



20.12.24

	Hawthorn Community Primary School <i>The Hawthorn Herald</i>	
Head Teacher: Emma Jacox Email: head@hawthorn.pfschools.org.uk	Website: hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk	 @hawthornpri
		Tel: 01536 512204

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've had a wonderful festive week here at Hawthorn!

The Elements!

On Tuesday, we revealed the names of our new houses. The houses have been named after the elements: Fire, Water, Air and Earth! Thank you to everyone who voted for the names! On Monday 6th Jan (first day back) we invite all children to come to school dressed in their

house colours for our launch day! Over the year we will be taking part in a range of activities in our houses and children will have the chance to earn house points for positive behaviours linked to our school values of Community, Teamwork, Resilience, Respect, Thoughtfulness and Creativity. Please talk to your child about which house they are in. We will be sharing the house point totals regularly throughout the year!

KS1 Christingle

Thank you to all the parents who attended our KS1 Christingle Workshop and our Christingle Service this week. It is always the most magical event and a wonderful way to finish off the term. The children performed the Christingle story beautifully, bringing the true spirit of Christmas to life. It was a precious opportunity for us all to take some time out and reflect on the real meaning of Christmas.

Reception Nativity

One of the highlights of this term was seeing Reception perform 'The Wiggly Nativity'! A huge thank you to all the parents and families who attended. The children's beautiful singing, dancing, and boundless energy made the performances very special! With the festive lights twinkling and the children so confident in their roles, it was a moment of Christmas joy! We're very proud of how hard the children worked and how much they shone on stage.

Visit from Santa

Sleigh bells were heard across Hawthorn today as we welcomed Santa to school! The children were thrilled to visit his grotto and share their Christmas wishes! Santa also took some time out to visit the classes with his mischievous Elf, to deliver presents and spread some extra festive cheer!

Carols Around the Tree

At the time of writing, we still have our Carols Around the Tree event to look forward to after school today. Please join us for some old favourites, a performance from the Hawthorn Choir and hot chocolate and mince pies from the Friends of Hawthorn.

On that note, it's time to hang up our tinsel and reflect on what has been a busy but fabulous term. On behalf of the whole Hawthorn team, we want to thank you all for your continued support of our school - your involvement and enthusiasm make all the difference. Thank you also for all of the lovely cards and gifts. We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year (Monday 6th Jan).

Best wishes

Emma Jacox

Head Teacher







Friends of Hawthorn - Rainbow Raffle

Thank you to everyone who bought donations for and entered into the Rainbow Raffle. The raffle has been drawn and the winners contacted. Please come to the school office to collect your prize.

Spring Term Sports Clubs

EcoCoach, our fabulous sports providers, are delighted to share the launch of two fantastic new clubs next term, based on parent feedback. These are:

KS1 Adventure Club



- ***When:*** Wednesdays, starting 8th January 2025
 - ***Time:*** 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
 - ***Year Groups:*** Reception, Year 1 & Year 2
 - ***Focus:*** Fun-filled adventure activities tailored to younger children, blending teamwork, creativity, and active play.
-

KS2 Dance & Gymnastics Club

- ***When:*** Tuesdays, starting 7th January 2025
 - ***Time:*** 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM
 - ***Year Groups:*** Years 3 - 6
 - ***Focus:*** A perfect mix of dance and gymnastics, helping children build confidence, coordination, and a love for movement.
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Key Information

 **Cost per session:** £5 (General Admission) or £3.50 for Pupil Premium.

 **Booking Link:** <https://bookwhen.com/ecocoach>  **Capacity:** Limited to 20 children per session, with 5 spaces reserved for FSM children. If these spots remain unfilled, they will be offered to those on the waiting list.

Parents can book individual sessions or the whole term, and places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

We're excited to offer these engaging opportunities for your children to stay active, develop skills, and have lots of fun next term. Should you have any questions or require assistance, feel free to contact us at greenteam@eco-coach.co.uk.

We can't wait to see your children in the clubs and look forward to a term filled with sports, teamwork, and excitement!



AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS AT HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL



ECOCOACH PE SOLUTIONS are excited to announce the launch of our new after-school sports clubs for KS1 (including Reception class) and KS2 children, offering an engaging and fun-filled opportunity to develop new skills, stay active, and make new friends!

**KS1 ADVENTURE CLUB: STARTS: 8TH JANUARY 2025
(WEDNESDAYS, 6 SESSIONS) YEAR GROUPS: RECEPTION,
YEAR 1 & YEAR 2**

**KS2 DANCE & GYMNASTICS CLUB: STARTS: 7TH
JANUARY 2025 (TUESDAYS, 6 SESSIONS) YEAR GROUPS:
YEARS 3 - 6**

**⌚ TIME: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM 🏠 COST PER SESSION: £5
GENERAL ADMISSION £3.50 FOR FSM CHILDREN
(MUST BE VERIFIED BY SCHOOL).**

**HOW TO BOOK: PARENTS CAN CHOOSE TO BOOK
INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS OR THE WHOLE TERM.**

**THE MAXIMUM CAPACITY IS 20 CHILDREN PER SESSION, AND
5 SPOTS ARE RESERVED FOR FSM CHILDREN.**

IF THESE SPOTS ARE NOT FILLED, THOSE ON THE WAITING LIST WILL BE OFFERED PLACES. IF THERE'S HIGH DEMAND, WE WILL CONSIDER ADDING AN ADDITIONAL COACH TO ACCOMMODATE MORE CHILDREN. BOOKINGS ARE FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED, AND ONLINE PAYMENT ONLY.

BOOKING LINK: [HTTPS://BOOKWHEN.COM/ECOCOACH](https://bookwhen.com/ecocoach)

**WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO A FANTASTIC TERM OF SPORTS, TEAMWORK,
AND FUN! HURRY AND SECURE YOUR SPOT NOW! FOR ANY INQUIRIES,
PLEASE CONTACT GREENTEAM@ECO-COACH.CO.UK**

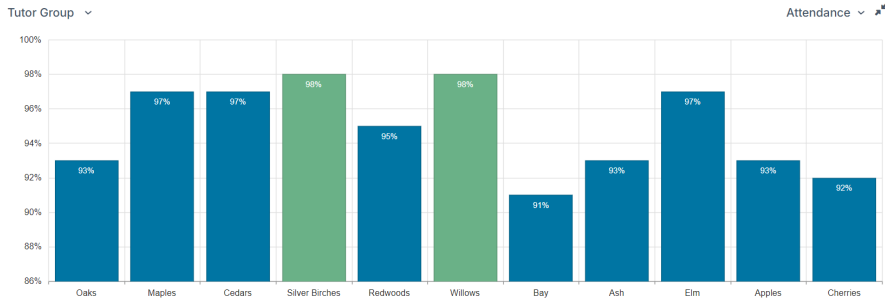


**LET'S KEEP
ACTIVE AND
HAVE SOME FUN
THIS TERM!**

**FSM DISCOUNT BOOKING STEPS:
CONFIRM ELIGIBILITY: CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL TO CONFIRM YOUR
CHILD'S FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM) STATUS.
GET DISCOUNT CODE: FORWARD THE CONFIRMATION TO
GREENTEAM@ECO-UKCOACH.CO.UK TO RECEIVE YOUR FSM CODE.
BOOK WITH DISCOUNT: USE THE FSM CODE AT CHECKOUT TO PAY £3.50**

Reception Intake 2025

You have until January 15th to apply for a primary school place if your child will be of school age next September. You can apply for a primary school place on [Apply for a primary school place | North Northamptonshire Council \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](#) We would be delighted if you consider Hawthorn for the start of your child's education. We will be holding two final school tours after the Christmas holidays. Please ring the office on 01536 512204 to book your place on one of our tours. The dates of the tours are at the end of this newsletter.



10 Tips for Safety On Social Media

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.

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 screen time; 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 screen time can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when media is 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 screen time, 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 screen time 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 screen time 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 screen time 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 Inley 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.

