



11.9.26



Hawthorn Community Primary School

The Hawthorn Herald

Website: hawthornprimarykettering.co.uk

Head Teacher: Emma Jacox
Email: head@hawthorn-slt.co.uk

Instagram & Facebook: [hawthornpri](https://www.instagram.com/hawthornpri)



Dear Parents and Carers,

First Week Back

We've had a brilliant week at Hawthorn, the children have very quickly got back into the school routine.

Toast & Tales

Toast and Tales will be held this week for Year 6 (Tues) and Year 5 (Weds). Please come along and enjoy a book and light breakfast with your children, 8.20am in the hall.

Phonics workshop

On Wednesday (16th) we will be holding a Phonics workshop for new Reception parents. Come along and see how we teach your children to read. The session will start at 2.45pm and will be led by Miss Morris. Please enter via the Hawthorn Road gate.

Please let us know that you will be coming by filling in the form:

[Phonics Workshop](#)

Reception Intake 2027

Applications have now opened for children who 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 \(northnorthants.gov.uk\)](https://www.northnorthants.gov.uk) We would be delighted if you consider Hawthorn for the start of your child's education. We have several school tours taking place throughout this term. Please ring the office on 01536 512204 to book your place on one of our tours.

Cake and a Chat

We are pleased to invite you to our first parent and child events of the year. Join us after school for cake, refreshments, and the chance to meet other families and members of our school community.

EYFS Cake and Chat Thursday 17th September 3.30-4.30pm

Whole school Cake and Chat Friday 18th September 3.30-4.30pm

Please book your place via ParentPay, where you can also make a voluntary donation. All funds raised will support future parent and child events. Please note: If you have a child in both EYFS and KS1/KS2, please book one session only and choose your preferred time. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sponsored Bounce!

Our whole school Sponsored Bounce will be held on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th September, to raise money for school funds. You will have received a letter on Reach More Parents about this, along with a sponsorship form. Please support your child to complete this and return all sponsorship forms and money on Monday 21st September, following the bounce. All sponsorship money will need to be in cash. All the monies raised from this year's bounce will go towards the celebration events held at Hawthorn: Toast and Tales, Celebration Assembly Afternoon Teas and book prizes for the reading raffle, etc.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Emma Jacox



Meet the Hawthorn Safeguarding Team

*Here at Hawthorn, safeguarding children is our number one priority. We have specially trained staff who work to ensure we keep your children safe, whilst offering support to families in need. If you have a concern about the welfare of a child, please speak to any of the staff below. Alternatively, please contact the Local Authority's MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) on **0300 126 7000**. You can also do this anonymously.*

If you believe a child to be in immediate danger please contact 999.



1 - Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Emma Jacox



2 - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Frances Martin (Inclusion Lead)



3 - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Jayne Tinto (Deputy Head)



4 - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Miss Siobian Larkin (Family Support Worker)



5 - Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Janice O'Key (Out of Schools Club Lead)

We are lucky to have our own Family Support Worker Miss Larkin here at Hawthorn. Miss Larkin can support both children and parents with issues such as behaviour, mental health, sleeping, toileting, finance and housing as well as offering a listening ear in times of crisis. If you need help at any point in your child's time here, please contact Miss Larkin on 01536 512204 or email slarkin@hawthorn.pfschools.org.uk. Please don't suffer in silence.

Autumn Term Clubs

Please see below for details of how to book onto our Autumn Term clubs with EcoCoach.


ECO COACH
CIC

STARTING 4TH SEPTEMBER 2026

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

AT HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL



★
DEVELOP
NEW SKILLS,
STAY ACTIVE &
MAKE NEW
FRIENDS!


Ofsted
REGISTERED


SAFE
A safe and welcoming environment


ACTIVE
Fun, engaging activities every week


SUPPORTIVE
Caring staff who know your children

FOR KS1 (INCLUDING RECEPTION) AND KS2 CHILDREN

FUN. FITNESS. FRIENDS. EVERY CHILD. EVERY TIME.

WEDNESDAYS


KS1 DANCE CLUB

STARTS 9TH SEPTEMBER 2026
WEDNESDAYS, 6 SESSIONS

YEAR GROUPS:
RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & YEAR 2

FRIDAYS


KS2 TAG CLUB

STARTS 4TH SEPTEMBER 2026
FRIDAYS, 7 SESSIONS

YEAR GROUPS:
YEARS 3 – 6


TIME:
3:30PM – 4:30PM


COST PER SESSION:
£5.50

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE
WE'RE COMMITTED TO MAKING
CHILDCARE MORE AFFORDABLE:


15% OFF FOR FAMILIES
WITH CHILDREN ON
FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)


10% OFF FOR NHS,
MILITARY, OR BLUE
LIGHT CARD HOLDERS

TO CLAIM YOUR DISCOUNT:
 EMAIL GREENOFFICE@ECO-COACH.CO.UK
 WITH A PHOTO OF YOUR EVIDENCE
 (FSM ELIGIBILITY OR VALID ID).
 WE'LL SEND YOU A UNIQUE
 DISCOUNT CODE TO USE WHEN BOOKING.

