

Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

This week I have had my termly meeting with our Education Welfare Officer from the Local Authority. This may trigger a letter being sent to you regarding your child's attendance. Our focus is always on children who are below 90% and are classed as persistent absentees. We also look at children who are around 94-90% who are at risk of being a persistent absentee.

As always we want to work with parents and carers around attendance and usually if you receive a letter from the local authority, you would have had some engagement with school prior to this around attendance e.g we will have written to you or spoken to you to express our concerns around your child's attendance.

If you do receive a letter from school or the local authority and want to speak to us about this please contact Miss Stansfield our Pastoral Manager who leads on attendance. We really do want to work with families to improve attendance.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Pether



Don't Count
The Days,
Make
The Days
Count

Muhammad Ali

Staff Training

This week our staff have taken part in the following training -

Mrs Pether and Miss Brambani—Effective Deployment of classroom Teaching Assistants with Greater Heights Research School

Miss Clay—Sensory Training at Savile Park School

Mrs Pether and Miss Brambani have attended the North Halifax Cluster Headteacher Conference

All teachers this week for their staff meeting have been tasked with writing subject leader bids. Each member of staff leads of one or more subjects across the school. We have asked subject leaders to write bids for specific amounts of money to lead their subject next academic year. They must use the latest research and think about the needs of the children at Dean Field when writing the bids to request funding to develop their subject areas. We encourage them to 'think outside the box' and be as creative as they like!

BEAT THE STREETS

On Wednesday, Beat the Street was launched for North Halifax. All the children and their adults have to scan the beat boxes that are scattered around North Halifax.

Children can win individual or school prizes. One of the main school prizes is £500 for PE equipment for the school. Each week, we will share the leaderboard for average points and total points.

Today, we are 1st for total points and 2nd for average points.



	Average pts	Total pts
Jump to your position (2) ↓		
1	Maggies 22 players	112 pts
2	Dean Field Community Prim... 257 players	106 pts
3	NHP Core Services Team 9 players	103 pts
4	North Halifax PCN 2 players	100 pts
5	St Malachy's Catholic Pri... 185 players	93 pts
6	The Addy 12 players	93 pts
7	East Pennine orienteers 3 players	87 pts
8	Dad's r us 3 players	73 pts
9	Trinity Academy Akroydon 154 players	72 pts
10	Moorside Community Pr... 146 players	Support



NORTHERN ARTS FACTORY

This week, 25 children from year 3-5 started their dance rehearsals with the Northern Arts Factory. Each Wednesday, they will practice for their performance.

In May, they will perform at Crossley Health High School to all their adults along with others schools.



ONLINE SAFETY

For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **MARVEL RIVALS**

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

ESRB advice 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 10 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 irreverent 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 Doom, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.

UNDER 13

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 fun 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.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

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 iDM, TechRadar and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

BOOST YOUR READING SKILLS

For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–18 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lovell is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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SAFEGUARDING

Group Chats

The realities of group chats are often viewed as harmless, but they can expose children to risks parents might not anticipate. These digital spaces can quickly become environments where negative behaviours thrive without adult supervision. Primary school-aged children, who are still developing social and emotional maturity, may struggle with the fast-paced and often unfiltered nature of these chats. Many parents are unaware of what can occur in group chats. Unfortunately, children can be exposed to: Unkind behaviour: teasing, exclusion, and bullying can occur more easily behind a screen.

- **Inappropriate content:** children may encounter or share inappropriate language, images, videos, or other harmful content.
- **Peer pressure:** children may feel pressured to participate in conversations they are uncomfortable with.
- **Overuse and distraction:** constant notifications can interfere with sleep, homework, and family time.

How can parents help?

As a parent, there are practical steps you can take to educate and monitor your child's use of group chats:

- Have open conversations: talk to your child about the importance of kindness, respect, and the impact of their words online.
- Set boundaries: establish rules around screen time and appropriate online behaviour.
- Monitor group chats: regularly check the content of your child's chats and discuss any concerning messages.
- Teach privacy awareness: encourage your child to think before sharing personal information or images.
- Promote reporting: let your child know they can come to you if they feel uncomfortable or witness inappropriate behaviour.
- Use parental controls: utilise built-in tools on devices and apps to limit access and



Teach your children to stick to these five rules from the very start of using group chats. Emphasise the importance of being kind to others and ensuring that everyone's experience is positive.

EASTER RAFFLE



We are excited to announce our Easter raffle is coming soon!

Watch out for our Easter raffle letters that will be handed out to your children on the 10th March! This will have the dates on with deadlines for entry so make sure you look out for these to avoid missing entry!

THE **INVICTUS**
well-being
SUMMER BASH

Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**
CHARITY NO
1193094

WEST YORKSHIRE'S CHILDRENS AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL
HEALTH CHARITY FUNDRAISER!



Heath RUFC

North Dean, Stainland Rd,
Greetland, Halifax HX4 8LS

SUNDAY 25TH MAY

1PM TIL LATE!

2025
IS OUR
10TH
Birthday!

ADULT - £10
STUDENT - £5
CHILD 12-15 - £5
UNDER 12'S - FREE



LIVE MUSIC, GOOD FOOD, FREE KIDS'
ACTIVITIES AND MUCH MORE.

