



16.10.26



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,

Pumpkin House Challenge

Our Pumpkin Challenge has launched! Children are invited to decorate pictures of pumpkins, making them as creative as possible! The winners will receive house points to go towards their house challenge. Bonus points will be awarded for children who then go on to carve their own pumpkins at home in their picture's design! All completed pictures need to be returned to teachers by 3rd November please.

Secondary School Places

Year 6 parents: a reminder that you have until Fri 31st Oct to apply for your child's secondary school place. You can do this by following the link: [Apply for a Secondary School Place - North Northants](#)

Start the Term with a Bang!

On Monday 2nd November we are holding a mufti day and invite children to come into school dressed in their brightest firework-inspired colours. We kindly ask for a small donation via ParentPay. All funds raised will go towards supporting school trips for our children throughout the year. We can't wait to see the school bursting with colour and energy as we start the new term together with a bang! Thank you for your continued support.

Poppy Appeal

After half term, our Hawthorn Community Reps will be selling poppies and other Remembrance items on the playground at home time, in support of the Royal British Legion.

A suggested donation of 50p per item is requested, please.

Thank you for supporting this important cause and helping our children to remember and honour those who have served.

Celebration Assemblies

It was fantastic to welcome parents into school this week as part of our Celebration Assemblies. The assemblies were held to mark this term's value of Community. A Hawthorn Hero was chosen from each class - a child who has promoted the value of Community both in school and beyond - and these children were awarded a certificate in assembly. They then took their parents to a lovely celebratory afternoon tea held in The Palm. Well done to all of this term's Hawthorn Heroes. Next term's value is Teamwork, so we will again be looking for Heroes who have actively promoted this value.

House Points

We are aware that some parents are concerned that they are no longer able to track their child's house points. As you are all aware we moved MIS system in September which means we no longer have the MCAS app. However, children are still earning house points and are still working towards Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum awards.

School Photographs

JS Photography for Schools visited school this week to take photos of children. You will be emailed directly by JS Photography for Schools with a proof of your child's photograph. Any orders should be placed online using the details provided. There is no obligation to purchase the photos. Please order by Tuesday 3rd November for free delivery to school. After that date there will be a delivery charge.

Playground Champions

This week's Playground Champions are:

- *Shahnoor*

- *Roxy*

Well done everyone - it's great to see you displaying our values of Teamwork and Thoughtfulness whilst out on the playground!

*Have a lovely half term. For our new families, a reminder that this half term is two weeks long and we look forward to seeing you all back at school on **Monday 2nd November**. weekend.*

Best wishes

Emma Jacox

Head Teacher

Reception Intake 2027

Applications are open 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.

Autumn Term Clubs

Please see below for details of how to book onto our Autumn Term 2 clubs with EcoCoach.



ECO COACH
CIC

STARTING 2ND NOVEMBER 2026

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITY CLUBS

**AT HAWTHORN
PRIMARY SCHOOL**

SPORT. MOVEMENT. FRIENDSHIPS.
BRIGHTER FUTURES.





SAFE
A safe and welcoming environment



ACTIVE
Fun, engaging activities every week



SUPPORTIVE
Caring staff who know your children

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

WEDNESDAYS



KS1 GYMNASTICS CLUB

STARTS 4TH NOVEMBER 2026
7 SESSIONS

YEAR GROUPS:
RECEPTION, YEAR 1 & YEAR 2

FRIDAYS



KS2 FOOTBALL CLUB

STARTS 6TH NOVEMBER 2026
6 SESSIONS
(NO SESSION ON 11TH DECEMBER)

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 ANOTHER FANTASTIC TERM OF SPORTS, TEAMWORK AND FUN!

SEE YOU THERE!



ECO COACH
CIC

✉ FOR ANY ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:
GREENOFFICE@ECO-COACH.CO.UK

🌐 WWW.ECO-COACH.CO.UK

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.



ACTIVE
CHILDREN
BRIGHTER
FUTURES



MAKE
FRIENDS



BUILD
CONFIDENCE



STAY ACTIVE



HAVE FUN!

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

OCTOBER HALF-TERM CAMP

HAWTHORN PRIMARY SCHOOL

PLAY • EXPLORE • CREATE • BELONG

MOVE.
MAKE.
PLAY.
REPEAT.



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.

**LIMITED SPACES
BOOK EARLY!**

#EveryChildPlays



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**

pbbi.uk/EcoCoach

Late collection can be added during booking.