HOW TO BOOK

- ✓ PARENTS CAN CHOOSE TO BOOK INDIVIDUAL SESSIONS OR THE WHOLE TERM.
- ✓ THERE ARE PLACES RESERVED FOR FSM CHILDREN.
- ✓ IF THESE PLACES 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.

BOOK HERE



[HTTPS://PBBL.UK/ECOCOACHCIC](https://pbbl.uk/ecocoachcic)

 SECURE BOOKING
 ONLINE PAYMENT ONLY


**WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO A FANTASTIC TERM OF
SPORTS, TEAMWORK, AND FUN! HURRY AND SECURE YOUR PLACE NOW!**

October Holiday Club

Bookings for our October Holiday Club, run by EcoCoach, are now open.

The club will run from Mon 26th - Friday 30th October.

See the flyer below to make a booking.



ECOCOACH
CIC

ACTIVE CHILDREN
BRIGHTER
FUTURES

OCTOBER HALF-TERM CAMP

HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL

PLAY • EXPLORE • CREATE • BELONG

MOVE. MAKE. PLAY. REPEAT.

MAKE FRIENDS

BUILD CONFIDENCE

STAY ACTIVE

HAVE FUN!

Five days of sport, creativity, games and the freedom to choose what you enjoy.

GAMES & SPORTS

NERF BATTLES

LASER TAG

UV GAMES

HALLOWEEN-THEMED ACTIVITIES

ARTS & CRAFTS

MOVEMENT & DANCE

FREE PLAY & MORE

WHEN
MONDAY 26TH – FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

TIMES
9:00AM – 3:00PM
LATE COLLECTION UNTIL 4:00PM

WHERE
HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHO
AGES 4 – 11

OFSTED REGISTERED
Safe, high-quality childcare you can trust.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT

Get 17% off all bookings made by 1st October 2026!

Use code: **EC017**

PAYMENT OPTIONS

Card payments accepted

Child Tax Free Account (CTF)

We support claims from Universal Credit

We accept childcare vouchers

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY

pbbl.uk/EcoCoach

Late collection can be added during booking.

LIMITED SPACES BOOK EARLY!

#EveryChildPlays

**MORE THAN A CAMP.
A BRIGHTER HALF TERM.**

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!



Ash, Cedars and Cherries share the top spot this week! Well done!

Ash: 98%

Cedars: 98%

Cherries: 98%

Apples: 97%

Redwoods: 97%

Oaks: 97%

Willows: 95%

Silver Birches: 95%

Maples: 94%

Elm: 93%

Bay: 91%

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About...Character.AI

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 CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Cohen is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [insert NC courses I have written].

See full reference list on our website

[WakeUpWednesday](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com) The National College

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com) [/www.thenationalcollege](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com) [@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com) [@wake.up.weds](https://www.wakeupwednesday.com)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2026

Online Safety and Scams

Please see the link below for September's Online Safety video from Knowsley Council:

[Back to School](#)

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](#)

Join our School Lottery



YOUR
SCHOOL
LOTTERY



JOIN OUR LOTTERY



BOOST SCHOOL FUNDS



WIN CASH PRIZES



It's As Easy As



- Tickets cost just £1 a week
- The easy way to help us raise funds
- Local cash prizes every week
- Chance to win the £25k jackpot



Scan to play!

To start supporting, visit:

yourschoollottery.co.uk

and search for: **Hawthorn Community**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older

Community News & Events

REPAIR CAFE Kettering

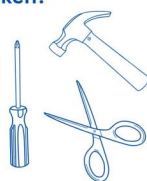


BIN IT? NO WAY!

KETTERING'S GOT A REPAIR CAFÉ!

Got something broken? Bring your:

Kitchen knives
Textiles & clothing
Small appliances
Well-loved toys
Bicycles
Electronics
Jewellery
and more!



For a voluntary contribution, our volunteers will help fix your items while teaching you valuable repair skills. Let's reduce waste, save money and extend the life of our favourite things!

Refreshments and cakes available in our café while you wait.



WHEN?

2026 DATES

Feb 21 | May 16

Sep 19 | Nov 28

10am-1pm

WHERE?

ST MICHAEL'S
CHURCH
33 GARFIELD ST
KETTERING
NN15 6BU

Do I need to book?

No, just turn up with your item.



