



03.10.25

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

Dear Parents and Carers,

Staffing Update

We're sad to share that we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Dickens at half term. Mrs Dickens began her teaching career at Hawthorn and has been here for 20 years as a valued part of our school team. She is now combining her love of the outdoors with her love of teaching, moving on to work at an outdoor nursery. Thank you Mrs Dickens for all your work here at Hawthorn, you will be very missed.

Mrs Dickens will be replaced by Mrs Kimberley Reynolds, an experienced Early Years Teacher. Mrs Reynolds will be in school on Thursday (9th) to meet the children and will also be on the playground at home-time.

Toast & Tales

This week, Year 2 will be hosting Toast & Tales on Tuesday (7th) and Year 1 on Weds (8th Oct). We look forward to seeing the parents who have signed up for this event which takes place at 8.20am in the hall for breakfast and a book.

Harvest Festival

Thank you for all the generous donations of Harvest produce we received today. Unfortunately our Harvest Festival was cancelled due to the bad weather, but all of the classes will be posting their harvest song on Dojo.

The majority of our harvest produce has now gone to Homestart Kettering which supports parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, illness or disability. Our Hawthorn ambassadors will also be out and about on Monday, gifting Harvest Hampers to those in need in our local area.

If you would like to nominate someone to receive a Harvest Hamper, please use the following link by 9 am on Monday:

[Nomination for Harvest Box](#)

Parents Evenings – Tuesday 7th October and Thursday 9th October

Next week, we will be holding our first parents of the academic year. We encourage all parents to attend as this is an opportunity to discuss how your child is progressing with their teacher. Appointments can be booked online via MCAS under “Parents Evening”. This allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers.

Bookings will close on Monday (6th) at 4pm for Tuesday bookings and Wednesday (8th) at 4 pm for Thursday bookings. Should you wish to make any changes after this please contact the school office.

Mrs Martin, Inclusion Leader, will also be available on both evenings. If you would like to make an appointment to see her please telephone the office and we can arrange this for you

School Photos

On Thursday, Tempest Photography will be in school to take individual and sibling photographs. Please ensure that your child is in full school uniform including their jumper or cardigan. If your child has PE (or swimming) on a Thursday, please send them in in their uniform and they should bring their PE kit to change into. If you would like a photograph taken of your child with pre-school sibling(s) please come to the school office at 8.30 am. Tempest will email parents with a proof and orders should be placed online. There is no obligation for you to buy a photograph.

World Mental Health Day - Hello Yellow

Next Friday (10th) is World Mental Health Day. We are inviting children to come dressed in yellow (or wear your brightest colours) to raise funds for this worthy cause. If you would like to donate, you will be able to do so via the MCAS store.

During the afternoon, Miss Larkin, our Family Support Worker, will be holding a WMHD crafts afternoon for you and your child (Year 1 upwards), starting at 2.15 pm. Places are limited. If you would like to attend please book using the link below.

[*World Mental Health Day Crafts with your Child*](#)

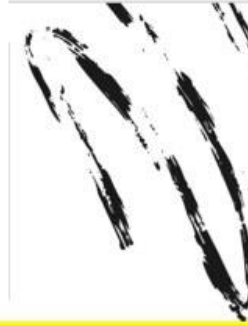
Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Emma Jacox

Head Teacher

Message for parents



Dear Parents and Carers,

Our school will be taking part in **Hello Yellow** on **Friday 10th October** (World Mental Health Day) to raise awareness and funds for YoungMinds, the UK's leading charity for young people's mental health.

No young person should feel alone with their mental health and that's why **Hello Yellow** matters. We're taking this opportunity as a school community to come together and show our students that we're with them and they're never alone with their mental health.

We'll be taking part by asking children to come to school in Mufti – wear something yellow or wear your brightest colours – clothing, accessories etc. Let's look really colourful for a day !

You can also donate to support our school's fundraising by donating £1 on MCAS in the Store.

Most importantly, we want to share the resources which YoungMinds offer to support parents and carers if you ever need help and advice to support your children.


This includes:

- online resources (www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/)
- a phone line, open 9.30am-4pm (0808 802 5544)
- an online chat for parents and carers to speak to trained professionals if you're concerned about your children's mental health (www.youngminds.org.uk/parents-helpline/)

#HelloYellow **M&S | YOUNGMINDS**
YoungMinds registered Charity in England 2076660 and Scotland 00208700

Friends of Hawthorn - AGM

*Thursday 16th October | 7pm | Kino (hopefully upstairs)**

Please join us in a couple of weeks for our Annual Meeting. We will be talking about events for the year, electing our committee for 2025/26 and having a relaxed catch up. It's a lovely way to meet other parents and volunteer to support the school 

There is absolutely no obligation to take on a committee role, but if you would consider this at any point, please come along to find out more. A few of our long-standing volunteers are coming to the end of their child's time at Hawthorn which means we desperately need some new faces and volunteers. We can potentially organise shared roles or shadowing. None of the roles (even the Chair!) needs to be a big time commitment and the more of us there are the better!

