Ravenswood School

DREAM. ACHIEVE. BELIEVE.

Newsletter – 6th November 2026

TEAM OF THE WEEK:



This week's Team of the Week are:

P16: Faye, Ethan and Alfie

KS4: Evan, Summer, Akvile and Riley

KS3: Aston, Cory, Amelia and Abel

Primary: Evie, Poppy, Eddie, Bella, Thomas and Cheyenne

Creative Arts: Amber

Outdoor Ed: Zoe

WELL DONE!

CHILDREN IN NEED

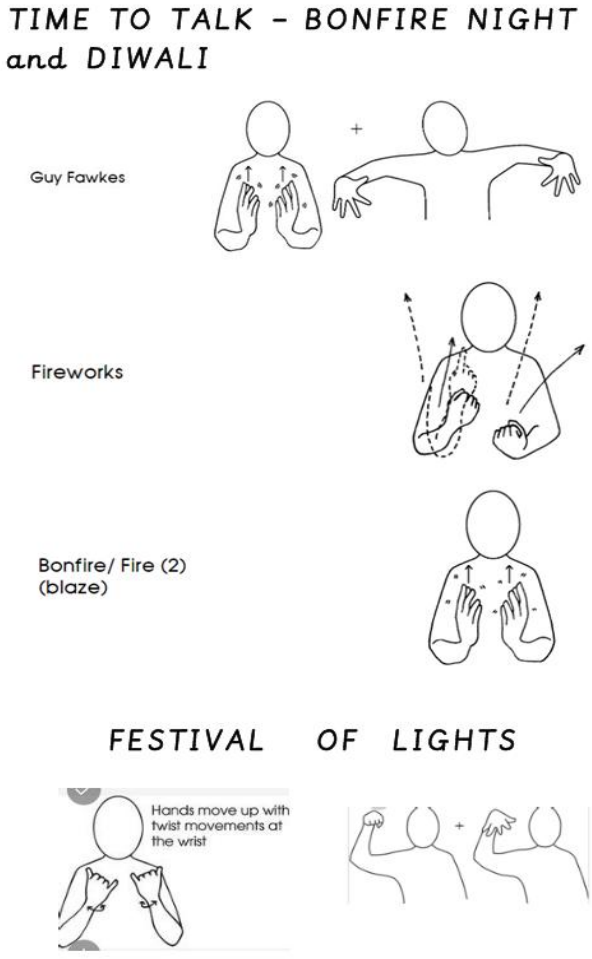
To celebrate Children in Need on Friday 13th November, pupils are invited to come to school wearing non-uniform, something spotty or something colourful. Families are welcome to make a voluntary donation to Children in Need of any amount they feel comfortable contributing. We are also working in conjunction with P16 who are collecting donations for the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal 2026 therefore, we are also accepting donations of Toys (for all ages), stationery, books, baby clothes, games, T-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats, toiletries and gift vouchers- see poster below. There is absolutely no expectation to donate, and all pupils are encouraged to join in the fun. Throughout the day, classes will also have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of optional activities, challenges and experiences around school. We look forward to a fun-filled day of creativity, kindness and smiles!

DATES FOR THE DIARY:



Friday 13th November- DAB Day/ Children in Need
Monday 16th November- School Photos
Wednesday 25th November- Non-Uniform Day for a Tombola prize
Saturday 28th November- PFA Christmas Fayre
Friday 11th December- Primary Christmas Show (PM)
Tuesday 15th December- P16 & Secondary Christmas Show (PM)
Wednesday 16th December- P16 & Secondary Christmas Show (PM)
Friday 18th December- End of Term 2

SIGNS OF THE WEEK:



North Somerset Council | arts award centre | School Games Platinum | Healthy School | DofE | Investors in Families | disability confident employer

NORTH SOMERSET HAF

Help Young People Get Active - Bursary Scheme open

We all know how important sport and physical activity is for the health and wellbeing of children and young people, and how life-changing access to a favourite activity can be. Unfortunately, the cost can often be a barrier. That is why we have introduced a bursary fund, to help remove that barrier.

What's Available?

Grants of up to £50 are available to help children and young people (aged 18 or under) access the sport or physical activity they love. The bursary can be used to cover:

- Sports kit or equipment
- Membership or annual fees for clubs and activities
- Entry fees for events or competitions related to their sport or activity
- Coaching, sport and exercise qualifications and certificates

Who's Eligible?

