



Newsletter - October 2025

Learning Value Focus: Aspirational

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Autumn Term! It's been wonderful to see the children return to school this term, with such enthusiasm and energy, ready to dive into their learning.

A very warm welcome to all of our families who are new to Wellstead, can you believe that our youngest children have already been in school for 4 weeks? Our Year Rs have settled in so well and are already impressing us with how confidently they've embraced new routines

and the expectations of 'big school'. Well done to them — and thank you to parents for your support during this important transition, it was lovely to see so many of you join us for lunch last week.

Already, classrooms are buzzing with creativity, curiosity, and excellent learning. From exciting new topics to hands-on activities, workshops and trips, everyone has made a fantastic start and we're proud of the effort and engagement they're showing.

I have been particularly impressed with some of the writing that I have seen! It has been a joy to read a variety of stories and reflections — and I've had the pleasure of handing out a good many Headteacher's Awards already this term!

We're also thrilled to share that work on our brand-new playtrail is due to begin this week! This is a really exciting development for our outdoor space, and we know the children will benefit enormously from the opportunities it will bring for active play and exploration. A huge thank you goes to PoW for their incredible hard work and determination in raising nearly £20,000 to make this project a reality — thank you to you if you have attended one of their events, bought ice creams, donuts or raffle tickets!

We're looking forward to a term filled with growth, discovery, and plenty of memorable moments. Thank you for your continued support — together, we make our school a special place to learn and grow.

Best wishes,

Amanda Greenwood

Headteacher

 **Respectful**  **Reflective**  **Aspirational**  **Adaptable**  **Collaborative**  **Independent** 

Harvest

Thank you to everyone who has already sent in donations towards the Hedge End Food Bank for our Harvest celebrations. We will be accepting donations until Thursday 9th October when we will be welcoming Alisdair from the Food Bank who will be coming in to talk to the children in assembly about the important work the Hedge End Foodbank does for our local community. If you are able to donate an item - packet, dried or tinned only please, the following would be gratefully received. Children should take these into class with them, where they will be collected and stored.

If you are keen to support more regularly, Alisdair has suggested that parents and carers download the Bankthefood app and follow The Food Centre, both of which detail on a weekly basis where their gaps of food are.

The foodbank has identified the following items as currently in need:

- Packets of rice
- Tinned soup
- Squash
- Toothpaste
- Tinned cream rice
- Tinned tomatoes
- Crackers
- Toilet roll
- Cereal
- Tinned sweetcorn



Swift Kitchen and the School Office

Thank you for bearing with us as we transitioned over to the new lunch ordering system. We know it's taken a little time to become as smooth and efficient as we'd like it to be and we appreciate your patience and understanding. Please remember that all children having a school lunch **MUST** order on Swift Kitchen, otherwise there is a chance they will have no lunch ordered and Aspens will not have cooked for them. Please let us know if you need any support with loading or using the app.

As you know, we welcomed Mrs Heffernan to the school office team in September and she is doing a fabulous job taking over the reigns from Mrs Jones. We have also successfully recruited a school Finance Officer, who will start with us after half term and will bring the office team back to full capacity. Thanks to Mrs Heffernan, Mrs Sword and Mrs Robson for going over and above to make sure that all of your enquiries are answered in good time (and to Mrs Jones who has been dipping in to help).



Scooters and Bikes

It is really wonderful to see so many children walking, scooting and cycling to school, we love seeing the scooter pods and cycle sheds full as it means that there are less cars on the roads! Just a reminder please that children should come off their scooters and bikes as soon as they are in the gate in the morning and should not be riding in the school grounds. We have quite a few younger siblings around at drop off and there have been a couple of near misses - thank you for your support.

Outstanding payments

As we made the transition over to Swift Kitchen for dinner money payments, we now need to ask you to clear any dinner money (and wraparound) debt that you have accrued on Scopay. Statements will be sent out this week and will be followed up by a courtesy call.

We do realise that some families might be feeling the pinch or have individual circumstances that mean that they cannot pay off large amounts all at once - please contact us to arrange an affordable payment plan. Please note that if payments are not received and we have not heard from you, we may have to pause your account until a payment has been made.

Thank you for your support with this.

INSET Days - a reminder

A reminder of our INSET days for this year:

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Friday 28th November 2025

Friday 13th February 2026

Friday 26th June and Monday 29th June 2026

Next Year's Term dates and INSET days can be found on our website at:

<https://www.wellsteadprimary.co.uk/term-dates-and-inset-days/>

Wraparound Care

We are absolutely thrilled to see so many children attending our wraparound care provision; attending either Breakfast Club or Stay and Play, the sudden increase in popularity for Breakfast Club in particular has taken us a little by surprise! We are working on our staffing in order to meet the demand, however please ensure that you book your places in advance. If we have reached capacity, we will not be able to take your children on the morning and this could result in you being turned away. Booking will close 24 hours before the session to enable us to plan for the following day. Thank you for your support with this.



eSafety - do you know what your child has access to?

