



## Newsletter—18th July 2025

### MESSAGE FROM HEADTEACHER

So as another school year comes to an end, I want to say a huge thank you to the pupils, families and staff at Ravenswood School.

Our school is truly a remarkable place filled with incredible individuals whose dedication and enthusiasm make each day a joyous one.

We have had many great successes this year, pupils developing their communication, children gaining qualifications, brilliant offsite trips, outstanding learning in lessons but mostly children having fun.

It is a pleasure to lead this school, I am lucky to be supported by an incredible team who I know are going to enjoy the next few weeks holiday, but will also be really looking forward to welcoming you all back in September.

We are planning a few changes over the holidays; we hope to have a new classroom on site (Puffin class) so we can welcome even more pupils into school. We are planning a new KS2 activity playground and an upgrade to pupils toilets.

We hope that you all have a safe and restful summer.

Can I wish all of our leavers the best of luck for the future and do please stay in touch.

If you have any worries or concerns during the summer, please do not hesitate to contact me.

[msenior@ravenswoodonline.org.uk](mailto:msenior@ravenswoodonline.org.uk)

I will get back to you as soon as I can.

Take care

Mark

### DATES FOR THE DIARY:

**Tuesday 22nd July**—End of Term 6

**Monday 1st September**— last day of holidays

**Tuesday 2nd September**—Inservice Day

**Wednesday 3rd September**—Inservice Day

**Thursday 4th September**—Inservice Day

**Friday 5th September**—Inservice Day

**Monday 8th September**— Start of term 1



**School is still open on  
Monday 21st and  
Tuesday 22nd July**

**Pupils who don't have  
an authorised absence  
must attend school on  
these days**

### STAFF LEAVERS

This year we are sad to say goodbye to a number of staff:



**Polli Bravery**— Assistant Headteacher

**Georgia McNulty**— Family Support Advisor—  
Carla Dymond/ Michelle Flook will be covering this role.

**Lucy Ducker**— Primary teacher

Learning Support Assistants also leaving—

**Sue Hampton**



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### IMPORTANT—CHANGES TO ORDERING & PAYING FOR MEALS

Yesterday letters went home to all parents, in large brown envelopes, informing you of changes to our meal ordering system and payment for these. Please ensure that you have found your letter and sign up to Swift Kitchen as soon as possible. All instructions on how to do this can be found in the pack. Everyone will need to be signed up by September 1st. Meals for the current menu can be pre-ordered all the way up to October half term. If you do leave it until the day, you only have till 09:30am to book a meal before it will close.

### MEAL CHANGES NEXT WEEK IN BOTH KITCHENS.

#### ASPENS MAIN KITCHEN

MONDAY 21ST—Pizza & Wedges

TUESDAY 22ND—Fish & Chips

#### ILES POST 16 KITCHEN

MONDAY 21ST—Spaghetti Bolognaise

TUESDAY 22ND—Fish & Chips

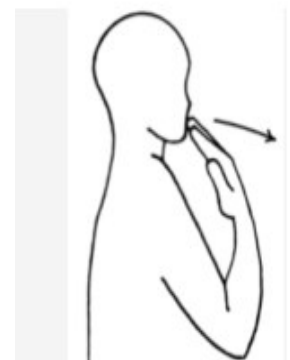
### SIGNS OF THE WEEK—

#### Week 7 - Celebrating Achievements

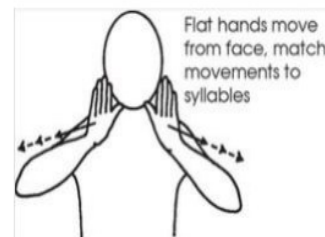
##### Celebrate



Thank You



##### Wonderful



### PARENTPAY DEBTS

Please check your child's ParentPay account and clear any debts that are outstanding. Especially with meals now moving away from ParentPay.

### SECONDARY PUPILS—OUTDOOR EDUCATION CONSENTS FOR 2025-26

Please can you return the Outdoor Education Consent forms for the next academic year. These went out to all pupils in Secondary next year.

**PLEASE RETURN**





## LEAVERS BALL 2025

Last Friday, everybody enjoyed the leavers ball. It was lovely to see everyone all dressed up and having lots of fun. A massive good luck to all of the leavers moving on!



## OUTDOOR EDUCATION NEWS

### ELM CLASS-

Elm class have enjoyed cycling this term - it has been great to be outside to exercise in the nice weather!



### PINE CLASS-

Pine class have been building a dead hedge during Forest School in Outdoor Ed this term. We completed it yesterday and are very proud of the result.







# THANK YOU!

**SPRINGBOARD**  
OPPORTUNITY GROUP

SINCE  
1986

2a Princes Road  
Clevedon  
North Somerset  
BS21 7SZ  
01275 341 113

info@springboardweb.org.uk  
www.springboardweb.org.uk

Dear All at Ravenswood School

Thank you so much for hosting your very first Charity Day in support of Springboard. We are absolutely thrilled and deeply grateful for your kindness, generosity and commitment. We're delighted to hear that everyone had so much fun taking part in all the wonderful activities, and we are truly touched by the incredible £1,078 you raised. Beyond the funds, it means so much to know that you chose to stand alongside us, showing such heartwarming support for our work.

It is especially moving to know that the idea for this day came from one of your students – it speaks volumes about the compassion and community spirit within your school. With many of the young children we support going on to attend Ravenswood, this connection feels all the more meaningful and special to us.

The money raised will make a real difference, helping us continue to provide vital early years support for local children with SEND and their families. As you know, Springboard is a unique charity providing a safe, nurturing space for children with additional needs to learn, grow, and flourish. Many of the children we support face challenges such as learning disabilities, physical difficulties, autism, sensory needs, or complex medical conditions, and for some, their conditions are life-limiting. Through our specialist services, we help these children build essential foundations for lifelong success, while also supporting their families to access the care and services they need.

As you recognise, sadly the gap between statutory funding and the cost of delivering our vital services continues to widen. For the 2024-25 academic year alone, we need to raise a staggering £290,000 to sustain our work. We rely heavily on fundraising initiatives, donations, and grants from charitable trusts to bridge this gap. The unwavering support of our community, including schools like yours, is vital to our success – we simply could not do this without you.

Thank you once again for your incredible generosity, kindness, and support. We are so proud to be connected with Ravenswood and we look forward to continuing this special relationship in the years ahead.



With our warmest thanks,

*Rebecca Bromley*

Fundraising Manager  
And Everyone at Springboard



Reg Charity Number: 1025787  
Company Limited Guarantee 02844191





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](https://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

### 1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose. Instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

### 2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

### 3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

### 4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

### 5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

### 6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

### 7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

### 8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

### 9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

### 10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

### Meet Our Expert

John Insley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>

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