Applicants must:

- Live in North Somerset
- Be aged 18 or under
- Come from a low-income family or be experiencing financial pressures

All applications need to be supported by a sponsor/referrer – someone who knows the young person well and understands their circumstances and goals.

More information and how to refer someone is available [Sport and Physical Activity Bursary Scheme | Better Health North Somerset]



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OUTDOOR ED NEWS

All classes have returned ready for action this term in Outdoor Ed! Elm Class has been on a nature walk in Clevedon, showing excellent speed, fitness and listening skills. Avon Class have been to Bristol Cyle Centre and were very polite to the team there and showed some excellent fitness and perseverance, riding for the full hour! Axe and Frome have been stream walking, looking at managing risk independently and working as a team to make a potentially dangerous environment safe. Ash Class has been on an adventure walk, tackling the rocky beach and cold weather at Clevedon.

Birch Class are nature walking this term and will be spending time immersing themselves in green spaces in the local area. Pine Class will be spending the term stream walking at a range of venues, looking at safety, risk and teamwork. Yeo Class will be visiting play parks in the area, spending time in the local community and playing with friends.

Dylan and I are looking forward to another action-packed term of adventure and learning! Thanks for your continued support of the outdoor education team.









WELLIE DONATIONS

Outdoor Education is looking for donations of welly boots in adult sizes 4-10. If you have any spare pairs in good condition, we'd be very grateful for them to support students taking part in outdoor activities.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Primary and Secondary will be having their Christmas Lunch on Thursday 17th December. Christmas lunch will cost £2.80 and must be ordered via SwiftKitchen by 1st December.



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RAVENSWOOD PFA

Ravenswood Parent and Friends Association (PFA) plays a vital role in supporting our school community. From organising fun events and fundraising activities to helping provide extra resources and opportunities for our children, the PFA helps make our school an even better place to learn and grow.

We are always looking for enthusiastic parents, carers, grandparents, and family members to get involved. Whether you can offer a few hours occasionally or would like to take a more active role, every contribution is valued and appreciated.

Ravenswood School

PFA MEETING

Monday 9th November 2026 at 5 PM

Come along to the PFA meeting at Ravenswood School or join online to help us plan out the great events and fundraisers that help make the school community what it is today.

For more information contact;
familysupport@ravenswoodonline.org.uk



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Ravenswood Post-16 Department

are supporting the

Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal 2026



Donate a gift for someone here in your area to open this Christmas.

We are hoping to donate the following:

Toys (for all ages), stationery, books, baby clothes, games, T-shirts, hair accessories, gloves, scarves, hats, toiletries and gift vouchers.

(The Salvation Army are unable to take used or second-hand items for the Christmas Present Appeal)

Please bring any donations to the School Reception

by **December 3rd**

THE SALVATION ARMY

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Ravenswood PFA
Christmas Fayre
Saturday 28th November
2026
10am-1pm
Are you interested in renting a stall at our Christmas Fayre or know someone who might?
Or
Would you like to donate a prize to the raffle?
Please contact;
familysupport@ravenswoodonline.org.uk

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NHS Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

Mental Health Support Team

Online Parent/Carer Workshop

What is it?

It is an hour long workshop aimed at parents & carers to understand your child, and gain some tips and tricks to use at home.

There are 2 topics this month:

INTRO TO LOW MOOD

Alternate *Mondays / Wednesdays 12pm-1pm*

Introduction to Low Mood: Learn how low mood can affect thoughts, feelings, and actions, and discover simple, practical strategies to break the cycle and improve wellbeing.

5 WAYS TO WELLBEING

Alternate *Mondays / Wednesdays 12pm-1pm*

5 Ways to Wellbeing: Discover five key areas that have been identified to boost wellbeing: Learn practical tips to help you bring these habits into everyday life.

What happens next? Once you sign up below, you will receive an email with options of webianrs and instructions for next steps.

