



North Crescent Primary School

Guiding Explorers of the Future

On Wednesday, we enjoyed a fantastic owl assembly, where the children were treated to a spectacular flying display! They learned lots of fascinating facts about owls and had the opportunity to have their photograph taken with Dottie, the beautiful barn owl. Photograph proofs will be sent home with your child, giving you the opportunity to purchase a special keepsake of this memorable experience.



Diary Dates

Monday 19th October -
Individual school photos

Wednesday 14th October -
Owl assembly

Thursday 15th October 2:50pm -
Year 5 sharing assembly

Thursday 22nd October -
Halloween Disco

Friday 23rd October -
Last day of Autumn half term

Monday 2nd November -
First day back to school

Wednesday 11th November -
Remembrance Day

Thursday 12th November 2:50pm -
Year 4 sharing assembly

Friday 13th November -
Children in Need day

Thursday 19th November 2:50pm -
Year 3 sharing assembly

Thursday 26th November 2:50pm -
Year 2 sharing assembly

Tuesday 1st December after school -
Parent consultations

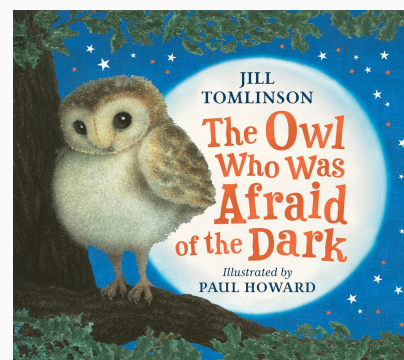
Thursday 3rd December after school -
Parent consultations

Thursday 3rd December 2:50pm -
Year 1 sharing assembly

This weeks book of the week is *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* by Jill Tomlinson.

The story of Plop helps us think about bravery, feelings and trying new things. As the story unfolds, Plop discovers that the night can be exciting, beautiful and full of surprises. This linked wonderfully with our owl assembly this week.

Book of the Week



The owl who was afraid of the dark

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

Pathfinders 1 Lorna
Adventurers 3 Billy
Navigators 5 Darren

Pathfinders 2 Steven
Adventurers 4 Nelly
Navigators 6 Demarni

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?

If feels like autumn has finally arrived and so has the much needed rain. We try to take the children outside as much as possible for morning break, lunchtime play, PE lessons and outdoor learning so please ensure your child has a warm and if possible waterproof coat in school every day.
Thank you.



Football Tournament



⚽ Year 5 and 6 Boys Shine at Wickford Town Football Tournament!

Our Year 5 and 6 boys proudly represented our school at the Wickford Town Football Tournament yesterday, competing against nine other teams. We are absolutely delighted to share that our talented team secured an **outstanding 3rd place out of 10 teams!**

The boys showed fantastic teamwork, determination and sportsmanship throughout the tournament. They demonstrated great enthusiasm, supported one another and represented our school brilliantly. It was wonderful to see them giving their best, showing resilience and enjoying the experience of competing against other schools. They should feel incredibly proud of their achievement!

A huge thank you goes to our lovely staff member, **Mrs Wallace**, who dedicated her entire day to supporting, encouraging and cheering on the team. Her enthusiasm and encouragement helped make the experience even more special for the boys, and we are very grateful for her time and commitment.

Well done to all our Year 5 and 6 footballers! You have made our school community proud, and we look forward to seeing you continue to shine in future sporting events. What a fantastic achievement! 🙌⚽

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI COMPANIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school – such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book *Ethical AI and Education*, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College

See full reference list on our website



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OCTOBER HOLIDAY CAMP ACTIVITIES



Tuesday 27th October

Activities:

Test your endurance during **Kickball bowling, Zombie dash, and Red light, green light.**

Get creative with **Autumn Arts & crafts, LEGO and Tuff Tray activities.**

Wednesday 28th October

Activities:

Unleash your competitive side during **Matball, 5- a-side football and Archery.**

Get creative with **Arts & Crafts, Lego and Halloween paper chains and Biscuit decorating.**

Thursday 29th October

'Halloween Spooktacular'

Dress in your spookiest outfit

Activities:

Spooky Arts & crafts, Monster Junk modelling, Spider Splat, Supernatural statues, Monster invasion and much more!

Additional information

Booking link:

<https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/6489/?location=ss12&distance=0.1&distance=0.1>

• TRICK •
• OR •
• TREAT •

School's out!

★ Our 5-star kids' Autumn Holiday Camps are in! ★

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Premier Education are very excited to announce that we will be offering a Multi-Activity camp during the **October Half-term** at **Oakfield Primary School**. We aim to offer parents a convenient and affordable service where children can have fun and feel safe in familiar surroundings. We hope our experience and extensive offering of activities will ensure there is something for every child to enjoy.

Please see further details below:

Option 1

Multi-Activity

Venue: **Oakfield Primary School, SS12 9PW**

Dates: **Tuesday 27th- Thursday 29th October 2026**

Time: **9 am – 4:00 pm**

Ages: **4 - 11 - (4-year-olds must be in Reception Year Group)**

Price: **£19.95 per day**

Option 2

Multi-Activity

Venue: **Oakfield Primary School, SS12 9PW**

Dates: **Tuesday 27th- Thursday 29th October 2026**

Time: **8:30 am – 5.30pm**

Ages: **4-11- (4-year-olds must be in Reception Year Group)**

Price: **£24.95 per day**

Our Autumn Holiday camps are designed to help your children get active, introduce them to new and exciting activities, and create a fun-filled experience they will remember forever.

Offers

Save 10% when you book all available days in a week!

Save 10% on your 2nd child with our sibling discount!

How to book: <https://www.premier-education.com/holiday-camps/>, Book a Course and use the postcode **SS12**

Spaces are limited to 32 per day, so book quickly to avoid disappointment!

Please email - Rclark@premier-education.com or epollard@premier-education.com with any questions or requests.

Kind regards,

Premier Team!



**First
Session
FREE!**



IS YOUR CHILD IN RECEPTION OR YEAR 1?

Do you have a budding young footballer?
If so, this is for you!

Why Royals?

- ⚽ We coach the person, not just the player
- ⚽ Community and strong morals are key
- ⚽ A focus on "ball at feet"
- ⚽ Real pathway to adult football
- ⚽ Feel proud & play an active part in the club
- ⚽ Great value, great experience

Follow us on



Join us NOW!



Saturdays



9:30am



**Beauchamps 3G
Wickford**



£2 per week



**07834 368292
for more information**

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE
VOUCHERS & OFFER
TAX-FREE CHILDCARE!

MEGA CAMPS

KIDS DAY ACTIVITY CAMPS

CHILDCARE FROM
8am - 6pm

AGES
4 - 14

OCTOBER CAMP 2026

CHECK WEBSITE FOR OCTOBER LOCATIONS & DATES

WALL CLIMBING



KIDS
FAVOURITE

INFLATABLE FUN



GO KARTING IS BACK



ANIMAL WORKSHOP



DIFFERENT MEGA ACTIVITIES, ARTS & CRAFTS 🎨 AND
SPORTS ⚽ AVAILABLE EACH DAY

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT
ESSEX & KENT THIS OCTOBER

CHECK WEBSITE FOR LOCATIONS & DATES

Ofsted
Registered

BOOK ONLINE NOW!
WWW.MEGACAMPS.NET
OR CALL 0333 012 4378

ALL OUR
STAFF ARE

