

## Churchfields' Weekly Newsletter

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up  
**Ecclesiastes 4:9-10**

Friday 28 February 2025

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's been another super busy week at Churchfields. We began by celebrating Thinking Day on Monday and thinking about the different elements of the Guiding and Scouting organisations. It was lovely to see so many children wearing their uniforms proudly. On Tuesday, Wow Day was a huge success; Key Stage One enjoyed a visit to Lowden Garden Centre - thank goodness for the lovely weather that day! And Key Stage Two explored earthquakes through drama, dance and jelly!! I'm sure you've heard all about your child's day already! Thank you to all the staff and volunteers that made all this possible.

This week we have been awarded the Thrive Ambassador School with Excellence in Environment award. This reflects all the work that all our staff put into making children feel welcome and cared for every day at Churchfields. Our assessor said:

*"Congratulations on achieving the Excellence in Environment award! Churchfields has created an incredibly thoughtful and enriching environment where every child is supported to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. The integration of Thrive principles is evident across the school, from the well-placed staffroom and corridor displays to the visible class targets and carefully planned class assessments. Initiatives such as Puffin Pals, Holly Time, and ELSA support highlight your commitment to building safe and nurturing spaces where children feel seen, valued, and understood. The rich curriculum, immersive WOW Days, and opportunities for trips, music, and*

*creative arts ensure a balanced and inspiring experience for every child. Additionally, the welcoming atmosphere fostered through events like Teddy Bear's Picnic and the ongoing engagement with parents and carers contributes to a strong sense of community. Your dedication to embedding Thrive across the school environment, both physically and relationally, is truly impressive. Well done on this well-deserved recognition!"*

Finally, we are excited that tomorrow we will finally join Palladian Academy Trust. We will be celebrating this next week... On Monday morning there will be a coffee morning at Atworth first thing with Mr Fitcher, myself and Mrs Tandy (the CEO of Palladian). Mrs Tandy will then lead an assembly for the children. There will then be a coffee afternoon at Monkton Farleigh with Mr Fitcher and myself. The children will be having a "Bridge Day" as they celebrate becoming part of the Palladian family.

On Tuesday, Mrs Tandy will be meeting and greeting first thing at Monkton Farleigh on the gate, then leading an assembly for the children.

We hope that you will be able to attend the coffee morning / afternoon to celebrate with us.

Best Wishes

Heather

Heather Saunders

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### Mathletics

A brilliant effort from our mathletes over the last two weeks with people moving up on every single level. Look how crowded the diamond and emerald podiums are looking now, with 5 new members on each! With only two more steps after diamond, there is a real possibility that lots of children will make it to legend status this year - keep up the good work! A particular well done to Woodpeckers, who are currently on exactly 200 certificates this year.

Bronze : Laurie, Emma, Florence C, Imogen W, Chloe, Quinn, Quinn

Silver : Florence W, Isla, Niamh, Isla, Maggie, Meadow, Ezra, Iris, Maggie

Gold : Scarlett, Ruby, Bodhi C, Freddie

Platinum : Henry H, Ted E, Oscar BH, Rufus, Coralie, Christina, George R, William J, Henry J, Jasper

Emerald : William J, Joseph, Henry J, Jasper, Anouk, Hattie D, William CJ, Hattie D, William CJ, Benjamin, Rosemary, Jason

Diamond : Leighton, Oliver CJ, Benjamin, Rosemary, Jason, Oliver CJ, Jazmyne, Alexis G, Maddox, Alexis G, Maddox

### Easter Concert

This term we will be holding our Easter concerts during an afternoon at the end of term (Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Atworth and Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at Monkton Farleigh). If you have instrumental lessons in school your teachers may invite you to perform. If you have instrumental or vocal lessons outside school and you have a piece that you would like to perform, please speak to either Miss Ottner (Atworth) or Mrs Croker (Monkton Farleigh). Due to the wealth of musical talent in school at the moment, we may not be able to fit everyone in, but there will be another opportunity in the summer term.

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### WOW Day

Key Stage 2 spent the wow day at the Monkton Farleigh base learning all about earthquakes. In our Volatile Earth drama sessions, children explored three major disasters in distant and recent history: the explosion of Vesuvius in 79AD, the Fukushima earthquake and nuclear disaster in 2011 and the Boxing Day tsunami caused by the undersea earthquake in 2004.

