

Carr Infant School Newsletter

12th September 2025

Autumn

Dear Families,

Welcome back! It has been an absolute delight to welcome all our children for the start of the new academic year. The school is once again filled with a wonderful buzz of excitement and energy.

We have been incredibly impressed with how brilliantly the children have settled into school life. Their enthusiasm for reconnecting with friends and engaging with their new learning has been fantastic to witness. We are immensely proud of their positive attitudes and the smooth transition they have made into their new classes.

This first week, our focus has been on reinforcing the foundations of our school community. We have been revisiting our three core rules: **Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe**. Discussing what it means to be ready to learn, respectful of everyone, and safe in our actions helps ensure our school remains a positive and secure environment for all.

These rules are the bedrock for nurturing our school values. By being Ready, Respectful, and Safe, our pupils build the Confidence to try new things, develop effective Communication skills with their peers and teachers, and are given the secure space they need to explore their Creativity.

Thank you for your support in making this such a successful start to the academic year. We look forward to a fantastic term of learning and growth together.

Dr Canniford - Headteacher

Reception

It's hard to believe we're already a couple of weeks into the new school year! We're so impressed with how well the children have settled into their new classes. There has been so many smiles, and it's a joy to see new friendships blossoming.

The children are getting familiar with our routines and classroom environments, whether they're busy in the role-play shop, getting creative in the sand pit, building towers in the construction area, or zooming around on the bikes.

We have already started our daily phonics and maths sessions, the children have been working incredibly hard. Over the next few weeks, we will be introducing more subjects like DT, history, and science. We can't wait for all the wonderful learning and fun we'll have this term!



Our Learning

Nursery

Nursery has had a productive start to the year. New and returning children are continuing to settle into our routines and get to know their friends and teachers.

This week, our Enrichment text was the familiar story of Noah's Ark by Lucy Cousins, and in Maths, we focused on identifying different colours. We sang a counting song, "1 Potato, 2 Potato," and our Love of Reading book is Kindness Makes Us Strong.

The children are learning to listen for verbs, copy actions, and build sentences using nouns. Soon, they will be able to join in as we read the story.

We also enjoyed our "Rhyme Time" song, "Hickory Dickory Dock," where we practiced listening for sounds, rhyme, and alliteration. What a great week of learning.



We're learning every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised



Phonics Workshop: Phase 2 (Reception)

For parents of children
in Reception

25th Sept 9:00am - School Hall
25th Sept 5:30pm - Acorn Classroom

Please come along and learn about how
to help with Phase 2 Sounds at home.

Attendance Cup

WB. 02.09.25

Saplings	96%
 Acorn	99%
Chestnut	94%
Oak	96%
Birch	93%
Willow	94%
Alder	85%

WB. 08.09.2025

Saplings	95%
Acorn	91%
Chestnut	91%
Oak	95%
 Birch	98%
Willow	94%
Alder	93%

Year 1

Year 1 has made an amazing start to the school year, settling in beautifully to our new classroom, routines, with our new teachers. The children have adjusted quickly and are already diving into a variety of subjects.

In DT, we've begun constructing windmills, with a special focus on ensuring the base is stable and strong.

In History, we've been exploring personal history by ordering photographs of ourselves, which has helped us understand how we grow and change over time.

Our P.E. lessons have been full of energy, with activities to practice jumping, bending knees, swinging arms, and developing ball skills.

In Science, we've started learning about the different seasons and their weather patterns. It's been a fantastic start, and we're excited for all the learning ahead!

Year 2

Welcome back, everyone! It's been a fantastic start to the new school year in Year 2. We are so happy to see all our learners return with such big smiles and positive attitudes after the summer holidays.

This half term is packed with fun learning! In Maths, we're becoming place value superstars, using Base 10 and Place Value Grids to understand 10s and 1s. In English, we've been enjoying the story of 'Rosie's Hat', using brilliant adjectives and adverbs to make our writing exciting.

Our Science lessons will have us exploring different habitats and the creatures that live there. We also have lots of exciting subjects like History (learning about schools in the past!), PE, RE, Music, and Design Technology.

We can't wait for all the wonderful adventures ahead!

Dates for the Diary

Dates in bold show parent/carer involvement

Red indicates changed dates

----- 2025 - 2026 -----

September

15th - Year 2 Football After School Club - First Session

16th - Year 1 Football After School Club - First Session

18th - Reception Mini-Games After School Club First Session

Tuesday 23rd - Flu immunisations for children in Reception and KS1

Thursday 25th - Reception phonics workshops:

9.00-9.45am in the hall; 5.30-6.30pm in Acorn class

October

13th - Year 2 Football After School Club - Last Session

14th - Year 1 Football After School Club - Last Session

16th - Reception Mini-Games After School Club Last Session

Parent/Carers Evenings

Monday 20th Oct 3:30-6:00pm - Willow only

Tuesday 21st Oct 3:30-7:00pm - All Classes

Thursday 23rd Oct 3:30-6:00pm - All Classes (exc. Willow)

Thursday 23rd - last day in school before the half term

Friday 24th - Training day

27th-31st October - Half Term

November

Monday 3rd School re-opens to all pupils

School Start Times (2025-26)

Reception children start at 8:45.

Doors Close at 8:55.

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KS1 children start at 8:40.

Doors Close at 8:55.

Medical Reminder

Any medicines, such as inhalers and antibiotics, must be signed into school via the school office before they can be administered.

Thank you.



**Reception
sounds**



**Year 1
sounds**

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debate.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.

PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: Who is telling me this? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.

MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

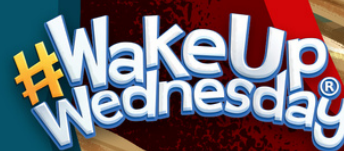
Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.

REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keeffe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>