

## School Newsletter

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2025

### Celebration assembly

Well done to the pupils below who were chosen by their teachers to receive certificates in today's Celebration assembly for making healthy choices this week.

Reception Chestnut Class	Archie
Reception Maple Class	Ibrahim
Year 1 Ash Class	Heba
Year 1 Redwood Class	Jamie
Year 2 Birch Class	Alan
Year 2 Elder Class	George O
Year 3 Iroko Class	Maddie
Year 3 Willow Class	Raegan
Year 4 Juniper Class	Carolina
Year 4 Spruce Class	Ollie
Year 5 Sycamore Class	Mason and Tommy
Year 5 Walnut Class	Harper
Year 6 Aspen Class	Millie
Year 6 Beech Class	Frankie

### House points

Congratulations to the following pupils for earning the most house points this week.

Reception Chestnut Class	Yeka
Reception Maple Class	Bonnie
Year 1 Ash Class	Elson
Year 1 Redwood Class	Ivy-Rose
Year 2 Birch Class	Brooklyn
Year 2 Elder Class	Ray
Year 3 Iroko Class	Dua
Year 3 Willow Class	Elsie
Year 4 Juniper Class	Indi
Year 4 Spruce Class	Fifi
Year 5 Sycamore Class	Tyler
Year 5 Walnut Class	Oscar
Year 6 Aspen Class	Ava
Year 6 Beech Class	Tommy

Well done to the pupils in **blue** house for earning the most house points this week.

**"Children settle quickly when they join the school in the early years. This is because leaders and teachers have clear expectations."**  
 Infant school Ofsted Inspection report

### Attendance

We are aiming to achieve an attendance of 96% this year. Well done to all the classes highlighted in green for achieving that target last week.

Year 6 Beech Class	97%
Reception Maple Class	94%
Year 6 Aspen Class	94%
Year 3 Willow Class	93%
Year 5 Sycamore Class	93%
Year 1 Ash Class	91%
Year 3 Iroko Class	91%
Year 4 Juniper Class	91%
Year 5 Walnut Class	91%
Year 4 Spruce Class	90%
Year 1 Redwood Class	89%
Year 2 Elder Class	89%
Reception Chestnut Class	84%
Year 2 Birch Class	82%

### Attendance Ladder



As well as attendance, punctuality is very important. If your child is late for school, they miss the important introduction part of the first lesson during which the teacher explains the key learning. Class doors open at 8.45am and close at 9am. Please ensure your child is in class by 9am.

### Teatime talk

This year, we are working with Voice21, a charity that supports schools to develop oracy. Oracy is the ability to articulate ideas, develop understanding and engage with others through spoken language and listening. Oracy skills set children up for success in school and life.



In order for children to develop their oracy, we need to provide them with lots of opportunities to practice their speaking and listening, which we do regularly in school. We will be sharing a discussion topic each week in the newsletter to also provide you with a chance to have an interesting discussion with your children and support their oracy at home. This week's discussion topic is:

'Watching a film is better than reading a book.'

**"The school provides extensive opportunities for pupils to develop their talents and interests."**

Junior school Ofsted Inspection report

### World Book Day character dress up day

It's World Book Day on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March, which will be a non-uniform day and children can dress up as their favourite book character. We would love to see as many homemade costumes as possible and do not expect parents/carers to go to the expense of buying new costumes. There will be prizes for the most creative homemade costumes!

You can join us in building your child's enthusiasm for books well beyond World Book Day by reading together regularly and joining your local library, if you are not yet members. For more information about World Book Day and ideas on sharing books at home, go to:

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

As part of World Book week, children in Years 1 to 5 will be visiting the local library on Monday and Tuesday for a story. If they have a library card and there is time, the children will be able to borrow a book.

### Story in a Shoe Box competition winners

In the lead up to World Book Week, the children were asked to create a 'Story in a Shoe Box' based on one of their favourite books. We hope that everyone that took part enjoyed spending time creating their own story scenes - Mr Coren was very impressed! The following children were selected as winners and received a voucher to spend at the Scholastic Book Fair.

Nursery: Liam

Year 1: George (Ash Class)

Year 2: Rose (Birch Class)

Year 3: Ava (Willow Class)

Year 4: Hunter (Spruce Class)

Year 5: Carly (Sycamore Class)

Year 6: Charlie (Aspen Class)



"We learn about different feelings so we can regulate our emotions."  
Year 2 pupil

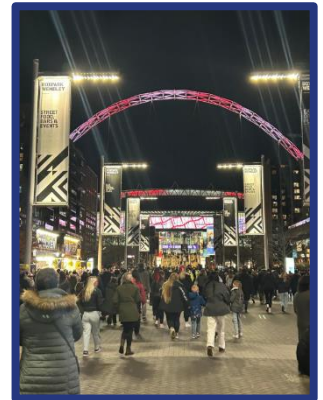
### Forrest School

The children enjoyed their first week back at Forest School.



