Wicklewood Weekly

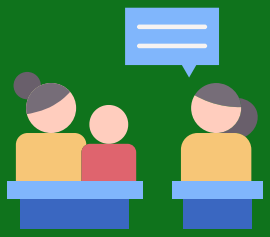
6th November 2026

We are already planning ahead for Christmas! Reception's nativity will be performed on the 9th and 10th of December, the whole school will attend the pantomime on the 11th and Christmas lunch and jumper day is on the 16th followed by the carol concert in the Abbey in the evening. Further details will follow about each event.



Next Friday (13th) is BBC Children in Need. It will be a non-uniform day in school. Contributions of £1 to the charity can be paid on Arbor.

Parents Evenings on Tuesday and Wednesday will be in the School Hall. If you are unable to attend, please contact the school office. On rare occasions, it may feel that the allotted time for your appointment may not be enough. If so, please arrange another appointment with your child's class teacher rather than extending your time.



Thank you to everyone making an effort to park responsibly. Please do not park in front of the school by the blue railings-this is reserved for Norfolk transport buses and taxis. Please also do not park on any pavements near the school, this blocks roads and access. If you are late or struggling to park, we are happy to look after any pupils.

Dates:

10 & 11 November - Parents Evenings
13 November - Children in Need Non-Uniform day
25 &27 November-YR and Y6 Hearing and Vision
7 Dec-Y1 Norwich Castle trip
9&10 Dec-YR Nativity performances
11 Dec-Whole School Panto at the Theatre Royal
16 Dec-Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumpers Day
16 Dec-Wymondham Abbey Carol Concert
4 Jan-INSET Day, Spring Term begins on 5 Jan

It is a statutory requirement for children to attend school every day.

This week' s winners are...

Lapwing with 99%!

Golden Tickets!

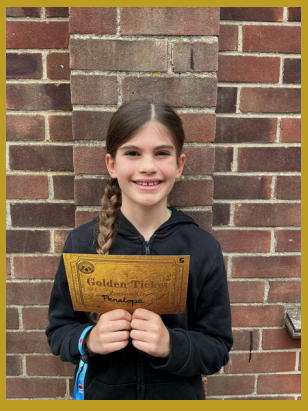




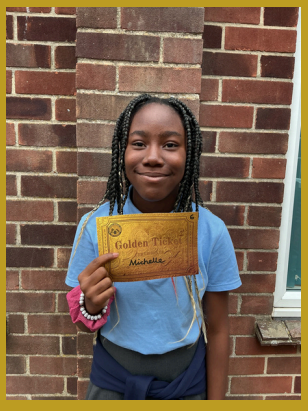












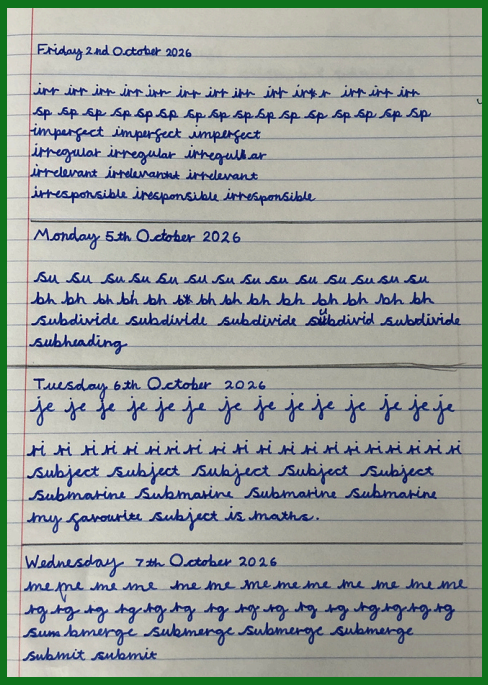
SEND

It can feel difficult to see your child go through a tough time. It can be an instinct to fix it for them because you don't like to see them sad or worried. One of the ways that we become resilient adults is by learning that we can cope when things don't go as we hoped.

In school we use the Zones of Regulation to support our students to build emotional resilience.

Just One Norfolk has some excellent rescources on understanding emotions and building resilience.

Our Wonderful Work


Friday 2nd October 2026

imperfect imperfect imperfect
irregular irregular irregular
irrelevant irrelevant irrelevant
irresponsible irresponsible irresponsible

Monday 5th October 2026

subdivide subdivide subdivide subdivide subdivide
subheading

Tuesday 6th October 2026

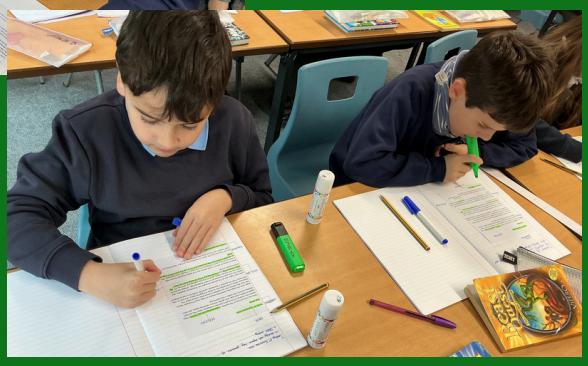
Subject Subject Subject Subject Subject
Submarine Submarine Submarine Submarine
my favourite subject is maths.

Wednesday 7th October 2026

submerge submerge submerge submerge
submit submit

Daisy, Year 4



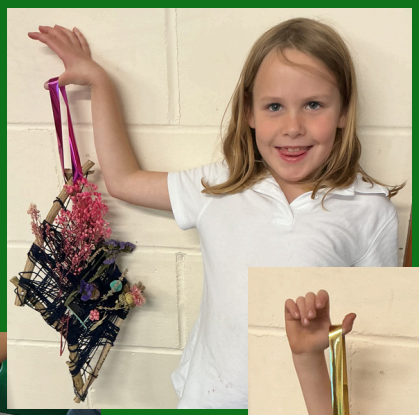


Year 4 - Features of Diary Writing





Year 5 - Fantasy Map Making





Gardening Club

Wicklewood Neighbourhood Plan News



What we've been up to:

The Wicklewood Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group has drafted a detailed project plan covering all the stages of the project from gathering community concerns and developing ideas for how the village could be; gathering baseline information and evidence; through to developing planning policies and public consultation on the plan as it evolves. We estimate it will take us just over two years from start to finish. This is fairly typical of the time taken for similar projects in surrounding villages.

Our plan includes applying for grants available from South Norfolk Council to help cover the costs of things such as holding events and running surveys to gather opinions and share ideas; compiling essential background information about the village (such as population statistics, natural and historic landscape factors and the planning context); and matching village aspirations with national and local planning policies to maximise their impact on future planning decisions for the village.

What's happening next:

We are going to ask the parish council to approve the project plan and the grant applications at its next meeting on 2nd November. Once they are approved they will be submitted to South Norfolk Council for a decision on funding.

While we wait for a decision, we are setting up a competitive tender process to find a suitably experienced consultant who can help us with the planning process.

And work is continuing on developing plans for village drop-in sessions where everyone can have their say about what is good/less good about Wicklewood and what needs to be changed, improved or added. So keep a look out for our next announcement.

If you would like to help develop the plan or learn more about it you can email clerk@wicklewoodpc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk

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, Replika 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

CENSORED

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

18 CENSORED

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 1111) 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.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.10.2026