

Northwood News

28/06/2024

Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers

The children have enjoyed moving up to their new classes this morning and meeting their new teachers and teaching assistants. They were really excited and looked so grown up.

Yesterday we had our re-accreditation for the Wellbeing Award for Schools and I am extremely pleased to announce that we were successful. It was a real team effort and testament to the importance we place on looking after the wellbeing of our everybody in our school community. A big well done to Mrs Livesey and Mrs Ball who co-ordinated the re-assessment and led us through the day with the assessor.

On Wednesday our Y4 pupils visited Into University in Kirkby Town Centre which is an innovative and ambitious programme of enrichment aimed at raising the aspirations of our young people. All of the children really enjoyed the experience and will have the opportunity to build on this in Y5 and Y6.

Next week we will have our final audit for our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) award. Mr Murray has been busy purchasing resources and equipment to improve the children's experience and they will have an exciting new addition to the grounds on Monday!

Our Musical Theatre group have been busy rehearsing for our upcoming performance of Matilda. Tickets for the cast went on sale today and will be available to the general public on Monday. Some of the cast have also been invited to perform at the prestigious Knowsley Awards on July 15th. Thanks to Mr Sadler, Miss Lang, Mrs Weinham and Mrs Graham for supporting with this.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend,



Ms Murphy
Head Teacher

Nursery Admissions

If your child turns 3 on or before the 31st August, you can apply for a nursery place for September. Please call into the school office for an admissions form. Many thanks



Forthcoming Dates

School Closes to pupils on:
Thursday 18th July 2024

Sports Day

Monday 1st July

KS1 9.30am to 11.00am
Year 3 / Year 4
1.30pm to 3.00pm

Tuesday 2nd July

EYFS 1.30pm to 2.15pm

Wednesday 3rd July

Nursery AM 9.30am to
10.30am
Nursery PM 1.30pm to
2.30pm

Thursday 4th July

LHUB / DSP 2.00pm to
3.00pm
Malta 2.00pm to 2.30pm

Friday 5th July

Year 5 / Year 6
1.30pm to 3.00pm

Online Safety

Feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What parents & carers need to know about..

AMAZON ALEXA

Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

Privacy concerns

Age-inappropriate content

18+

Insecure devices

Changing Tech Relationships

"Alexa...Switch on the lights please..."

"...Sure...Switching on lights..."

Safety Tips

Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction "Alexa, delete everything I said". Alternatively, visit up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or six months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final twist is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.

Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having scattered throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between uses. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example, "Alexa, buy some toilet paper." To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (it should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open [skill] for me'. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.




Matilda Performance

Tickets for the Matilda performance will go on sale in the school office from Monday 1st July. Many thanks for your continued support!

Northwood Community Primary School's
Production Of

ROALD DAHL'S
Matilda
THE MUSICAL JR.



Tuesday 9th July 6pm
Wednesday 10th July 6pm

Tickets are available at the office
£5 per ticket

Book
Dennis Kelly

Music & Lyrics
Tim Minchin

This amateur production is presented by special arrangement with Musical Theatre International
All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MTI www.mtishows.co.uk/terms

Contact Details

Northwood Community Primary School, Roughwood Drive, Northwood, Kirkby, L33 8XD Telephone: 0151 477 8630

Email: northwood.primary@knowsley.gov.uk

Child's Absence Text Line: 07860097222 Website: www.ncps.co.uk