



Warbstow Primary Academy and Nursery

Small and mighty is the Warbstow Way

NEWSLETTER 20 – 28th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new half term, and to a new look school playground! I'm sure you have been as delighted as we have to see the progress of the trim trail installation. The weather kept our grand opening in suspense but today saw everyone using the trim trail and having great fun. It is a much welcome resource to the school, both for playtimes and for our physical activity. We are very grateful to the PTA and Aspire for their support with the project, it couldn't have done without them.



Please do take some time this weekend to look through your child's topic overview for the upcoming term. Spellings have also come home, please practice week 1's words in sentences this weekend but no test on Monday!

Wishing you a lovely weekend, Mrs Bancroft

This half term's value – RESILIENCE



*'Tough times
don't last....tough
people do.'*

This Week we introduced our new value – resilience! We likened it to our bouncy ball or blu tak analogy. When something is tough do we bounce and have another go or do we just stick to the floor and give up? We watched an inspiring video about a young trampolinist who injured her leg so badly at the European Championships that she had to stop trampolining. She rallied and took up a new discipline of running the 100m and is now super successful in this. She talks about the power of focus and support, belief in yourself and not giving up. Traits that we are always trying to encourage in our children. Check out Asha Phillips – mental toughness is the secret to success.

['Mental toughness is the secret to success' | BBC Ideas](#)

Extra Curricular Clubs

Breakfast club has had a change of morning activities, feedback from those who have attended this week has been positive. Breakfast club runs Monday-Thursday 8-8:45. Booking via ParentPay.

After school club begin next week. Collection for all is 4.15pm from the front playground.

Monday – PAFC – Y1-6 – Booking via <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/argyle/ecnd4-football-after-school-club-warbstow-school.html>

Tuesday – Cross Country – Continuing from Spring 1

Thursday – LJD Coaching, Ninja Warriors – Reception -Y6 – Booking via ParentPay

World Book Day, Ultimate Character Champion Battle?

This oracy-based classroom project encourages pupils to explore the characters they enjoy reading about the most in a way that encourages creativity in their discussion and presentational talk. The aim is further bring reading for pleasure into the classroom, explore it practically, and be inspired to find out more about the characters their peers have shared. Whether their favourite character is factual or fictional, human, animal, the activities will build discussion and enjoyment, with the added element of competition. For example, how would a character fare in a dual of general knowledge? Strength? Imagination? Fashion? The list is endless...

Come dressed as a favourite character, with the corresponding book and be prepared to join in with fun activity.

Dates

6th March – World Book Day and Aspens St Piran's Day pasty lunch

17th Mar – PTA Bingo at The Wilsey Down

25th Mar – Reception Vision Screening

7th – 21st April – Easter Holidays

22nd April – Inset

20th – 23rd May – Y5/6 London Residential

26th – 30th May – Half Term

23rd July – Last day of term

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The impact of smartphones



There is a growing concern on how excessive use of smartphones can affect our children.

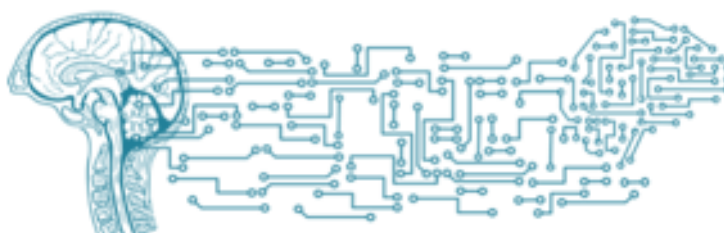
In addition to the effects of seeing inappropriate content online, the risk of cyberbullying and grooming, it is important that we also highlight the effects of smartphone use on our children's mental health.

If your child is using a smartphone then please try to ensure they maintain a healthy screentime limit.

According to King's College London, "two new studies of smartphone habits in teenagers have identified links between problematic smartphone use and depression, anxiety and insomnia." You can read more about these studies here: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/teens-with-problematic-smartphone-use-are-twice-as-likely-to-have-anxiety-and-many-are-eager-to-cut-down>

Compass have published an article as well on what effects mobile phones have on children here: <https://www.compass-uk.org/services/compass-changing-lives/what-effects-do-mobile-phones-have-on-children-and-young-peoples-mental-health/>

Artificial Intelligence (AI)



What is AI?

AI is when a computer/machine can learn and perform tasks like a human. Its popularity continues to increase, and examples include:

- **Virtual assistants** like Alexa and Siri.
- **Chatbots** such as ChatGPT and My AI from Snapchat

Potential Risks of AI?

- **Chat apps** - A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of apps already available and just scrolling through, you can see that they are not suitable for children with many rated as 17+.
- **Image manipulation** – there are AI tools that can be used to digitally remove clothes from photos, which clearly raises serious safeguarding and privacy concerns.
- **Deepfakes** – there are also AI tools that create realistic, fake videos which can be used to spread misinformation or cause harm.

Child Rescue Coalition discuss the dangers in more detail here:

<https://childrescuecoalition.org/educations/the-dark-side-of-ai-risks-to-children/>

How can I protect my child?

As always, to keep your child safe online, it is important to:

- Develop your child's digital literacy by highlighting the risks of AI and showing them how important it is to verify what they see online.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/ broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

For further information, the NSPCC and Internet Matters provide useful guides on their websites:

- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2025/artificial-intelligence-safety-tips-for-parents>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>