Early bird 20% discount
code: BIRTHDAY

SUMMER BASH

INVICTUS
well-being

WHATS ON!

Amazing food

Free kids
activities



Face painting



Live bands

Fun for all
the family

Welly wanging
championships



Cocktails and
Mocktails

Fun and Games



Dog 

Competition

Enter your furry friend

**Giant
inflatables**

Watch this space
more to follow...

Would you and your family like to participate in our Invictus Inflatable fun run to help raise vital funds for our charity? Would you be able to raise £150 per person? This would also mean you would be able to race for free. This a fun event with many inflatable obstacles to go at. Suitable for children aged 5+



INVICTUS
well-being

Fun for all the family!

THE INFLATABLE 5K - FUN RUN

The Inflatable 5k is not a race. It's all about having fun and taking part with friends and family. Whilst having fun, you'll be helping us raise vital funds to support Children's and Young people's mental health in West Yorkshire



REGISTER NOW 

 **Saturday 14th June**
9-2.30PM

 **Harewood House**
Leeds, LS17 9LG

 Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

PLEASE USE THINK LINK BELOW TO BOOK A PLACE

<https://form.jotform.com/243053813602044>

Another opportunity to take part in their fantastic course. Run in collaboration with ADHD West Yorkshire. Please follow the links below for booking. This is a fully funded course but really important you can commit to the 4 weeks to get the full benefits. Both courses are run in person from our community hub within Brighthouse town centre.

June 3rd 6-8pm <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/copy-of-adhd-what-i-wish-i-knew-earlier-tickets->

June 4th 10am-12 midday <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/copy-of-copy-of-adhd-what-i-wish-i-knew-earlier-tickets>

A FULLY FUNDED 4 WEEK COURSE

ADHD- WHAT I WISH I KNEW EARLIER

OPTION ONE
4 CONSECUTIVE
WEEKS STARTING
ON
TUESDAY 22ND
APRIL 2025
6-8 PM

**TO ENROL ON ONE
OF THESE
COURSES YOU
MUST BE ABLE
TO COMMIT TO
THE WHOLE 4
WEEKS**

OPTION TWO
4 CONSECUTIVE
WEEKS STARTING
ON
WEDNESDAY 23RD
APRIL 2025
10-12PM

- UNDERSTANDING ADHD AND ITS CHALLENGES
- SUPPORT & ADVICE
- HELP WITH MANAGING BEHAVIOUR
- ADDRESSING ISSUES AT HOME
- LIAISING WITH SCHOOL
- SUPPORT & ADVICE
- ENCP GUIDANCE
- DLA AND BENEFIT ADVICE & SUPPORT

WWW.FOCUS4HOPE.CO.UK
NIC@FOCUS4HOPE.ORG

01484443979

EMILY FUNDED BY

How Kooth and Qwell meets the needs of SEND & neurodivergent young people

Join us on this 30-minute webinar designed for families, exploring how Kooth - with its 'out of hours' availability, anonymous digital chat support and asynchronous messaging - is well placed to meet the specific needs of neurodivergent young people.

connect.kooth.com



Whole School Values

As a school, our vision is 'Learning without Limits' and being guided by our school values.

Our School Values

Tolerance

Honesty

Perseverance

Respect

Kindness

Learning Without Limits



Dean Field
Community Primary School

Caring

Friendship

Determination

This half term's value is


Caring



I care for myself,
for others and our
school community.

Dean Field Nursery

If you have applied for a September 2025 Reception place at Dean Field please speak to the office about our Nursery Provision. We have places available in Nursery that will improve your chances of a place in Reception. Please contact the school office on 01422 258258 to register.

What we offer



- ✦ Safe, secure & stimulating environment
- ✦ Fully equipped indoor and outdoor space
- ✦ Fun and sociable experiences
- ✦ Fully qualified, friendly and caring staff
- ✦ Up to date resources and equipment
- ✦ Nurturing transition to our school
- ✦ Hot meals available
- ✦ Free and daily fruit, milk and tooth brushing
- ✦ Whole school involvement to prepare for starting Reception with their class mates
- ✦ Trips and exciting opportunities including animal workshops



When to apply

Apply when your child turns 2 years old. Children start nursery the term after they turn 3 years old.



When will my child start Nursery?

- If your child turns 3 between 1 September and 31 December – **Term starting on or after 1 January**
- If your child turns 3 between 1 January and 31 March – **Term starting on or after 1 April**
- If your child turns 3 between 1 April and 31 August – **Term starting on or after 1 September**



School Lottery

So far we have raised a huge £3000 through the School Lottery. If you would like to support our school and help us raise funds to provide extra resources for the children, improve the school environment and organise extracurricular activities such as music, art and sport please sign up and be in with a chance of winning the super draw or £1000 cash!

Cash prizes are guaranteed weekly for one player locally plus money for school. You can also win up to £25,000!

Follow the link to sign up— <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play>.



