

Headteacher's Headlines

It was lovely seeing everyone back in school on Monday, I hope you all had a restful half term holiday. The children have had a great week. On Monday we had the excitement of the mystery boxes which unleashed boundless imagination and creativity as the children planned their own learning that day. Also, this week, the Oaks unit had the most amazing TEAMS call with NASA and had the opportunity to ask the astronauts the question – 'What do you eat in space?'. Apparently, they pour water on freeze dried food and then warm it up in a food warmer! On Wednesday, children welcomed Nat Pattinson world champion wheelchair basketball player – who came in to give all our pupils a fantastic day of wheelchair Rugby. We are looking forward to a wonderfully exciting and bust half term!

Warmest wishes,
Sarah



School Field

Weekend use – You are all still more than welcome to use our school grounds to play in- however the school field at the moment is extremely wet and muddy so we would appreciate, if possible, to avoid playing football on there out of hours to help preserve the field.

Extra Curricular clubs

Clubs start week commencing - 3rd March for 4 weeks, information has been sent out on ParentMail.

Red Nose Day – Friday 21st March

Red noses will be available to buy in school priced at £2.00 each from Monday. All proceeds go to Comic Relief. Children can come to school that day wearing something red. Cake donations would be welcome, parents are invited for coffee and cake for a donation at 2:30pm with all profits going to Comic Relief.



Wednesday 5th March

Year 3 & 4 will be participating in small schools 5 A Side Tournament at Harraby.
Year 5 & 6 will be participating in Eden Rock climbing competition.

World Book Day Thursday 6th March

This year to celebrate World Book Day, we are asking our pupils to dress up as any character from a Fairy Tale. We will have a fun day planned by our new school councillors exploring Fairy tales in more detail as well as other fun filled activities. More details to follow.
World book vouchers will be handed out to pupils on the day to allow them to purchase books from supermarkets such as Tesco or independent bookstores such as Bookends on Castle Street.

School Lunch on World Book Day will be burgers and wedges, available to book on ParentMail.





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ia.sch.uk

Parents Evening Wednesday 12th March

Parent appointments can be made from Monday on ParentMail.

Parents Safeguarding Information

Marvel Rivals has skyrocketed to success in recent months, currently boasting 40 million players  but popularity doesn't always mean 'safe'  This week's guide offers expert advice on the risks of this competitive online game, with tips on safeguarding younger players.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12
 ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

IN-GAME CHAT
 Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES
 While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a E10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS
 With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT
 There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
 The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS
 The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS
 The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Halo, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF
 The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT
 Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.

DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS
 Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.

Meet Our Expert
 Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including iAN, TechRadar and plenty more.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College



NEWSLETTER



RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | RESILIENCE

w/c Monday 3 rd March	Careers Week
Wednesday 5 th March 25	Year 3 & 4 Football Competition at Harraby 3G
Wednesday 5 th March 25	Year 5 & 6 Eden Rock Climbing Competition
Thursday 6 th March 25	World Book Day (character from a fairy tale book)
Friday 7 th March 25	Year 6 Parents Meeting for SATS
Monday 10 th March 25	Hedgehogs Gosling Sike Reserve assembly
Tuesday 11 th March 25	KS1 Farm Trip
Wednesday 12 th March 25	Inclusion Sports Festival at William Howard School
Wednesday 12 th March 25	Parents Evening
Friday 14 th March 25	Archery in school with KS2
Monday 17 th March 25	Feet First 5 Day Active Travel Challenge
Monday 17 th March 25	Irish Dance demonstration/whole school assembly
Tuesday 18 th March 25	NISCU Easter session in school
Wednesday 19 th March 25	CET Year 2 Sports Festival at Workington
Friday 21 st March 25	Red Nose Day children can wear something red cake donations welcome. Coffee and Cake for parents 2:30pm -3:20pm in school
Friday 28 th March 25	Parents Monthly Assembly
Tuesday 1 st April 25	KS1 & Year 3 Learning Forest Trip
Thursday 3 rd April 25	Easter Service 2.45pm - 3.15pm
Friday 4 th April 25	Uncovering Roman Carlisle whole school assembly
Friday 4 th April 25	Last Day of term
Monday 28 th April 25	Cumbria Deaf – whole school assembly
Saturday 17 th May 25	Lanercost X Country Race (more information to follow)