[Source: See full reference list on guide page at https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media)

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For information on talking with child about social media, please click on the following link which will take you to the Internet Matters website: [Internet Matters: Talking with your child about social media](#)

Internet Matters also offer The Family Digital Toolkit where parents can get personalised online safety advice based on a number of factors such as age, popular apps and platforms their children use, tackling online issues and more. [My Family's Digital Toolkit - tailored online safety advice | Internet Matters](#)

Join the Hawthorn School Lottery!

Some years ago, the Friends of Hawthorn set up a school lottery for Hawthorn, through Your School Lottery.

Your School Lottery creates and runs lotteries for schools across the UK. The lotteries raise money through local communities to improve educational facilities and the school environment for thousands of pupils.

There are great prizes to be had, tickets only cost £1 each and apparently there's a high chance of winning! Even better, proceeds go towards improving our school for our Hawthorn children.

If you have not yet signed up the The School Lottery, you can do so, following the link below:

[Your School Lottery: Easy online fundraising for schools & PTAs - Your School Lottery](#)

Community News & Events

Please follow the link below to the school website to find information on events happening in Kettering and surrounding areas:

[Hawthorn Primary - Community News and Events \(hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk\)](#)



**ST. MICHAEL
& ALL ANGELS**
GARFIELD STREET NN156BU



PASS-THE-PARCEL

NATIVITY

SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER



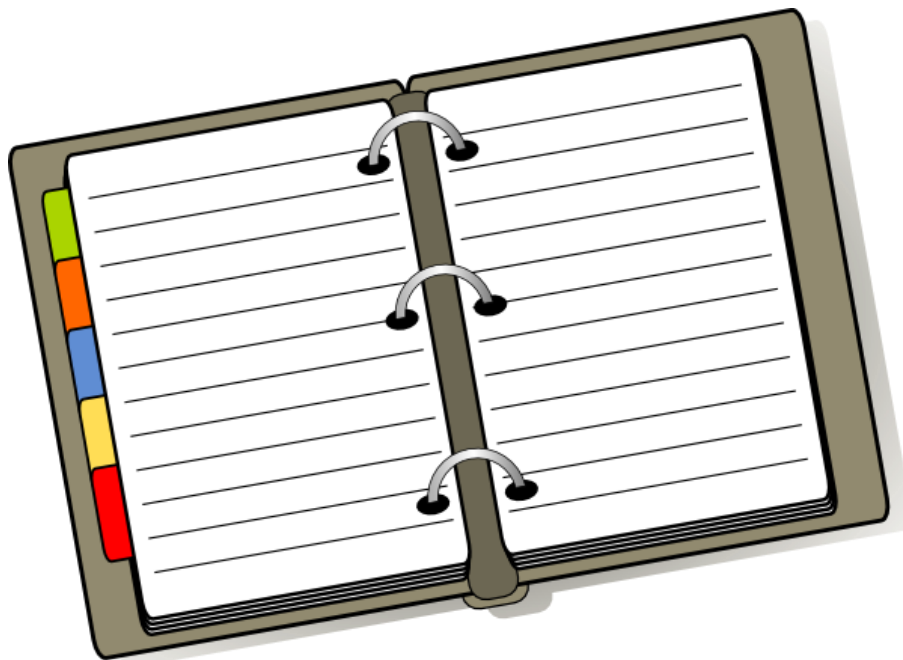
**COME ALONG
DRESSED AS
A NATIVITY CHARACTER**

3.30PM

**WHO WILL YOU BE ...
MARY?
SHEPHERD?
DONKEY?
ANGEL?
SHEEP?**



Dates For Your Diary...



Fri 20th Dec: Rainbow Raffle Day

Santa's Grotto open

Carols Around the Tree, FoH providing hot chocolate and mince pies (3pm)

Break Up

Mon 6th Jan: Back to School

House Launch Day - wear House colours

Tues 7th Jan: Reception 2025 - Parent Tour 4 pm

Thurs 9th Jan: Super Scientist Club starts

Fri 10th Jan: Y4 at Southfields for a Literacy Day

Mon 13th Jan: Reception 2025 - Parent Tour 4 pm

Thurs 23rd Jan: Coffee Afternoon (2pm)