Enter our
Super Draw
Win a £1,000 Aldi Gift Card
OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE

ALDI

YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY

Learning Without Limits
Dean Field
Community Primary School

The graphic features a vibrant blue background with a pattern of small white dots. In the center, a yellow-bordered square contains the Aldi logo. To the right, a brown paper shopping bag is overflowing with fresh produce, including bananas, apples, oranges, tomatoes, broccoli, and a pineapple. In the bottom left corner, there are three logos: a stylized figure with arms raised, the text 'YOUR SCHOOL LOTTERY', and the Dean Field Community Primary School logo which includes a hot air balloon and the tagline 'Learning Without Limits'.

Week commencing Monday 3rd March

3		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Meal Option	Chicken Nuggets 5	Sausage 5	Fish Fingers 2, 5	Homemade Chicken Pie 5, 10, 12	Chicken Sausages 5	Pizza 5, 10
	Vegetable Pasta Bake 5, 10	Quorn Nuggets 5	Homemade Vegetable Curry Rice	Vegan Rolls 4, 5	Homemade Creamy Broccoli Pasta 5, 10	
Vegetables	Ziggy Fries Beans Sweetcorn	Mashed Potato 8, 10 Spaghetti 5 Mixed Veg	Potato Puffs Sweetcorn Broccoli	Roast Potatoes Carrots Cauliflower	Potato Cubes 5 Beans Peas	
Served Daily	Jacket Potatoes with various fillings Salad Bar Selection of Sandwiches Allergies for the daily items available on request					
Dessert	Sweet Waffles 4, 5, 10, 12	Treacle Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Parkin 5, 10, 12	Chocolate Sponge 5, 10, 12 Custard 10	Assorted Fresh Baking 5, 10, 12	
	Chocolate Swirls 10	Assorted Biscuits 5, 10, 12	Cheesecake 5, 10	Jelly	Vanilla Ice Cream 10	

A few reminders of the Apps we use in school which can also be accessed at home to enhance your child's learning.

EYFS-Nursery and Reception



<https://tentown.co.uk/login-page-class>

Please ask your class teacher for a login

Year 1 and 2



<https://numbots.com/#>

Please ask your class teacher for a log in

Year 1 to 6



<https://play.trockstars.com/auth/school/student>

Please ask your class teacher for a log in



Year 2 to 6

<https://www.spellingshed.com/en-gb/>

Please ask your class teacher for a log in

DIARY DATES

DATE	EVENT
Monday 10th March	Parent Session- Understanding Anxiety
Tuesday 11th March	Year 5 Family Learning on Ancient Greece.
Tuesday 17th March	Year 1 Trip To Manor Heath
Tuesday 24th March	Year 1 Trip To Manor Heath
Friday 4th April	SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSING AT 1:10PM FOR EVERYBODY—THERE WILL BE NO FRIDAY CLUBS NOR ANY OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB (Dean Field Den)

REMINDER: All school fees, dinner money, extended provision and

REMINDER: We are a nut free school and we would appreciate that any lunchboxes do not include nut products to protect the children in school with nut allergies.



REMINDER: If your child has asthma please ensure they have an inhaler in school and you have filled out a medical form at the school office. Thank you.

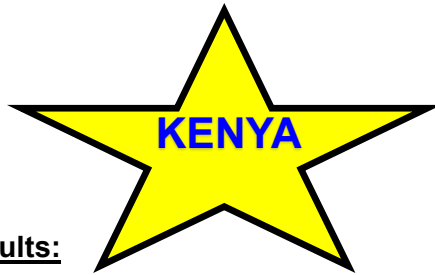
QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“To make a difference in someone's life you don't have to be brilliant, rich, beautiful or perfect. You just have to care.”

Mandy Hale

www.thedreamcatch.com

Accelerated Reader – Reading Achievements this week



AR Results:

Australia 84%
Poland: 80%
Kenya: 95%
Brazil: 88%
Ireland: 90%

You could help increase your class percentage by doing some extra reading on myON! There are thousands of books for you to choose from! If you need a reminder of your login details, please speak to your teacher. Visit <https://www.myon.co.uk/login/> to start reading!

Evolve First Aid System

The new first aid system is now live so please check your junk email and update us if you change your email address.

Bumped head texts will no longer be sent as every incident will be emailed to parents and no paper slips will be sent home.

School will continue to ring parents if we feel further information needs passing on or in the event of further medical treatment needed.

Thank you for your cooperation.

EVOLVEaccidentbook

Group	% Attendance
Mexico	86%
China	90%
Australia	96%
Poland	97.7%
Kenya	93%
Brazil	96.9%
Ireland	93.6%
Total	93.3%

This Weeks Attendance

Congratulations to Poland class who had the highest attendance in the school this week. Well done to Brazil class for coming second. I am seriously concerned of classes who are below 96%. Meetings with parents of children who are of concern will occur.

If your child is absent from school please contact the school office on 01422 258258 before 9.00am.

It is important we are aware of the reason for your child/children's absence. It becomes a safeguarding concern if parents do not inform school when their child/children are absent. Please contact the school office on the first day of absence before 9am stating reasons for any absence. This will avoid absences being recorded as unauthorised.

If you have any concerns or questions surrounding your child/children's attendance please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,
Lorraine Stansfield, Pastoral Manager