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping children safe online, we'd like to remind you to regularly check the parental controls on any devices your child uses. These controls can help manage what content your child can access and ensure their online experience is age-appropriate.

We also encourage you to have regular conversations with your child about what they do online — the games they play, the websites they visit, and the people they interact with. Open and honest discussions can help children feel more confident in coming to you if something doesn't feel right.

We have been made aware that some of our older children are interacting on Discord Servers, there is some useful information for parents on these websites:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/discord/>

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/should-i-let-my-child-use-discord/>

If you'd like support or guidance on setting up parental controls or talking to your child about online safety, please don't hesitate to reach out.



Holiday Sports Clubs

Please remember that any groups or clubs that we signpost on our newsletters are not checked by the school and are therefore included for your information only, not as a recommendation. Please be sure that you make your own checks as to qualifications, quality and safeguarding before you decide to sign up. I have attached a leaflet from the NSPCC that might help you with this.

How safe is your child's sport club?
5 questions you should be asking

1 Have the staff been checked out?
The club should have a safe recruitment process for hiring staff. They should be able to tell you what's involved in this process.

2 Does the club have a safeguarding policy?
Your club should have a policy in place to safeguard children. It should be available for you to read, ideally on their website.

3 What happens if there's an accident?
Ask the club if they have a first aider. They should also have your contact details in case of an emergency.

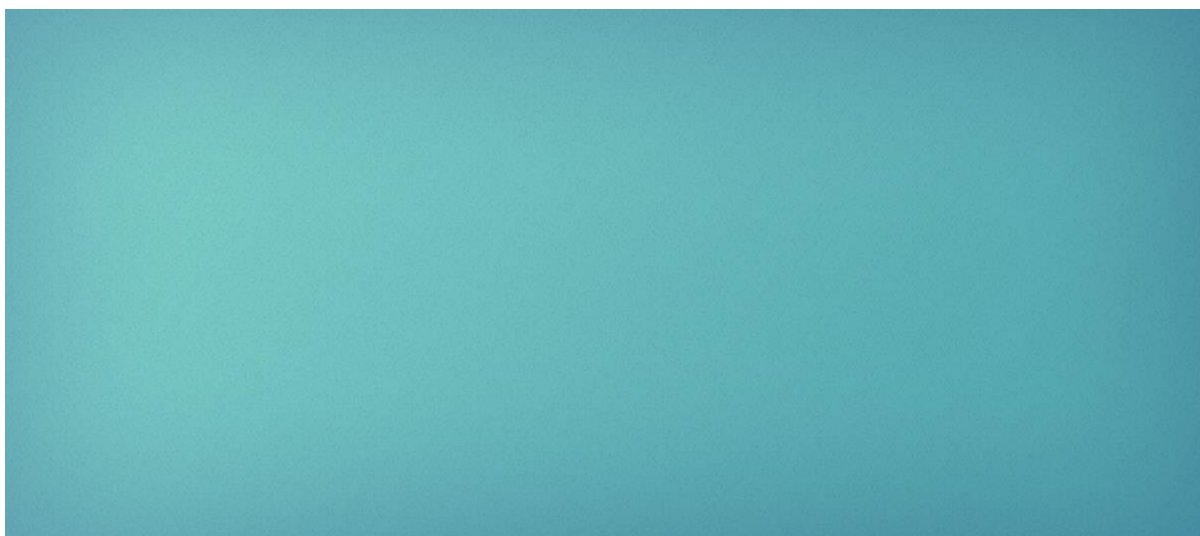
4 Who can you talk to?
All clubs should have a person responsible for safeguarding. They should let you know who they are and how to contact them if you need to.

5 What training is there?
Your club can tell you what level of training their coaches have. Safeguarding training is also available to anyone working with children.

