Woodcock Hill Primary School

# NEWSLETTER

**Friday 20th November**




## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

The children certainly had fun on Monday afternoon! I arrived in my best 1960's Christmas party clothes only to be drenched in coloured powder by 200 children! They laughed so much and bubbled over with excitement. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this event helping us to raise £100 for Children in Need.

Next week is the first of our Pantomime trips. **Please make sure you have completed the consent form.** Your child will be extremely unhappy **with you** if they are unable to go to this event. This visit has been wholly funded by INEOS.

On Friday, it is our annual Christmas Fair (Christmas Market); children can be collected from their classrooms between 1.45pm and 2pm. The Christmas Fair will be spread over the two school halls and there will be an outdoor light trail – **The Enchanted Grotto.** Any children not collected by 2pm will be entertained in the Year Five classroom. They should be collected from there at 3.25pm.

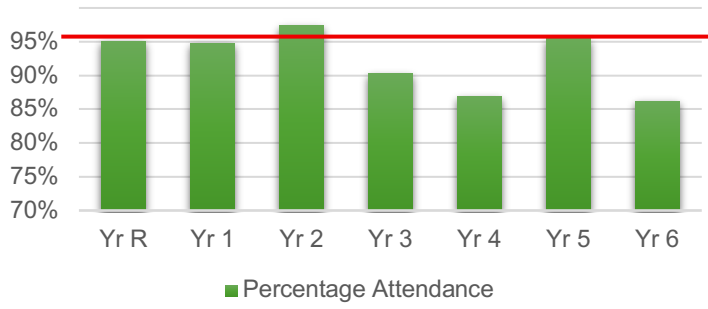
With very best wishes

Mr Higgins



## Attendance

**w/c 9th November 2026**




96% is our **MINIMUM** expectation for attendance.

Did your child's class reach 96% last week?

This year's attendance, to date, is

**92.8%**

**Woodcock Hill Primary School**
Far Wood Road
Birmingham B31 1BS
enquiry@woodcockhillprimaryschool.co.uk
www.woodcockhillprimaryschool.co.uk
**0121 675 4130**

## DIARY

w/c 23rd November Lunch Menu: **Week One**

**Postponed**
~~26th November 2026~~
~~Year Two Parent Workshop~~

**Friday 27th November 2026 –**
2.00pm Christmas Market

**Wednesday 25th November 2026**
**Thursday 26th November 2026**
Enchanted Grotto

**4th December 2026**
PTA: Christmas Discos
EYFS/KS1 **2.30pm – 3.15pm**
KS2 **3.30pm – 4.15pm**

**4th, 11th, & 18th December 2026**
Christmas Jumper Days

**9th December 2026**
School Christmas Lunch

**14th December 2026**
Christingle Service
in school for children

**15th December 2026 – 2.30pm**
Carols on the Playground
led by KS2
PTA: Refreshments

**16th & 17th December 2026 - 9.30am**
KS1 Nativity

**18th December 2026**
Christmas Parties & Disco

# Sickness in School

We are currently seeing a higher number of staff and children with sickness in school. To help reduce the spread of illness, we are increasing our cleaning routines, encouraging regular handwashing, and ensuring good ventilation in classrooms.

Please help us by keeping your child at home if they are genuinely unwell and follow NHS guidance on when they can return to school after sickness.

If your child is absent from school, please expect a home visit from a member of school staff to check whether you and your children need any additional support.

## Stringcredibles Performance

On Friday 27th November we are privileged to have violinists from Birmingham City Council's Music Service in school to perform for our pupils. We are looking forward to an enjoyable event.

# Celebration Assembly

In this week's celebration assembly, we celebrated the achievements of:



**Reception**
Colby and Vanessa

**Year One**
Mohamed and Jaxon

**Year Two**
Theo and Lilly

**Year Three**
Antonia and Gabriella-Genevieve

**Year Four**
Logan and Ailey

**Year Five**
Lola and Leo S

**Year Six**
Salma and Kaiden

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION




Next Friday is our annual Christmas Fair (Market); children can be collected from their classrooms between 1.45pm and 2pm. The 'Christmas Market' will be spread over the two school halls and there will be an outdoor light trail – **The Enchanted Grotto**.

Any children not collected by 2pm will be entertained in the Year Five classroom. They should be collected from there at 3.25pm.

# Children In Need

Thank you for supporting Mr Higgins in raising money for Children in Need. Your donations enabled us to send **£103.00** off to this worthy cause.

