



Headteacher's Headlines

A great week in school and a fantastic effort by Yr 5 & 6 at William Howard School Rounders who have come 2nd. A big thank you for the donations for Cash for Clothes £105.00 was raised for the PTFA. We hope you can make the Castle Carrock Carnival on Saturday. Warmest wishes,
Sarah



Breakfast Club 8.25am

Thank you so much for supporting our Breakfast Club. We very much appreciate it. All reception – Year 6 children are welcome every morning. Come and join us from 08:25am.

Year 5 open Evenings at William Howard School 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Wednesday 2nd July and Monday 7th July Opening Evening at William Howard School for Year 5 Pupils, please book directly with William Howard School.

School Uniform – September

If you require new uniform, please order online via the uniform shop before the end of summer term. Uniform can be delivered to school for collection on Tuesday 2nd September or you can select delivery home.

Ice Lollies – fundraising for Year 6 Leavers

School will be selling Ice lollies each Friday playtime during summer term for £1 All profits go towards the Year 6 leavers treat.



PTFA Game-a-thon – Tuesday 8th July

Please support this wonderful initiative designed by the PTFA as part of our 'Be the best you can be week' in school. You will receive sponsorship forms this week. Please see more details below.

On Tuesday 8th July, children will be taking part in a sponsored game-a-thon at school with the aim to play 500 games between them over 7 hours in the school day, starting at breakfast club! The day should be great fun and encourage teamwork, learning and teaching new skills, communication, fair play and a sense of collective achievement for the children.

We are hoping that pupils can collect sponsor money individually, using the form on the back of this letter. Pupils can be sponsored per game they manage to complete individually or for a fixed amount. Pupils will keep a log of how many games they have played on the day.

We are raising funds for Castle Carrock PTFA which has already donated over £4000 this year to support a wide range of activities and experiences for the children. We have supported after school clubs, buses for school trips, forest schools, breakfast/after school club resources, Carlisle Cathedral singing, Christmas parties, Year 6 hoodies and leavers events, individual class resources, a new noticeboard and we can't forget ice creams in Silloth! We are extremely grateful for all the support received.

Parents Safeguarding

Switching things up 🎮 The Nintendo Switch 2 adds new features like voice chat and a plug-in camera – but also new [#OnlineSafety](#) concerns. See guide below

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT **18 CENSORS**
Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like Cyberpunk 2077 and others have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES
The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are stored and the parent is not present, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game titles – with top-up cards or other third-party – without parental approval.

UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES
While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like Fortnite or Roblox allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION
GameChat enables free chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional voice and screen sharing. Though children under 18 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the above connectivity could bring privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS
The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial tracking in games. However, this also raises the risk of cyberstalking or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS **15**
Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Link and others – remains highly appealing to younger audiences, especially when the success of the reveal has "The Super Mario Bros. Movie" (2023) movie franchise and other features in merchandising, social media or game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments to characters and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS
Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS
Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider using prepaid or physical prepaid cards or requesting a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to require a transaction password.

REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS
Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS
Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and voice clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

Meet Our Expert
Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been writing in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular writer for the Age there to try out new titles, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's won a Tech and Parents award and has been published on sites including BBC, TechRadar, and parent.co.uk.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

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NEWSLETTER



RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | RESILIENCE

Thursdays in June 25	KS2 Outreach Singing with Ed Taylor
Saturday 28 th June 25	Castle Carrock Carnival
Monday 30 th June 25	Year 6 Induction Day
Monday 30 th June 25	Castle Carrock Transition Day
Tuesday 1 st July 25	KS2 Outreach Carlisle Cathedral Evening Concert
Wednesday 2 nd July 25	WHS Year 5 open evening 5:30pm – 7:30pm 30pm (book direct at William Howard School)
Thursday 3 rd July 25	KS2 Outreach Carlisle Cathedral Evening Concert
Monday 7 th July 25	WHS Year 5 open evening 5:30pm – 7:30pm (book direct at William Howard School)
Monday 7 th July 25	Year 6 End of Year treat – Fusion Carlisle
Tuesday 8 th July 25	Game-a-thon
Wednesday 9 th July 25	Reception Starters Meeting 3pm
Thursday 10 th July 25	CET Student Excellence Awards (so save the date in case your child wins!)
Thursday 10 th July 25	William Howard School Year 6 Parents Evening
Friday 11 th July 25	Rev Edward Johnsen Assembly
Wednesday 16 th July 25	OAKS Unit Play 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Thursday 17 th July 25	Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2:30pm - 3:30pm
Friday 18 th July 25	Last day of term.