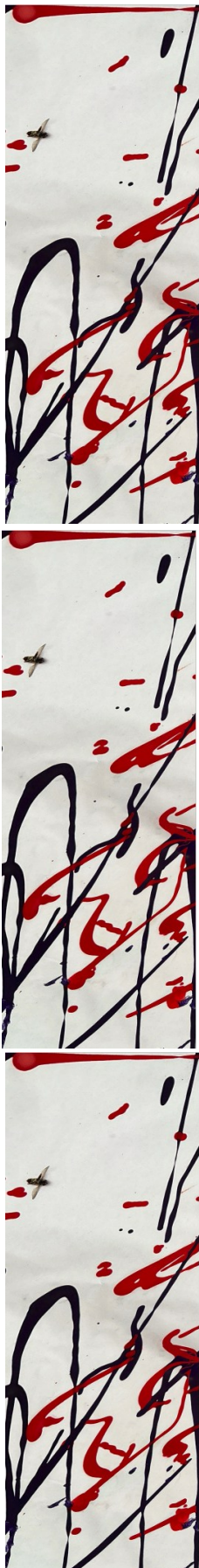


Contact LIFT



07352743648

lift@northstar-academy.co.uk



Dear Families,

We are delighted to announce the launch of **LIFT**, our new outreach service designed to support pupils, families, and the wider community. LIFT stands for **Learning, Inclusion, Families, Together**.

What is LIFT?

LIFT is a holistic provision that brings together educational, emotional, and practical support for families. Our aim is simple: to empower every pupil and family to thrive, both in school and beyond.

How will LIFT help you?

- **Attendance Support**— Helping to break down the barriers to attendance.
- **Communication Support** – Help with emails, applications, healthcare access, and more.
- **Health & Wellbeing** – Nutritional advice, emotional regulation, and stress management.
- **Daily Guidance** – SEN activities, childcare support, and local offer navigation.
- **Education** – SEND support, transition planning, and educational advice.

We are proud to introduce **Matt Lee**, our dedicated LIFT Mentor, who will work closely with families to provide tailored support and guidance.

Why LIFT?

Progress is stronger when we rise together. LIFT is here to ensure that every pupil, family, and community member feels supported, connected, and empowered.

Warm regards,

Mr Marsh, Assistant Head Teacher



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 collar) 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](https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-free-school-meals)

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!

Our Mission

We **N**avigate **S**uccess **T**ogether with **A**mbition and **R**elevance