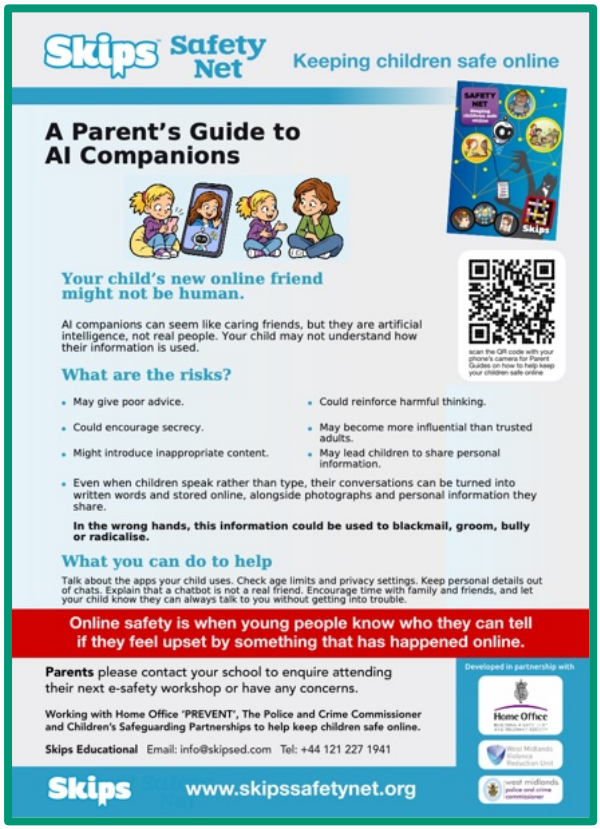


**Our School Values**: *We are respectful, ambitious, creative, inclusive, independent and we persevere.*













**Year Two Parent Workshop**

This event has been postponed until the Spring Term 2027.

**Our School Values**: *We are respectful, ambitious, creative, inclusive, independent and we persevere.*

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.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GRAND THEFT AUTO VI

Grand Theft Auto 6 (also stylised as GTA VI) has been one of the most highly anticipated games of this generation, following GTA V, one of the best-selling video games of all time. Set in the fictional state of Leonida, including Vice City, it follows criminal partners Jason and Lucia as they become embroiled in a wider conspiracy. Although GTA VI is intended for adult audiences, its enormous popularity means that younger people may still encounter gameplay footage online or express an interest in playing it.

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 18

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EXTREMELY VIOLENT CONTENT

GTA VI is rated PEGI 18 for a reason. Players may encounter weapons like guns, knives and explosives, with violence portrayed in highly realistic ways. As in previous GTA games, players may also encounter violence involving vehicles and other characters. The game is categorically not for younger audiences, with blood, gore, and intense violence clearly identified in its official content

### SENSITIVE SOCIETAL TOPICS

Like other games in the Grand Theft Auto franchise, GTA VI uses satire to explore aspects of society and contemporary culture. Its exaggerated characters and situations are fictional and may be intended to challenge or mock particular attitudes rather than endorse them. Younger viewers, however, may struggle to recognise this context and could misunderstand jokes, stereotypes, or social commentary without guidance from a trusted adult.

### TALKING TO STRANGERS ONLINE

GTA Online, the multiplayer experience associated with GTA V, allows players to communicate with others online. GTA VI has been announced as a single-player experience at launch, so the same in-game chat risks should not yet be assumed. Children may still discuss the game through other online platforms potentially encountering strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes.

### DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Throughout GTA VI's storyline, drugs and alcohol form part of the game's criminal world. The official content rating identifies the use of both, while Rockstar's character descriptions reference drug runners and dealers. Earlier titles also showed substance use affecting how characters see and move around the world. Younger viewers may struggle to understand these portrayals in the context of a fictional crime story, particularly without guidance from a trusted adult.

### NUDITY AND SEX

Relationships and sexual themes feature in GTA VI, while previous GTA titles have allowed players to visit strip clubs and solicit sex workers. It should also be recognised that GTA VI's graphics aim to be realistic, meaning depictions of nudity and sexual content may be explicit. Official ratings confirm nudity and strong sexual content, although details of specific scenes should not be assumed from earlier games.

### OPTIONAL IN-GAME PURCHASES

As with its predecessor, GTA VI includes optional in-game purchases that use real-world money. While these purchases are not necessary to play the game, the appeal of additional content may encourage some players to spend more. Younger players may not fully appreciate the cost or how quickly small payments add up.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental controls can block age-restricted games, but they won't remove GTA VI's adult themes from elsewhere online. On PS5, go to Settings > Family and Parental Controls > Family Management, select the child and choose your restrictions. On Xbox Series X|S, use Settings > Account > Family settings, or the Xbox Family Settings app, to manage age restrictions and screen time.

### LIMIT ACCESS TO BANK DETAILS

Limiting access to banking details helps prevent accidental or unauthorised purchases. Avoid storing payment details on a child's account and require approval before spending. On PS5, parents and carers can set a monthly spending limit through Family Management. On Xbox Series X|S, the Ask to Buy feature can request adult approval for purchases, helping children and young people understand their real-world cost.

### COMMUNICATION RESTRICTIONS

On PS5 and Xbox Series X|S, parental controls can restrict voice chat, messages, friend requests, and communication with other players. Parents and carers can limit interactions to approved friends or prevent communication altogether, depending on the available settings. These restrictions are especially helpful for reducing children's exposure to strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes through console chats or other multiplayer games.

### MAKE THIS A CONVERSATION

Even if a child is not playing GTA VI, they may still watch gameplay clips, livestreams or trailers shared by friends and content creators. It's important to talk openly with children about why GTA VI has an adult age rating and discuss its violence, crime, strong language, sexual themes, satirical lens, and other mature content. Ask what interests them about the game and what they already know. Talk about the difference between fictional behaviour and real-world consequences.


### Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 12+ years as a journalist, editor and social media expert. He's travelled the world playing video games and working with publishers and developers to fine tune their audience messaging. When he's not gaming, he can be found watching horror and sci-fi movies, TV series, listening to music or deciding which world marathon to plod around.




See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®




Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 19.11.2026


**Our School Values**: *We are respectful, ambitious, creative, inclusive, independent and we persevere.*