Hawthorn would not be the same without our events & fundraising efforts 

To register your attendance or if you have any questions, please email me on friendsofhawthornkettering@gmail.com. I am very happy to chat!

~ FoH Chair: Polly Shackleton

Sports Clubs

Clubs running this term include:

- KS2 Dodgeball Club: Tuesdays, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM.*
- Reception & KS1 Obstacle Course: Wednesdays, 3:30 PM – 4:30 PM.*

If you would like your child to be part of these clubs, you can book a place directly on [EcoCoach Booking](#). Spaces are available at £5 per session, 15% off for children eligible for Pupil Premium.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, please forward confirmation to greenoffice@eco-coach.co.uk and use the code at check-out.



AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS AT HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL



ECOCOACH CIC 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!

**KS2 DODGEBALL: STARTS: 9TH SEPTEMBER 2025
(TUESDAYS, 6 SESSIONS) YEAR GROUPS: YEARS 3 - 6**

**KS1 OBSTACLE COURSE: STARTS: 3RD SEPTEMBER 2025
(WEDNESDAYS, 7 SESSIONS) YEAR GROUPS: RECEPTION, YEAR 1 &
YEAR 2**

**⌚ TIME: 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM 🏠 COST PER SESSION: £5 GENERAL
ADMISSION & 15% OFF 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)

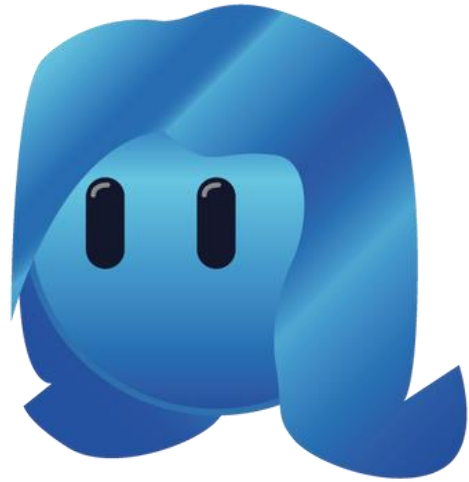


To get 15% off, confirm your child's FSM status with the school, email proof to greenoffice@eco-coach.co.uk, and use the code at checkout.

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



House Points so far...



Click on the cards below to see which house is in the lead so far!!

Earth - 185 points

Air - 196 points

Fire - 197 points

Water - 245 points

Redwoods: 94%

Cherries: 94%

Maples: 93%

Online Safety: What Parents and Carers Need to Know About EA Sports FC 26

At The National College, our [Wake Up Wednesday](#) 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. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EA SPORTS FC 26

Our guide looks at the risks surrounding EA Sports FC 26 and our top tips to minimise them. This marks the third year since EA left the FIFA licence, and the game is mostly unchanged from last year. While Kick-Off mode is great for playing with friends and Career Mode allows players to fulfil long-term ambitions as a manager or player, Ultimate Team remains the main draw for many players – and it can get out of hand in terms of how much money players can invest.

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 3

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AN ANNUAL RELEASE SCHEDULE

As with the case with the last two EA Sports FC games and the FIFA series before it, the franchise rolls out once a year with updated squads and new features. This can make it expensive to keep up with, particularly when so many real-world players are keen to get their hands on the latest edition.

VOICE CHAT

Voice chat can be enabled across all platforms, meaning young people can speak to anyone they wish with or without it, while it can be switched off, some children will no doubt want to speak to their friends while they play. This also means they may encounter language much older than them, which can expose them to inappropriate language or behaviours.

IN-GAME PURCHASES THROUGH ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is the big draw for EA Sports FC, letting players spend real money on packs that they can open to build a squad of the world's best players. They're not always easy to obtain, and new, improved versions of players will be regularly added on limited-time offerings. Young people could feel pressured into spending money and experience fear of missing out.

SCAMMERS IN ULTIMATE TEAM

Ultimate Team is managed by EA itself, but their recent changes to how packs are distributed to those players led to many and to game cards. Some scammers use their accounts, which is a violation of EA's terms of service, while others will 'sell' coins – something the developer is still working to crack down on. Some try to gain access to others' accounts, potentially giving them access to payment information.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

While EA Sports FC is generally considered to be less addictive than other games, the real-world skill and glamour of football, Ultimate Team's focus on limited-time rewards and the ability of opening packs can make it feel closer to gambling than gaming, which may lead to addiction and excessive spending of money.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PREPARE FOR ANOTHER GAME IN A YEAR

The annual release schedule aligns with the return of the school year, and can be a great way to encourage good behaviour at the start of term. If children are enjoying themselves and preparing for a new year of school, or were particularly well behaved in the summer, EA Sports FC 26 could make a great reward.

LIMIT SPENDING

If you're worried about children occasionally spending real money in Ultimate Team, whether in game or on the EA Sports FC companion app, don't take a payment card to their account. Receiving funds can be a mouthful to think, and the disorganised list of opening busy packs with adult credit cards means you can't track it as easily. It's also worth setting a prepaid card if you prefer them to make their own choices with their budget.