NSPCC
Child Protection
in Sport Unit

For more information on how to keep your child safe in sport, visit the cpsu.org.uk/parents

Dates for your diary



October

6th - 10th October - Harvest

9th October - Y4 Swimming

9th October - Deer Park Open Morning

10th October - Year 1 Phonics Parent workshop 9am

13th October - Wildern open Morning

16th October - Y4 Swimming

21st October - Year R phonics parent workshop 2.45pm

23rd October - Year 5 trip to the Watercress Line

27th - 31st October - Half Term Break

November

5th November - Themed school lunch (Sparkle Spectacular)

19th November - Individual School Photographs

20th November - Come and Share

25th and 27th November - Parents Evening Consultations

28th November - INSET day

Remember to check our website calendar for up-to-date information on school events:

<https://www.wellsteadprimary.co.uk/calendar/>

Next Year's Term dates and INSET days can be found on our website at:

<https://www.wellsteadprimary.co.uk/term-dates-and-inset-days/>



Open Evening & Open Mornings

We are offering tours at Deer Park School on the following dates:

Thursday 2nd October
5.30pm - 7.30pm

Wednesday 24th September
9.45am - 11am

Thursday 9th October
9.45am - 11am

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST
POLITE REMINDER THAT THERE IS **NO ON-SITE PARKING**

Open Evening  Sika Ave, Botley, Southampton SO30 2HT
 deerpark@deerparksecondary.org
 01489 351000 Open Morning

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, wellbeing, and digital change. Access to all guides is available by logging in to the safety, these guides have been written and checked for further guides, tips and links. Please visit [nationalcollege.org.uk](https://www.nationalcollege.org.uk).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can build children and young people's distrust of government, institutions, and the media. This distrust can lead to children and young people making decisions that are not in their best interests, such as not getting vaccinated or not following public health advice.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Use of social algorithms can often recommend content based on what a user has viewed or liked. This can lead to children and young people being pushed into a 'rabbit hole' of conspiracy theories, often without them realising it.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to high-impact conspiracy theories can lead to children and young people feeling anxious, stressed, or fearful. This can be particularly true for young people who are already struggling with mental health issues.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often lead to children and young people being drawn into extremist groups, such as far-right groups, or groups that believe in hate or violence. This can lead to children and young people being exposed to extremist content, including hate speech and violence.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Beliefs in conspiracy theories can lead to children and young people being excluded or bullied at school. Children may struggle to form friendships if they believe in different things, or if they are seen as being part of a 'tribe' or 'group'.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracy theories may have a reduced ability to think critically, assess evidence, and understand the value of facts. This can lead to them being more susceptible to other forms of misinformation.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't think of debates as a competition that children and young people will win or lose. Instead, focus on building their confidence and skills. This will help them to think for themselves and make their own choices.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask questions, challenge what they see, and to look for reliable sources. This will help them to build their resilience to conspiracy theories and other forms of misinformation.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, or Twitch. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information for a variety of reasons related to the young person's own best interests of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Benjamin Dymally is a researcher and digital education specialist with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Learning at The National College, he is responsible for the National College's digital strategy, research, and practice.

Source: <https://www.nationalcollege.org.uk> / <https://www.nationalcollege.org.uk> / <https://www.nationalcollege.org.uk> / <https://www.nationalcollege.org.uk>

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Two categories:
Over 25s & Under 25s

HEDGE END TOWN COUNCIL

2025/26
SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Awards

Nominate that special person who goes above and beyond in Hedge End. They could win a gift voucher of their choice.

Closing Date: 31st January 2026

For more details see www.hedgeend-cc.gov.uk



STARTING SCHOOL IN 2026

If your child is 4 or will turn 4 before 1 September 2026, they can start school in September 2026. For more information go to www.hants.gov.uk/admissions Applications open for Hampshire residents on 1 November 2025

THE NATIONAL CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS THURSDAY 15 JANUARY 2026

DON'T MISS IT!

Hampshire County Council hants.gov.uk

NEW

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

School Nurse Clinic

Who are we?
School Nurses are public health professionals who work with parents, children, and young people to support health and wellbeing needs.

What will be doing?
We are trialling a bookable school nurse clinic once per half term for your school. This will give you the chance to meet face-to-face with a team member to discuss any concerns you may have about your child.

sleep

toileting

healthy lifestyles

emotional wellbeing

Call the Eastleigh School Nurse team on 02382 318752 to book your appointment.



RECRUITING SWIMMERS NOW

IS YOUR SWIMMER READY TO JOIN A WELCOMING COMPETITIVE SWIMMING CLUB?

ARE YOU AN ADULT LOOKING FOR A MASTERS SQUAD?

OUR CLUB PROVIDES INCLUSIVE COACHING FOR COMPETITIVE SWIMMERS, TRIATHLETES, AND CASUAL SWIMMERS.

WE OFFER AVAILABILITY ACROSS VARIOUS SQUADS TAILORED FOR EVERYONE.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- AGE: 6 YEARS AND OLDER
- MUST HAVE ACHIEVED LEARN TO SWIM LEVEL 5



CONTACT US FOR A FREE TRIAL :
MEMBERSHIP.WILDERNWAVES@GMAIL.COM