Topics of workshops change termly

To sign up, please complete a registration form here: MHST Online Session

The Mental Health Support Teams (MHST) is a partnership between Off the Record (OTR) and CAMHS. MHSTs were established to support schools, helping them develop ways to look after the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CYP) as well as the wider school community including school staff and parents/carers.To find out where we work, check out our webpage:

https://www.awp.nhs.uk/camhs/camhs-services/mh-schools/mental-health-support-team-mhst-2

This leaflet is also available in other languages. Please contact us for more information.

MHST Tools to thrive

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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.

MOBILE PHONES

Mobile phones have become a huge part of young people's everyday lives, but new restrictions on their use in schools and proposed restrictions on social media are changing how children and young people can use them. This guide explores mobile phones, their use by young people, what the evidence tells us, the current and future legal position, and what parents and educators should do.

What are the risks?

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The relationship between smartphone and social media use and young people's mental health is complex, and evidence does not establish a simple cause-and-effect relationship. Some researchers and commentators, however, including Jonathan Haidt, author of The Anxious Generation, argue that increased smartphone and social media use may be contributing to poorer mental health and wellbeing among young people.

LEARNING AND ATTENTION

Mobile phones can distract pupils from learning and make it harder to maintain attention and concentration. Research suggests that learning and attention have improved in schools that already prohibited mobile phone use, particularly among pupils with lower prior attainment. Now that the DfE's guidance on mobile phones is statutory, schools should ensure that the whole-school community understands and follows their policy, while monitoring how effectively it is implemented.

HARMFUL CONTENT AND BULLYING

Mobile phones can be a means of extending peer conflict from the community into schools and from schools back into the community. They also provide easy access to harmful and inappropriate content, including content that is sexually explicit, promotes self-harm or eating disorders, or is violent in nature. Exposure to this content can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing, potentially increasing the support they require from schools, parents, and support services.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Ofcom research found that 13- to 14-year-olds spend an average of 4 hours 19 minutes online each day across smartphones, tablets, and computers. However, there is considerable variation between children, with some spending significantly more or less time online. Excessive screen time can contribute to disrupted sleep and fragmented attention, both of which can negatively affect children's mental health and wellbeing.

The current and upcoming rules

SCHOOL BANS

As of 1 September 2026, schools are expected to be phone-free environments by default, with any exceptions limited to specific circumstances. Schools can decide how best to implement this. For example, some may provide secure storage or collect phones at the beginning of the school day, while others may prohibit pupils from bringing them onto school premises altogether. Schools can also confiscate mobile phones in line with their behaviour policy, while searches for prohibited phones must follow the relevant legal requirements.

REASONABLE ADJUSTMENTS

Schools should make reasonable adjustments where necessary for disabled pupils and may allow exceptions in other circumstances, including where mobile phone use is necessary to support a medical condition or an identified need. For example, a pupil with diabetes may use a continuous glucose monitor linked to their mobile phone to monitor their blood sugar levels. Schools may also make adaptations where mobile phone use provides agreed support for pupils with SEND. Any exceptions should be clearly reflected in the school's policies and procedures.

ONLINE SAFETY ACT 2023 AND 2026 PROPOSALS

Platforms are required to protect children from harmful content and use age checks to prevent children from accessing pornography and certain other types of harmful content. In June 2026, the government announced that it intends to stop social media companies offering services to under-16s. These restrictions are expected to be introduced in spring 2027, but the precise scope and rules have not yet been confirmed.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO?

While there is ongoing debate about the relationship between smartphones, social media and young people's mental health, there are steps that parents and educators can take to help reduce the potential risks associated with their use:

1. Delay smartphones. Consider waiting until a child is 14 before giving them a smartphone. Where a child needs a device to contact family, a basic phone may be an alternative.
2. Delay social media. Consider delaying access to social media until the age of 16.
3. Support phone-free schools. Parents, pupils, and staff should understand and support the school's approach to mobile phones.
4. Encourage screen-free activities. Promote independent and outdoor play, alongside other activities that give children opportunities to socialise and spend time away from screens.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Emmerson OBE, CEO – City of London Academies Trust. With nearly 45 years' experience in inner-city education, including 26 years in senior leadership roles, Mark was an early advocate for tackling the risks of mobile phones in schools, introducing a ban as headteacher in 2000. He has also served as a national DfE adviser and held local authority roles, consistently driving improvements in pupil outcomes and Ofsted judgements, particularly in disadvantaged communities.



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