We created short films where we re-enacted the disasters through improvisation, stage acting and expressive pantomime. The acting was brilliant and all performances dynamic and full of dramatic tension. We certainly have a few budding silver screen stars in our midst!

With Mrs Croker in Falcons, Children looked at structures. We talked about strong shapes and what would help should a building be hit by an Earthquake. The children then proceeded to make structures from designs using linguine and marshmallows. This was then placed on 'Monkton Farleigh land' and the earthquake hit. The Richter scale went from one to a vigorous ten, testing out the structures. We were surprised at how some structures managed to remain stable and how sadly some went into the jelly.

The children also listened to a song about earthquakes based on Shake It Off by Taylor Swift. They explored the technical vocabulary used and created dance motifs. These were then combined to make a dance. There was lots of collaborative work with partners and in groups and some great knowledge demonstrated.



On Tuesday KS1 embarked on a wonderful adventure all in the name of Science! The children thoroughly enjoyed the walk to Lowden garden centre. Their daily, daily mile certainly enabled the pupils to go the distance showing great stamina and determination.

Along the way the children and adults carried out a nature scavenger hunt. They were all amazed by the signs of spring although spotting a squirrel proved to be a bit difficult.

The lovely Martha who works at **Lowden** gave us a fantastic tour of the centre and explained why certain plants and trees were where they are and what the plants need in order to help them thrive and flourish. Such a knowledgeable and helpful member of their team. Thank you!

We loved exploring the garden centre carrying out scavenger hunts and observational drawings. Our fantastic volunteer helpers did an impressive job of answering lots of questions, supporting the children, finding all (and more) of the items on their lists.

We are so proud of the way the children behaved, wearing their uniforms with pride. They listened exceptionally well and followed all of the safety expectations sensibly. As a result we had lots of people stop and talk to us and smile at us. Loads of van and lorry drivers beeped their horns and gave us friendly waves on our journey back to school.

Thank you to everyone for your help. It was a fabulous experience for us all. Love KS1

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### Term dates for 2024/2025

<b>Term 2: Monday 4 November – Fri 20 December 2024</b>	<b>Term 3: Monday 06 January 2025 – Friday 14 February 2025</b>
<b>Term 4: Monday 24 February – Friday 04 April 2025</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>INSET DAY Friday 21 March 2025</b></li> </ul>	<b>Term 5: Tuesday 22 April – Friday 23 May 2025</b>
<b>Term 6: Monday 02 June – Tuesday 22 July 2025</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>INSET DAY Wednesday 23 July 2025</b></li> <li>• <b>INSET DAY Wednesday 24 July 2025</b></li> </ul>	

TERM 3	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Coffee morning Atworth
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Coffee Afternoon Monkton Farleigh
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Author visit Catherine Barr
Monday 10 March – Friday 14 March	STEM week
Tuesday 18 March	Parents evening until 6pm
Thursday 20 March	Parents evening until 7:30pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Inset day
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	Term ends Easter holidays
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Term 5 begins

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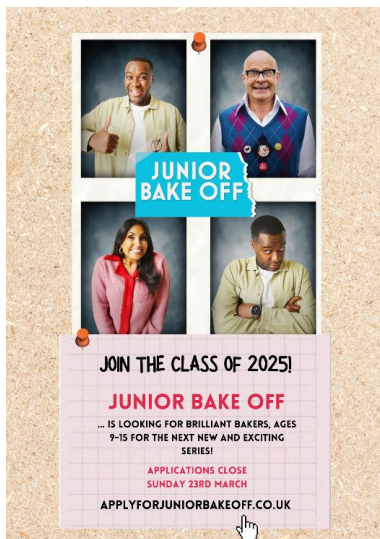
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## Monkton Farleigh Road Changes

We have been asked to inform all parents and those passing through the village of Monkton Farleigh, that we are having a speed limit change on our roads, this should be in place by then end of this week. The area past school, as always remains **20 MPH**. Where the road continues down the hill until the end of the village will now also be **20 MPH**. The end of the village the **50MPH** area will now be **40MPH** until the main road.



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At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## 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.

**NO RESTRICTION PEGI 12**  
ESRB: Adults 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 3D 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.

**VOLENT CONTENT**

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters' abilities vary between those 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 innuendoes and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content inappropriate 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 tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mostly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.

**WakeUpWednesday** The National College

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