

The start of a new academic year!

We've had a great start to the new academic year, all the children have settled into their new classes, with their new teachers. It's been especially lovely to welcome the new children entering nursery, reception and those new to our school across other year groups. I hope you have been made to feel welcome by the staff and that your child is starting to make new friends.

Thank you for making sure your child has the correct uniform to start the year making them look smart and ready to learn. I can't believe how much some of them have grown over the summer!

As always, we have some exciting things happening this year that are aimed to enhance the curriculum as well as build confidence, teamwork and relationships. We have already had educational visits and visitors coming into school, and parents in reception and year 1 have been in to learn more about how we teach early reading and how to support at home. Watch out for news about other events over the coming months.

I have one request to all our community – please will you show respect by parking responsibly when dropping off and picking up children. This will keep everyone safe and show respect to our neighbours, as well as role modelling positive behaviour to our children. Thank you.

Sporting Achievements

There's already been some competitive sport with year 6 and year 4 taking part in a Warley Road football tournament, as well as IMPACT football tournament with Lee Mount, The Halifax Academy, Hill View, Old Bank and Newsome Juniors. Our Under 9s girls won the IMPACT tournament with Under 9 boys coming 3rd as did Under 11 girls.

10 children from year 6 represented Warley Road at a Calderdale School Games Festival.

As always, eyes are on who will win medals in the end of term Sports Award Ceremony in December. Staff are already watching how children demonstrate the 4 Rs during PE lessons, clubs and tournaments.

Next half term, years 2,3 and 5 will take part in football tournaments in school and across the IMPACT Primary academy schools. We're hoping for another win!



NEWSLETTER



**WARLEY
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Autumn 2024

School council

Congratulations to our Warley Road School councillors.

Our school council is a dynamic group of student leaders dedicated to enhancing our school community.

By working collaboratively to voice student concerns, the council empowers peers to engage actively in school life.

The councillors will work together with Miss Manak to create a positive and inclusive environment for everyone!



i-challenge

It has been fantastic to see how many i-Challenge activities have already taken place this half term in all year groups, using the building blocks - build confidence, build relationships and build teamwork. The first of three residential for this academic year will be taking place, Year 5 are off to Malham for a few days of hiking and exploring, ticking off some of their i-Challenge activities. Year 4 had their first experience day, taking part in an Ancient Greek workshop and Year 1 have enjoyed a trip to Nell Bank where they worked in the outdoors and woodland.



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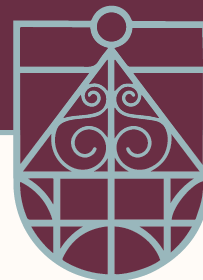
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Coming up this term...

16th – 18th October year 5 residential to Malham
w/c 21st October is skipping week – children will attend a workshop learning how to skip and have fun.
17th October year 1 trip to King Cross on a Geography field trip.
25th October year 2 trip to Nell Bank
25th October school CLOSES at 3.15pm for half term break
4th November school REOPENS at 8.50am for autumn 2 term
7th November school photograph day (make sure you're wearing your smartest uniform)
Book fair arrives at school – look out for more details of how to come and buy a book and help raise money for school.
7th November year 4 'Slow The Flow' workshop
11th November Antibullying week
12th and 13th November PARENT and TEACHER MEETINGS
13th November School Nurse Toilet training workshop for parents
14th November flu nasal sprays for all children
18th November Reception 2025 applications opens
20th November Year 6 Poetry Slam workshop
22nd November Year 6 conference at Castle Hall Academy
2nd December year 3 parents i-challenge workshop
9th December IMPACT Taekwondo tournament
11th December onwards – end of term reward trips begin
11th December Winter Bazaar
16th December End of term sports awards
18th December early years nativity
20th December school CLOSES for the Christmas break
7th January school REOPENS to children for the start of spring term



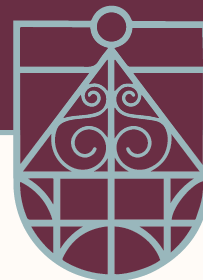
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Lost property!



