



Axbridge C of E Academy

Together We Inspire, Thrive & Excel

Issue # 22

3rd March 2025

Dear Families,

Hooray, Book Week is here and we can't wait to explore the recently arrived Book Fair and all the wonderful books it contains! It was great to see some of you there tonight searching through the new and exciting titles! As a reminder, each child has been given a £1 book token. These tokens can be redeemed at participating stores for a free World Book Day book or as a discount on the purchase of a different book, including those at our book fair. The tokens are valid until Sunday 23rd March 2025. We look forward to our Bedtime stories tomorrow, the Animal Encounters on Wednesday and dressing up for World Book Day on Thursday - it's always such a fantastic week in school. Thank you in advance for your support with costumes, pyjamas and attending the book fair.



Looking ahead to next week, Mrs Hector from Chestnut Class is organising different activities across the school to celebrate Science Week, with the theme this year being Change and Adapt. We look forward to exploring her different challenges she has set us! Finally, we will be looking to rearrange the postponed PTA meeting for a date in the coming weeks, keep your eyes posted for this date. However, they are still running their quiz night next Friday, the 14th March, which is always a fantastic night, full of laughs and entertainment. Be sure to get a team together and come and get involved.

Warmest wishes

Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Inspire Thrive Excel

This week, we are celebrating the work of the **Eco-Team**, who led Collective Worship today and shared the importance of looking after wildlife. This coincided with World Wildlife Day and supported their message around conservation and caring for the plants and animals in their local habitats.



March

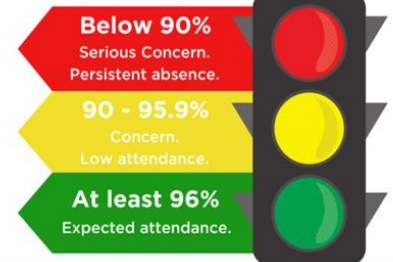
- Monday 3rd - Book Week
- Tuesday 4th - Bedtime Stories
- Wednesday 5th - Animals Encounter Day
- Thursday 6th - World Book Day
- Monday 10th - Science Week
- Friday 14th - PTA Quiz Night
- Monday 17th @ 3.30 to 5.15pm - PTA Film Night
- Friday 21st - Red Nose Day
- Friday 21st @ 9am - Church Service
- Wednesday 26th - World Maths Day
- Friday 28th - Wear a Hat Day
- Sunday 30th @ 10am - Mothering Sunday Church Service
- Monday 31st 1 to 3pm - Oak Class Parents Evening afternoon session

April

- Tuesday 1st 1 to 3pm - Redwood & Chestnut Class Parents Evening afternoon session
- Wednesday 2nd 4 to 7pm - Parents Evening
- Thursday 3rd 4 to 7pm - Parents Evening
- Thursday 3rd - Opera workshop for Year 4's
- Friday 4th @ 9am - Church Easter Service

ATTENDANCE

Every day counts!



Expected attendance means having no more than seven days off this school year!



Our Christian Values are:

**Faith
Hope
Love**

Our Christian Vision is;

"I have come so that you may have life, a life in all its fullness"

John 10:10

Our Learning Skills are:

**Thinking
Social
Self-management
Communication
Research**

Congratulations to our certificate winners this week, we are so proud of you!

	Pine	Hazel	Chestnut	Redwood	Oak
Star of the Week	Rosa	Cobey	Ethan	Jessica	Elsie
Christian Values	James	TBC	Hermione	Ollie W	Juno
Learning Skills	Archie	Arthur R	Leo	Kip	Edward

Headteacher's Awards

Star of the Week	Ruben F Oak	Christian Values	Cora P Redwood	Learning Skills	Betty R Hazel
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House Points

	Black Rock	Crook Peak	King's Wood	Strawberry Line
This week	255	196	145	178

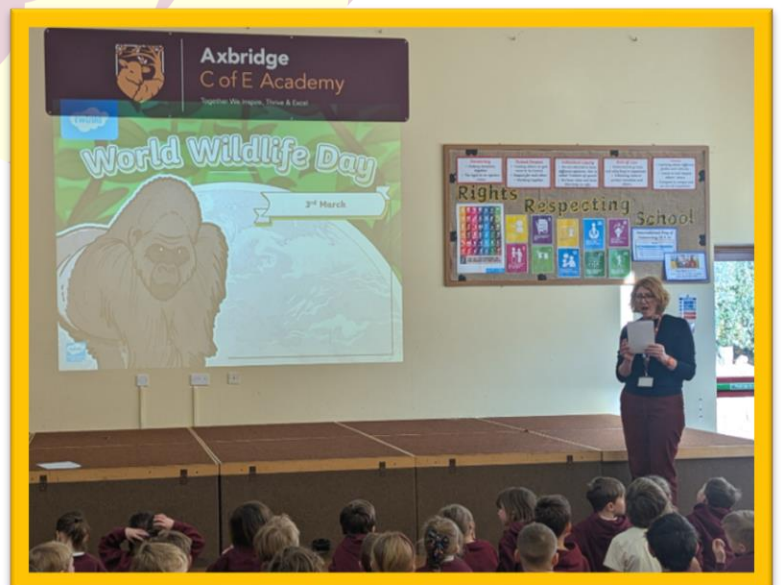
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IS A RESPONSIBILITY OF US ALL

Safeguarding Lead: Mr Dominic Shillabeer

Deputy Safeguarding Leads: Miss Kellie Nash and Mrs Kate Febrey

Well done Eco-Team for presenting your ideas so well. You inspired the children to think about their local habitats, the wildlife in it and how we can help care for it all!

Great job 😊





Online Safety Support for Parents

There is a bewildering world of information out there regarding online safety, digital devices and how parents/carers are expected to navigate this all safely for their children. We recommend exploring the [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) as a starting point, as a way to encourage a positive conversation around screen time and digital habits. The below information does precisely that and encourages those conversations around consoles, screens, usage and family attitudes towards technology.

Have a conversation

It is really important to chat with your children on an ongoing basis about staying safe online. Not sure where to begin? These conversation starter suggestions can help.

Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together?

Ask them about how they stay safe online.

What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share?

Ask them if they know where to go for help.

Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

Think about how you each use the internet.

What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

Parents guide to technology



Phones

Guide to phones including top tips and advice about safety tools.



Laptops

Looking for advice on how to support your child in using a laptop safely and responsibly? Read our guide and FAQs.



Smart Speakers

Looking for advice on how to support your child in using a smart speaker safely and responsibly? Read our guide and...



Games Consoles

Looking for advice on how to support your child in using a games console safely and responsibly? Read our guide and FAQs...



Tablets

Guide to tablets including top tips and advice about safety tools.



Smart TVs

Smart or connected TVs are televisions with integrated internet capabilities.



Social media guides

Find out more about the safety features available on popular social networks.



'Wake Up Wednesday' Parent Guides

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.

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.

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 £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 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 Hela, 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 mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.