### England Lionesses Football match v Spain at Wembley Stadium

We managed to secure a number of complimentary tickets to see England Lionesses football match v Spain at Wembley on Wednesday. The atmosphere was electric and all the children and adults had a wonderful time with England winning 1-0. Come on England!



### Reception's mystery visitor

This week in Reception the children had a mystery visitor, leaving a big mess in the classroom. The children went on a hunt for clues and found: giant footprints, a golden egg, a hen and a beanstalk hanging from the ceiling. To investigate further we measured the footprints. Then drew around our own shoes and measured them, to rule any of us out as a suspect.

After a lot of thinking we decided it was either the Easter Bunny or the Giant from Jack and the Beanstalk.

The children learnt about what a bean plant needs to grow and planted their own bean seeds to care for. Hopefully we will soon have our own giant beanstalk to climb.



"My last visit to the school was 6 years ago and I can categorically say that the improvements that have been made are outstanding."

School governor

## Mindful March

This March let's pause, breathe and notice, so we can respond more mindfully.

**Mindful March 2025**

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 Set an intention to live with awareness and kindness	2 Notice three things you find beautiful in the outside world	3 Start today by appreciating your body and that you're alive	4 Notice how you speak to yourself and choose to use kind words	5 Bring to mind people you care about and send love to them	6 If you find yourself rushing, make an effort to slow down	7 Take three calm breaths at regular intervals during your day
8 Eat mindfully. Appreciate the taste, texture and smell of your food	9 Take a full breath in and out before you reply to others	10 Get outside and notice how the weather feels on your face	11 Stay fully present while drinking your cup of tea or coffee	12 Listen deeply to someone and really hear what they are saying	13 Pause to watch the sky or clouds for a few minutes today	14 Find ways to enjoy any chores or tasks that you do
15 Stop. Breathe. Notice. Repeat regularly	16 Get really absorbed with an interesting or creative activity	17 Look around and spot three things you find unusual or pleasant	18 Have a 'no plans' day and notice how that feels	19 Cultivate a feeling of loving-kindness towards others today	20 Focus on what makes you and others happy today	21 Listen to a piece of music without doing anything else
22 Notice something that is going well, even if today feels difficult	23 Tune into your feelings, without judging or trying to change them	24 Appreciate your hands and all the things they enable you to do	25 Focus your attention on the good things you take for granted	26 Choose to spend less time looking at screens today	27 Appreciate nature around you, wherever you are	28 Notice when you're tired and take a break as soon as possible
29 Choose a different route today and see what you notice	30 Mentally scan your body and notice what it is feeling	31 Discover the joy in the simple things of life				

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS**      **Happier · Kinder · Together**

“When I visited the Nursery and Reception classes it was inspirational to see how much learning can be achieved through play.”  
Chair of Governors

**Online Safety**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALVS



ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

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.

**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 60 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.

**AGE RESTRICTION**

**PEGI 12**

ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

**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 Hulk, 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 apps, 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 IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



**#WakeUpWednesday**



## Key dates for your diary

### March

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March: World Book Day-dress up as a book character.

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March: Year 4 trip to the Verulamium Museum.

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March: Year 6 Junior Citizen trip.

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March: Science Showcase Day for parents/carers in the Junior School hall between 9am and 9.20am

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March: Red Nose Day. Further details to follow.

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 9am: Year 4 Spruce class assembly for parents in the hall.

### April

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April: Infant Spring Concert at 9am and 2.30pm in the Infant School hall.

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April: Junior Spring Concert at 9am and 2.30pm in the Junior School hall.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Last day of Spring term for Nursery pupils.

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: Year 3 Theatre trip to see Mrs Doubtfire.

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April: Easter bonnet parade

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April: Last day of Spring term for Reception to Year 6 pupils-non uniform day. School finishes at 1pm.

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> April: Easter holidays.

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: Teacher training day.

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: First day of summer term for pupils.

## PTA News

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Mother's Day Shop



The PTA will be opening a Mother's Day shop in school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March. The children will be brought to the shop during school hours to buy a small 'Mother's Day/grandmother/ carer' gift. Year 1 children will be visiting the Mother's Day shop on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>. The gifts will be approximately £1-£2 each so please send your child/children in with some change in an envelope clearly marked with their name and class.



**HAREFIELD**  
INFANT SCHOOL



**HAREFIELD**  
JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Community news



**FREE TASTER SESSIONS AVAILABLE!**

MAKE YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPMENT MORE FUN!  
**TRY RUGBYTOTS**

Our dynamic weekly play sessions enable boys and girls aged 2-7 to develop their social and physical skills in a fun, positive environment. For more details, just call or email.

**[tom.brown@rugbytots.co.uk](mailto:tom.brown@rugbytots.co.uk)**  
**0345 313 0447**



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The world's favourite rugby play programme