NEWSLETTER

25th September 2026

"Together in God's grace, may we give our children the roots to grow and the wings to fly"

Loughborough CofE Primary School, William Street, LE11 3BY
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With roots to grow and wings to fly

Weekly Attendance

Class 1	100%
Class 2	98.9%
Class 3	99.1%
Class 4	97%
Class 5	98.2%
Class 6	81.9%
School	96.1%

Year to date Attendance

Class 1	98.65%
Class 2	96.15%
Class 3	94.85%
Class 4	96.09%
Class 5	96.42%
Class 6	87.37%
School	95,7%

Headteachers Message

It has been another wonderful week in school, full of exciting learning opportunities and achievements.
A particular highlight has been Class 3, who enjoyed a fantastic day at St Paul's, Woodhouse Eaves for our Rise Pupil Charter sporting event. The children represented our school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent teamwork, enthusiasm and sportsmanship throughout the day. We were also incredibly proud to see them lead our Celebration Worship, confidently sharing their learning and achievements with the whole school community. Well done, Class 3!

Parent Consultations
A reminder that our Parent Consultation meetings will be taking place on:
Tuesday 6th October – In-person appointments in school
Thursday 8th October – Online appointments

These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into their new class and the progress they have made so far this term.

We offer both face-to-face and online appointments to support all families in being able to attend. These conversations are invaluable in strengthening our home-school partnership and ensuring we work together to support every child's success. Booking opens on Arbor at 4.00pm today and will remain open for one week.

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend

Mrs Ferey

Values Award

Well done to the pupils receiving our Values Award this week

FORGIVENESS

Class 2: Hudson

Class 5: Lydia

Class 4: Jasper

Parental consents

Please could all families check that the 'Additional Persons Allowed to Collect' details are up to date in the consents section on Arbor. Please use the Guardian Notes section to add the names of any adults or family members who may regularly collect your child from school.

If someone different is collecting your child on a particular day, even if it is another parent from school, please let us know by speaking to your child's class teacher or by contacting the school office. If an unexpected person arrives to collect your child, we will not release them without your consent.

NEWSLETTER

Our value this half term is…



'Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive others.' Colossians 3:13

Forgiveness is

- Giving someone (or yourself) a fresh start
- Making friends again
- Letting go of upset feelings
- Saying sorry and meaning it
- Being honest and encouraging others to be honest too



A friendly reminder that snacks brought into school for morning break should be healthy options, such as fruit, and that children should bring water only in their water bottles.
Items such as crisps, biscuits, chocolate bars and other snack foods should be saved for lunchtime and included as part of a balanced packed lunch where appropriate.
We know that healthy snacks help children to stay focused and ready for learning throughout the morning, and we appreciate your support in promoting healthy choices.





A polite reminder to please take extra care when driving in and out of the school car park during wraparound care drop-off and collection times.
These periods can be particularly busy, with families, pupils and staff moving around the site. We ask all drivers to proceed slowly, remain vigilant and be mindful of pedestrians at all times.
The safety of everyone on site is our priority, and we would appreciate your support in ensuring that the car park remains a safe environment for all members of our school community.

DIARY DATES

DATE	WHO?	WHAT?
AUTUMN TERM 2026		
06/10	ALL	Parent Consultations In-Person
08/10	ALL	Parent Consultations Online
13/10	ALL	Harvest Service at Emmanuel Church 1:45pm
15/10	ALL	SCHOOL CLOSES FOR HALF TERM
26/10	ALL	SCHOOL OPENS
11/11	ALL	Armistice Service at Queens Park – details TBC
20/11	ALL	Children in Need – Fundraising Cake sale and non-uniform
24/11	Class 1 & 2	Christmas visit to Emmanuel Church pm
25/11	ALL	School visit to Pantomime @ Loughborough Town Hall
27/11	Class 5	Class Assembly 2.40pm
02/12	Classes 3, 4, 5 & 6	Christmas workshops with Emmanuel Church
04/12	ALL	Santa Fun Run for Rainbows
07/12	ALL	Christingle at Emmanuel pm
11/12	ALL	Carol Service at All Saints (Time TBC)
15/12	Class 1&2	Christmas Performance pm (Time TBC)
16/12		Christmas Performance am (Time TBC)
17/12	ALL	CHRISTMAS CRAFT AFTERNOON
18/12	ALL	SCHOOL CLOSES

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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.

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.

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.

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 **0808 800 5000.**

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon 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, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



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See full reference list on our website

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