If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, contact repaircafekettering@gmail.com

COMMUNITY CREATIVITY CONNECTION

FREE ENTRY

Analogue Afternoons

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

1PM - 4PM

**SUNDAYS
9TH AUGUST
& 13TH SEPT**

**BRING YOUR HOBBIES
TAKE PART IN CREATIVE
COMMUNITY PROJECTS**

**ENJOY TIME AWAY
FROM SCREENS
OUTSIDE IN NATURE**

**AT THE GREEN PATCH
VALLEY WALK, KETTERING
NN16 0LU**

Green Patch Community Garden

Messy Mayhem Creative Play

Wednesday afternoons, 1-2pm

St Michael's Church, Garfield Street

£6 per child

Suitable for children from when they can sit!

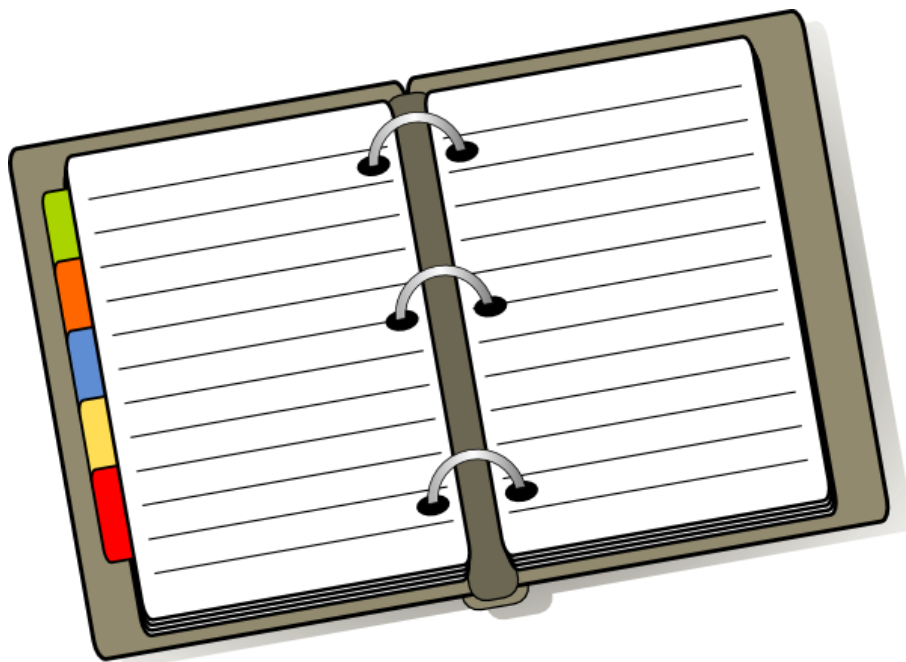
Come and spend some time with your little one exploring different textures, sights, sounds and smells.

For more info contact Linda at MessyMayhemCP@outlook.com

Hawthorn Road Pharmacy

A new Sage Pharmacy has now opened in Hawthorn Road, near the Butchers. The team look forward to supporting parents and children with their health care needs.

Dates For Your Diary...



Tues 15th Sept: Y6 Toast & Tales (8.20am)

Weds 16th Sept: Y5 Toast & Tales (8.20am)

Reading Workshop for new Reception parents (2.45pm)

Thurs 17th Sept: Sponsored Bounce Day 1

Reception parents Cake & Chat Fundraiser (3.30-4.30pm)

Fri 18th Sept: Sponsored Bounce Day 2

Parent Cake & Chat Fundraiser in hall - whole school (3.30-4.30pm)

Mon 21st Sept: All sponsored bounce forms and money to be returned to school

Little Hawthorns (2-3pm)

Tues 22nd Sept: Y4 Toast & Tales (8.20am)

Weds 23rd Sept: Y3 Toast & Tales (8.20am)

Thurs 24th Sept: New Parent Intake Tour - Reception 2027 (4pm)

Fri 25th Sept: Maths Workshop for new Reception parents (2.45pm)

Tues 29th Sept: Y2 Toast & Tales (8.20am)

New Parent Intake Tour - Reception 2027 (4pm)

Weds 30th Sept: Y1 Toast & Tales

Thurs 1st Oct: National Poetry Day

National Holocaust Centre in for Y5 & 6

Fri 2nd Oct: Harvest Festival (2.30pm)

Tues 6th Oct: Parents Evening - starting at 3.30pm

Weds 7th Oct: Whole-school flu vaccinations

Thurs 8th Oct: Parents Evening - starting at 3.30pm

Mon 12th Oct: Little Hawthorns (2-3pm)

Tues 13th Oct: School Photos

New Parent Intake Tour - Reception 2027 (4pm)

Thurs 15th Oct: KS2 Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Y6 Cake Sale (3.10pm)

New Parent Intake Tour - Reception 2027 (4pm)

Fri 16th Oct: EYFS/KS1 Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Break Up

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



ANCHORED SCHOOLS



GOLD AWARD