



North Crescent Primary School

Guiding Explorers of the Future

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all of our children, parents, carers and staff for your continued support, kindness and partnership throughout the year. Together, we have celebrated many achievements and created lasting memories. We would also like to share that Mr Bird will be leaving our school at the end of this term. We are incredibly grateful for his dedication, hard work and the positive impact that he has had on our school community. We wish him every success and happiness in the next chapter of his career and thank him for all he has contributed. He will always be a valued part of our school family.

Diary Dates

Tuesday 21st July -
Year 6 Leavers Disco

Tuesday 21st July -
Class end of year parties

Tuesday 21st July -
Year 6 Graduation

Wednesday 22nd July -
Last day of the summer term

Thursday 3rd September -
First day back to school

Reminders

- Next week, for the final three days of term, the kitchen will be serving **cold lunches only**. There will be the option of a **ham, cheese or tuna** baguette. These will come with juice, crisps, fruit and a yogurt.
- School starts for **Nursery, KS1 and KS2** on **Thursday 3rd September** and **Reception** will start on **7th September**.

Book of the Week



Ivy and Bearlock
Holmes: The Case of
the Missing Flower
Kristyna Litten

In this first volume of the popular full-colour chapter book series, meet Ivy and her grandpa Bearlock Holmes - two super-sleuths with a knack for solving the trickiest cases. When a prize-winning flower mysteriously disappears from Bearlock's famous botanical gardens, Ivy and Bearlock are called in to investigate. As clues begin to emerge, readers are invited to join the detectives in unravelling the mystery through 15 interactive puzzles woven into the story.

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

Explorers Whole class
Pathfinders 1 JJ
Adventurers 3 Nelly
Navigators 5 Demarni

Pathfinders 2 Francesca
Adventurers 4 Whole class
Navigators 6 Whole class

What a busy and exciting week we have had at North Crescent!

Our Year 6 children impressed the whole school with their fantastic Leavers' Performance. Well done to them all!

We also celebrated the Graduation Ceremony for our Nursery and Explorers children, recognising their growth and the exciting journeys ahead.

To top it all off, the Year 6 SATs results were released this week, and we could not be prouder. The children have worked incredibly hard and achieved fantastic results—they have absolutely smashed it!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Esports Coaching at the University Campus of Esports.

Bubba Gaeddert is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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SUMMER CRASH COURSE



JOIN OUR EXCLUSIVE 5 DAY SUMMER SWIMMING CRASH COURSE

WEEK 1 20/7 - 24/7, WEEK 3 3/8 - 7/8, WEEK 4 10/ - 14/8, WEEK 5 17/8 - 21/8, WEEK 6 24/8 - 28/8



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Essex Fire Museum Open Days

2026



26th Of July

10:30AM To 4:00PM

Fire Station, Hoggs Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS



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Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk