



# North Crescent Primary School

*Guiding Explorers of the Future*

This week we were pleased to welcome our new allocated School Nurse Louise. If you feel your child and family could do with some support relating to sleep, continence issues, sensory needs, diet and nutrition, anxiety or just a general health check to support your child's well-being and development then please contact Mrs Mallyon (SENCO) or Mrs Quick (Pastoral and Inclusion Lead) via [admin@northcrescent.org](mailto:admin@northcrescent.org) who will happily consider making a School Nurse referral for you.



## Diary Dates

**Monday 9th February -**  
Parent Drop-Ins @ 3:30 pm

**Tuesday 10th February -**  
Pathfinders 1 Local area visit

**Wednesday 11th February -**  
Cross Country

**Thursday 12th February -**  
Year R Sharing Assembly @ 2:50pm

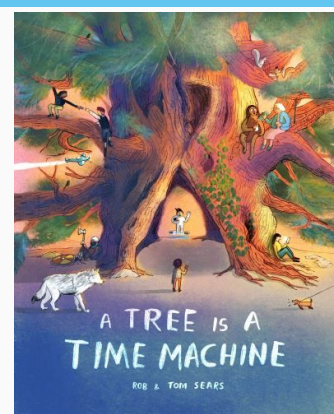
**Friday 13th February -**  
Last day of half term

**Monday 2nd March -**  
First day back to school

A Tree is a Machine by Rob Sears and Laurence King

A really wonderful book full of humour, truly poignant moments, and a mind-boggling sense of just how old yew trees can grow to be. Touches on themes of environmentalism, change, deep time, technology, the march of history and mindfulness. It also considers whether progress is really essential and encourages the reader just to stop and be, and not to be rushing around and starting at screens all the time.

## Book of the Week



**A Tree is a Time Machine**

## Reminder

- Please report your child's absence by emailing [pupilabsence@northcrescent.org](mailto:pupilabsence@northcrescent.org) or by call before 9am each day.

- Please be mindful when parking at drop off and pick up time. It is important to avoid blocking residential driveways and parking in non-parking areas.

Huge congratulations to the following children who have been chosen as the Lead Learners.

|               |             |               |          |
|---------------|-------------|---------------|----------|
| Explorers     | Esmae       | Pathfinders 2 | Alfie    |
| Pathfinders 1 | Theo E      | Adventurers 4 | Eleora   |
| Adventurers 3 | TJ (Thomas) | Navigators 6  | Isabella |
| Navigators 5  | Lenny       |               |          |

Each week we celebrate the class that have shown respect for their classroom. The children really love our gold, diamante dustpan and brush award! Why don't you ask them about it?

We are excited to share that pupils had their first Rock Steady music lesson this week! Their enthusiasm was a joy to see, and they were eager to tell their friends about the experience. There is still time to sign up for Rock Steady lessons if you haven't done so already.

For more information on how to sign up, please contact the school office.

Instagram: @northcrescentprimary  
FB: North Crescent Primary School  
Twitter/X: <https://x.com/NorthCrescentP>



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance; however, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

### 1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS

Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples, like how recommendations on YouTube or Netflix work, to build understanding and prevent false beliefs about AI being all-knowing or alive.

### 2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION

AI can create convincing false information, including deepfake videos, photos, and fake "facts". Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to look at images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.

### 3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY

Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why protecting personal data matters. Model good habits like reading app permissions together or reviewing what's collected by voice assistants like Alexa or Siri.

### 4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI

Support children, when using AI tools, to explore ideas, make art, or build projects. This fosters confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. When children use AI creatively, rather than just passively consuming it, they are more likely to stay engaged and make thoughtful choices.

### 5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS

Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity, with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings, and help children use them in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools mimic conversation but should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.

### 6 USE AI TOGETHER

Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.

### 7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE

Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used, just as you would with any digital technology. For example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid unsupervised use of voice assistants. Consistent boundaries help manage overuse and misuse.

### 8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE

Some AI tools, like homework help apps, may be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Celebrate effort and process over perfect answers. Reinforce that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.

### 9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY

Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Building digital literacy alongside ethical awareness ensures children engage with AI critically, not just conveniently. Help young people to understand that not all people use AI for legitimate purposes; some use it for malicious reasons. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and who benefits from certain tools; talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on daily life.

### 10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED

AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. If a child brings up a new AI trend or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Showing interest builds trust and strengthens digital resilience.

## Meet Our Expert

Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

# Starting Reception Roadshows



## Is Your Little One Starting Reception in September 2026?

### Come along to our Starting Reception Roadshow!

Get ready for a fun, friendly, and totally **FREE** event designed to help you to support your child feel excited and confident about starting reception.

Essex Early Years has teamed up with local schools plus education, health and care partners to bring you a lively, helpful session packed with top tips and advice.

#### Want to join in?

Ask your child's childminder, preschool, or nursery for details about your nearest event, or visit the Essex Talk, Listen and Cuddle website to find out more about dates and times across Essex.

#### Starting Reception Roadshow near you:

Where: Janet Duke Primary School - 105 Markhams Chase, Basildon SS15 5LS

When: Wednesday 18th March - 6pm - 7.30pm



You can find out information about the event by scanning the QR code or visiting **[www.tlc-essex.info](http://www.tlc-essex.info)** and searching 'Starting reception'



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