MONITOR VOICE CHAT

As in-game chat is open, it's best to adjust the settings in EA Sports FC 26 to lock it down. If children want to chat with their friends while they play, consider setting up a safe space for them to talk, to allow them to play without fear of outsiders.

BE VIGILANT

As with last year, there are ways to keep scammers at bay. Ensure passwords are locked down, and consider using a password manager application to keep them secure. EA will never contact players through the game itself, so be vigilant with incoming messages, and block and report suspected spammers. EA will contact players by email if needed, but they will never ask for passwords or payments. Players should also avoid buying in-game currency from unofficial websites – doing so can lead to accounts being banned and could cost players' money in the process.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new titles, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including iM, TechAdvisor, and Penny Pinch.

Wake Up Wednesday The National College

Source: <https://www.thenationalcollege.com/wake-up-wednesday-2026>

www.thenationalcollege.com @wake_up_weds @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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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](#)

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 \(hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk\)](#)



A Message from Wicksteed Park...

There's lots to do at Wicksteed Park this October!

We are open for October Weekends on the 11th, 12th, 18th, and 19th of October, and for Halloween half-term daily from the 25th of October to the 2nd of November 2025. Come along from 10:30am to 4pm each day for frightfully good fun the whole family will enjoy!

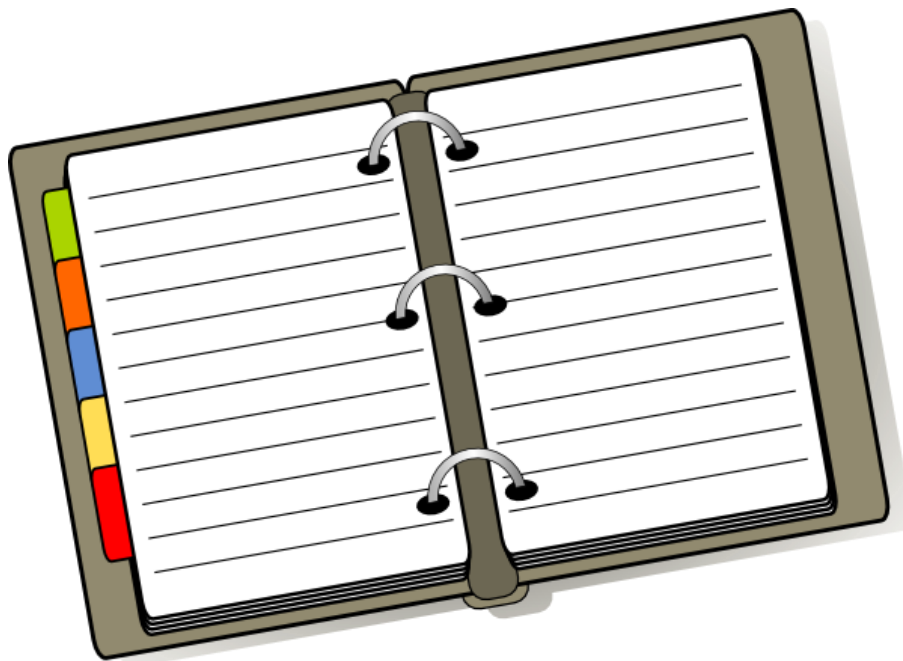
Halloween Haunt is returning to Wicksteed Park for October weekends and half-term with Halloween House creating a hauntingly exciting Chapter 2! There will be two fantastic family

friendly spooky walkthroughs to explore with brand new elements that will possess you with Halloween spirit.

**Attractions open are Halloween Haunt Chapter 2, Astroslide, Treetop Walk, Rockin' Tug, Clown Coaster, Meerkat Manor, Wicky's Farmyard, Pig 'N' Putt, Roundabout, Cups and Saucers, Lighthouse, Carousel, Sway Rider, and Wicksteed Park Railway.*

Book online today! <https://wicksteedpark.org/events/halloween-half-term-and-weekends/>

Dates For Your Diary...



Mon 6th Oct: Whole school flu vaccinations

Tues 7th Oct: Toast & Tales (Y2)

Parents' Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

Thurs 9th Oct: School photos

Parents' Evening (3.30-6.30pm)

Fri 10th Oct: World Mental Health Day - HELLO YELLOW (see separate communication)

WMHD Coffee and Crafts with your child (2.15 pm)

Tue 14th Oct: Toast & Tales (EYFS)

New Reception Intake 2026 Tour (4pm)

Thurs 16th Oct: Wonderdome in for UKS2

KS2 Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Y6 Cake Sale (3.10pm)

New Reception Intake 2026 Tour (4pm)

Fri 17th Oct: KS1 & EYFS Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Break Up

********HALF TERM********

Mon 3rd Nov: Back to School

Fri 28th Nov: Y5 Cake Sale

Tues 2nd Dec: KS1 & EYFS Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Thurs 4th Dec: KS2 Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Thurs 18th Dec: Kingswood Christmas Lunch

Fri 19th Dec: Carols Around the Tree

Break Up

**Dates for Christmas events to be confirmed*



ANCHORED SCHOOLS



GOLD AWARD