



Newsletter—Week Ending 21st March 2025

TEAM OF THE WEEK!

This week's Team of the Week are:

P16: Thomas O,

KS4: William, Dom L, Elijah, Cody

KS3: Austin, Ash Class, Pine Class, Kenny, Gethin

Primary: Oliver J, Aden R, Nash, Seb,

Sophie, Jacob



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

Friday 28th March— P16 Dance Festival @ Weston Playhouse

Friday 28th March- PFA Easter Bingo 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Thursday 3rd April - End of Term 4 for pupils

Friday 4th April—INSET DAY—No pupils

Tuesday 22nd April - Start of Term 5



DANCE FESTIVAL

P16 students will be partaking in the *North Somerset Schools Dance Festival* on **Friday 28th March** 7:00pm-9:30pm. They will be performing two dances on the night alongside other schools. The students have been learning the choreography over the past few months and are excited to share their hard work with a live audience.



Tickets can be purchased via The Playhouse website or through the following link: <https://www.parkwoodtheatres.co.uk/playhouse-theatre/whats-on>

We look forward to seeing you there!

WAKE UP WEDNESDAY

Wake up Wednesday is a support network found on Facebook and other platforms, set up for parents/carers, educators full of advice to help us help our young people stay safe.



You can find links to helpful advice, podcasts and other support networks. Different topics are discussed each week with lots of useful information and guidance. <https://www.facebook.com/share/15xYctvmDD/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

SEESAW

As you are aware the school use the Seesaw platform as a form of communication with families. We love sharing the news about the school day and the achievements that pupils are making. We are thankful for this two way communication between home and the classroom.

Please can I ask families to ensure that Seesaw is used **ONLY** for this purpose. If families do have appointments or indeed any worries or concerns, please can you follow the school policies and either contact the office or ask to speak to a Senior Leader, **DO NOT USE** Seesaw.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

A Reminder of the procedures for absence from school.

ON THE DAY ABSENCE:

Call the school office. Please make sure you expand on the reason for absence as this is needed to help keep other students safe and for recording purposes. Please also state a possible return date. If not, then you will need to call each morning of the absence.

Sickness / Diarrhoea—48 hours clear from last bout

High Temperature—24 hours clear without need for medication.

PRIOR / KNOWN ABSENCES (Such as medical / dental / funerals / holidays, etc)

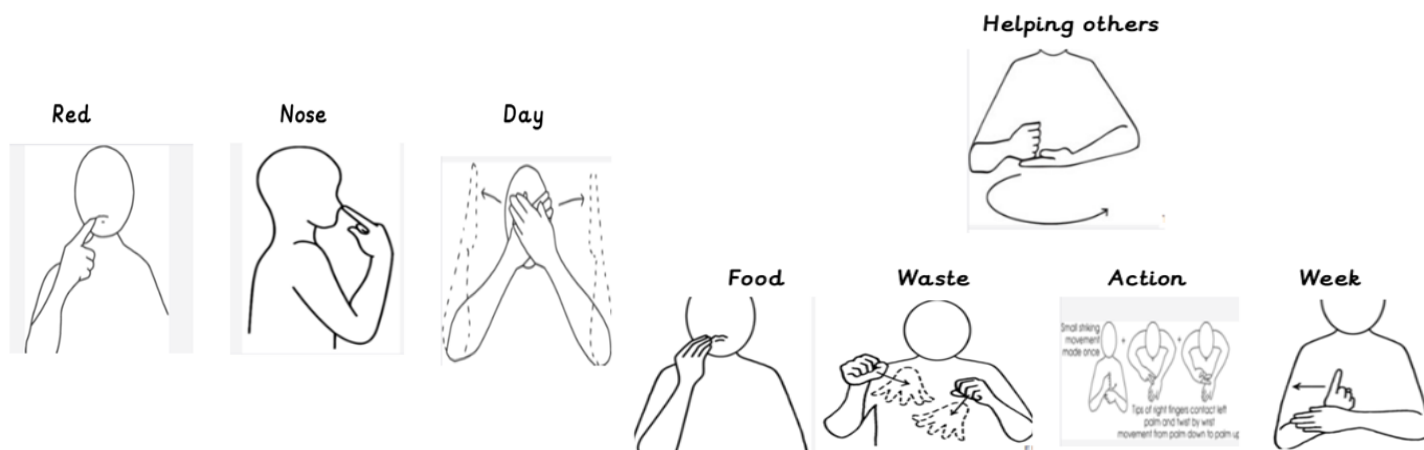
E-mail info@ravenswoodonline.org.uk

Preferably include a copy of the appointment or a screenshot of the notification. If not an appointment but known need for time off—An absence request form must be completed.

Please contact the class as an additional method rather than the only one.



SIGNS OF THE WEEK



ROBIN CLASS NEWS

In Robin class we have been learning about people who help us. We had a visit from the Fire Brigade and learned how to keep safe in a fire. We also enjoyed exploring the uniform and equipment.



SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

On Monday Pine class had a chance to show off their talent in the School Shakespeare Festival at the Redgrave Theatre in Bristol. They have worked extremely hard since September to make their own script, choose music and songs, create costumes, learn lines, become their characters and even fight some huge nerves on the night. The event was a huge success and the Britain's got Talent themed interpretation of Midsummer Night's Dream had the 200 strong audience laughing their socks off. We want to thank every student for their amazing work as well as all of the staff involved who make these events possible. Well done Pine class!





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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRacon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

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RAVENSWOOD SCHOOL

EASTER BINGO

£1 per strip

£1 per book

Come and Join us for our Easter Bingo!

Friday 28th March 2025

6pm till 8.30pm

10 games to be played.

5 games per book.

Every child wins an easter egg.

Prizes to be won every game.

Raffle.

Refreshments.

Pre-booked jacket potatoes also available

Ravenswood School
Pound Lane,
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