MORE THAN A CAMP.
A BRIGHTER HALF TERM.



House Points

Who is in the lead?

Fire: 401

Earth: 437

Air: 441

Water: 454

Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow!



Cherries finish the term as leader! Well done!

Cherries: 99%

Cedars: 96%

Ash: 96%

Silver Birches: 96%

Bay: 95%

Apples: 94%

Oaks: 94%

Redwoods: 93%

Willows: 93%

Maples: 92%

Elm: 89%

What Parents and Carers Need to Know About... AI-Companions

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 AI COMPANIONS

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Repлика and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness: it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school – such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book *Ethical AI and Education*, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.

www.wakeupwednesday.com

www.thenationalcollege.com

www.wakeupwednesday.com

www.wakeupwednesday.com

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Online Safety and Scams

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

Digital Technology

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

1

JOIN OUR LOTTERY



2

BOOST SCHOOL FUNDS



3

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

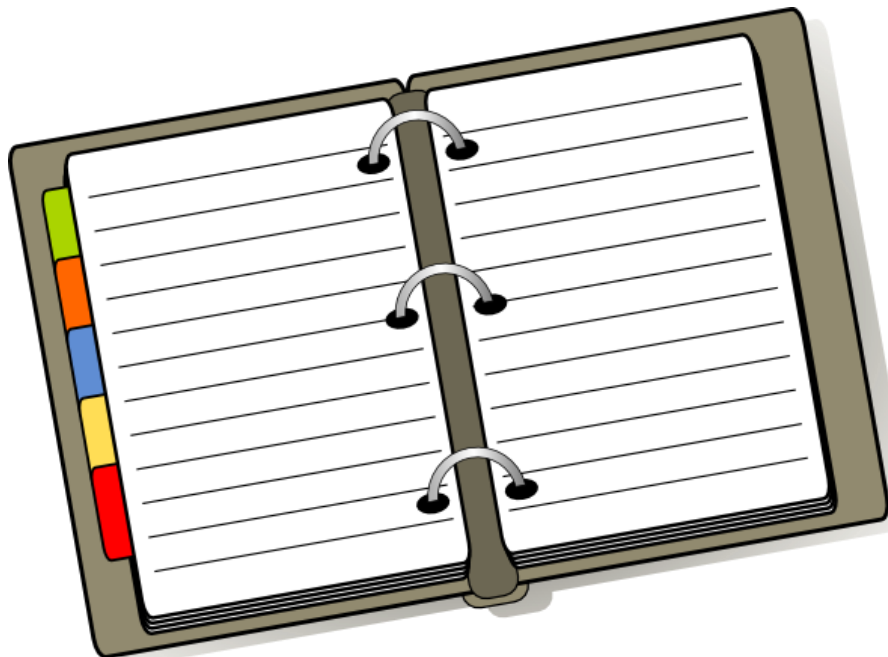
Do I need to book?

No, just turn up with your item.



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

Dates For Your Diary...



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

Break Up

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

Mon 2nd Nov: Back to school - Start the Term with a Bang Mufti: bright colours

Tues 3rd Nov: Choir begins (3.30 - 4.15pm)

Reception 2027: New intake tour (4pm)

Mon 16th Nov: Friendship Week

Odd Socks Day

Y6 Bikeability starts

Little Hawthorns (2-3pm)

Tues 17th Nov: Reception 2027 : New intake tour (4pm)

Tues 24th Nov: Reception 2027: New intake tour (4pm)

Thurs 26th Nov: Reception 2027: New intake tour (4pm)

Tues 1st Dec: KS2 Celebration Assembly - invite only (1pm)

EYFS & KS1 Celebration Assembly - invite only (2.15pm)

Reception 2027: New intake tour (4pm)

Weds 9th Dec: EYFS Nativity for Parents - Performance 1 (9.30am)

KS2 Christmas Concert at St Peter and St Paul Church, Market Place, Kettering
(1.30pm)

Thurs 10th Dec: EYFS Nativity for Parents - Performance 2 (1.30pm)

Mon 14th Dec: Little Hawthorns (2-3pm)

Tues 15th Dec: Y3 trip to the Panto (1.15pm)

KS1 Christingle Making Workshop (2.30pm)

Weds 16th Dec: KS1 Christingle at St Michael's Church (2.15pm)

Thurs 17th Dec: Kingswood Christmas Lunch

Friday 18th Dec: Santa's Grotto

Carols Around the Tree

Break UP



ANCHORED SCHOOLS



GOLD AWARD