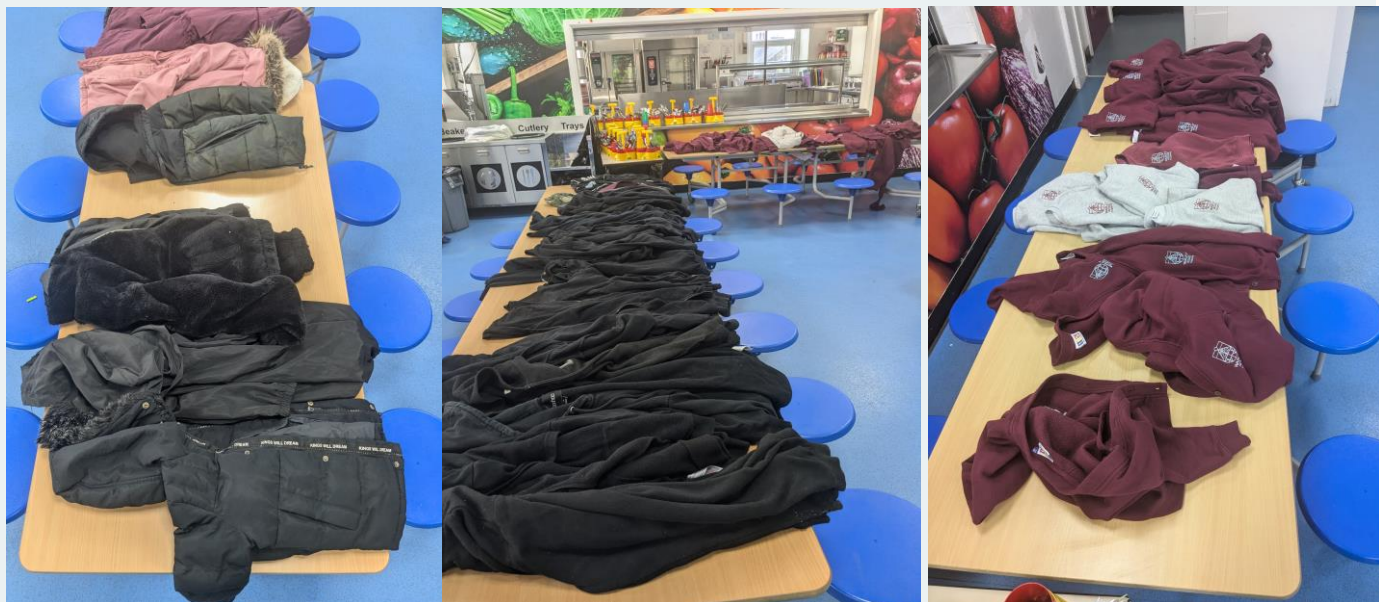
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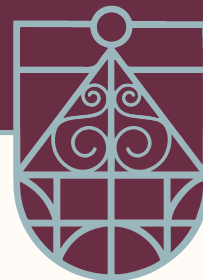
Has your child lost a jumper? A coat? A PE kit? Then you might find it in the lost property.

Every Friday, after you have collected your child, you are invited to the dining hall to see if your child's lost item is there.

Every fortnight, any unclaimed items will be donated to local charities.

We hope many of these high quality items get reunited with their owners!





As we enter flu season, here is a reminder about how you can protect your child against the flu bug...

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

3. No injection needed

The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

5. Avoid costs

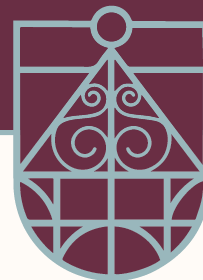
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

For more information visit
www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Flu **i**mmunisation
Helping to protect children, every winter

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Community involvement

We are delighted to announce we will be hosting a charity fundraiser to raise money for some local charities that the children will be voting for.

The **Winter Bazaar** will be on the **11th of December 2025**. If you have any old/new toys, or books that are in good condition which you would like to donate keep them until we start collecting.



Children working with Dr Ovenden – loving reading!

So far this term the Y3s and Y4s have been reading lots of the latest children's fiction and recommending books to each other. They are also looking forward to applying for the Blue Peter Book Badge having seen the Y5s and Y6s wearing their badges from last year.

In our writing sessions they have been inspired to create their own stories and fairytales by reading Clotilde Perrin's amazing picturebooks. We will be entering them in the BBC 500 word stories competition in November!

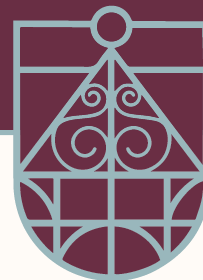


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TTRockstars

Learning timetables is the foundation to achieving well in maths because memorising times tables strengthens your child's ability to perform mental maths at speed.

Your child needs to practice their timetables daily for the recommended **15 minutes**. If you are unsure of the login details, see the class teacher. There will be class rewards for the best achieving class each half term.



Uniform and lost property

As the winter weather draws in, please make sure your child has a warm winter coat, appropriate footwear and a hat to keep warm when playing outside.

As always, it's important to write your child's name in their clothing so it can be reunited if it gets lost!

Each Friday, any lost property will be laid out in the Stoodley Dining hall for you to look through when you have collected your child/children. Any unclaimed lost property will be donated to charity.



**FREE SCHOOL
UNIFORM SERVICE
AT THE YMCA**

Calderdale school uniform

Primary and Secondary school uniforms available.
We collect all uniform items including warm winter coats.

**No referral needed
Free service
Collect and Donate**

Free Text

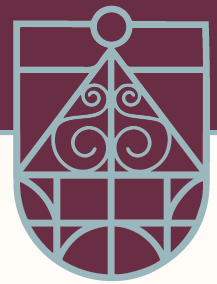
Email: admin@halifax.ymca.org.uk
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The Halifax YMCA, Greasley Street, Halifax, HX1 1AG

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A taste of learning happening this term so far...



There are so many children we are **PROUD** of!



Jeffrey Andrews demonstrated his wax crayon sculptures and taught the Year 5 children how to make a pop-up book. The children also explored the artworks on display throughout Crossley Mill.

Year 1 and 2 did some outdoor learning at Nell Bank



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat