



## **Ox Close Federation Newsletter**

### **Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Volume 32**

#### **OFSTED Visit**

It was a very busy start to the week with OFSTED making a call on Monday morning to say that we would be inspected. Although we are unable to share the outcome until the report has been quality assured, I am pleased that the inspectors recognised many of the strengths of our school, spoke highly of our fantastic children and recognised the work of the amazing staff and governors. I was very proud of each and every member of our team. Huge thank you to those who completed the Parent View survey and also spoke to the Inspection Team at the gates. Once the report is published in a few weeks, I will share it with you.

#### **Welcome to our Reception 2024 Children**

It has been great to welcome the children and parents/carers to school this week to meet Mrs Woods and Mr Crowther plus other staff in school. The children had a fabulous time, took part in exciting activities and made friends with one another. We look forward to welcoming the children to other events between now and the end of term.

#### **Phonics Screening Check**

This week, children across the country have been completing the Phonics Screening Check. Our children have all been superstars and took their little reading activity with Miss Robson in their stride. We make sure it feels no different to our normal assessments so the children probably haven't even mentioned it this week. Well done to the children!

#### **Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check**

Our Year 4 children have been working hard learning their multiplication tables over the course of the year. Over the last two weeks, they took their Year 4 Multiplication Check and tackled it with a superb determination to succeed. Well done to all of the Year 4 children - they have worked very hard and we are very proud of them!

#### **Visit from Zoo Lab**

On Thursday, Key Stage One were visited by Carrie from Zoo Lab. She brought along an African snail, a hissing cockroach, a corn snake and a millipede. We identified the habit of each animal and discussed how they had adapted to suit their environment over time. Some of the creatures are very different to those in our local area, and it was fascinating to learn about how to provide the care that they need. The children were very brave and handled each animal carefully, showing great empathy and respect. Well done KS1!

#### **Years 5 and 6 Art Walk**

On Monday, the children in Year 5 and 6 went to visit the new art murals in Spennymoor. The murals, located behind Hockings butchers, celebrated Spennymoor's past, present and future. We were lucky enough to meet the artist who created them, Lewis Hobson. Lewis was such an inspiring local man, who told us about how he became an artist, how he got the ideas for the murals and how he and his team created them. Lewis answered lots of questions from enthusiastic pupils who were completely engaged in what he had to say. Thank you, Lewis

#### **Spennymoor Mural Festival – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 – 7<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

The Mural Festival is created by local people, were creating a festival that grows year on year with the people around it. We want to bring in national expertise, educate our artists and help them understand their place in Durham's future. Spennymoor Mural Festival will put Durham on the map as an area with nationally recognised works of mural art and a talented, diverse range of artists. We will create a platform to advocate for our county's artists and ensure opportunities come their way. After a successful pilot last year, Spennymoor mural festival is back this summer. 10 new murals will be painted across the town. Live painting can be viewed all week by the public.

### Polling Station – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July

Just a reminder that the Federation will be closed due to the site being used as a Polling Station. I must stress that this is a decision taken out of my hands and that myself and the Chair of Governors have strongly challenged previously. The closure is due to safeguarding and health and safety reasons. We apologise for the inconvenience that this will cause. Due to the unexpected closure, we will need to move the Reception and Year 1/2 Sports Day to Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> July. The same times apply and the updated dates are in the Diary Dates below. Apologies for this change.

### Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

<b>Reception</b>	Ezra M	<b>Year 4</b>	Emily R
<b>Year 1</b>	Alexandra R	<b>Year 5</b>	Jacob S
<b>Year 2</b>	Arya B	<b>Year 6</b>	Sofia G
<b>Year 3</b>	Alexander M		

### Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 92.8% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 2 with 94.3%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 94.9%.



### Punctuality

The Primary starts at 8:45am, with the gates opening from **8:35am**. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 446 late minutes.

### Dates for the Diary

Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception Visit to Auckland Castle Project
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	OX FEST
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Federation Closed – PD Day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	9:30am – Y5/6 Sports Day
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	1:30pm – Y3/4 Sports Day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Federation Closed – Polling Day
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Spennymoor Gala
NEW DATE - Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	9:30am – Y1/2 Sports Day
NEW DATE - Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	1:30pm – Reception Sports Day
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 3/4 Visit to Theatre
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Celebration
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	10am and 2pm – Nursery Graduation and Celebration
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	9:30am – Year 6 Celebration Assembly
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	2:15pm – Year 6 Guard of Honour
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	3:15pm – Ox Close Federation Closes
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> September	Springmoor Grange School opens to children

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# POP-UP ADS

Pop-up advertisements have been a staple of the internet since they were first introduced in the late 1990s. This form of advertising causes a small window or banner to appear in the foreground while someone is browsing a website. Although these adverts are merely irritating for most people, pop-ups can present more severe risks to younger users.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### DECEPTIVE TACTICS

Children sometimes don't understand that adverts (including pop-ups) are designed to sell a product – and can't distinguish between a legitimate feature of a site and an advertisement. Video games, for example, can be full of pop-up ads that tempt users into spending money, yet they might take the form of a mini-game or extra level.

#### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While some adverts are targeted based on a user's interests and activity online, that isn't always the case. This means that children may unfortunately be exposed to ads for age-inappropriate goods or services such as tobacco products, alcohol and gambling sites.

#### MALWARE RISK

Most pop-ups from reputable advertisers are safe. However, in some cases, pop-ups can trick you into downloading malware – whereby cybercriminals install software on your device, allowing them to access your sensitive data. It can be difficult to know if malware has been installed on your device, so your best option is to avoid engaging with these pop-ups altogether. Be wary of sites that suddenly bombard you with ads or try to prevent you from leaving.

#### PRIVACY RISK

Many app and game developers will collect their users' personal data, such as their name, address, email address, geolocation information, unique numerical identifiers, photos and payment information. If a child clicks on an illegitimate pop-up laced with malware, all this information could be put at risk.

#### RACKING UP BILLS

If a child has access to a payment card on their device – be it a smartphone, laptop, or tablet – they could very quickly rack up a massive bill by interacting with pop-up adverts and buying products shown to them. Try to keep a close eye on their spending.

#### BEHAVIOURAL IMPACT

Research has found that pop-up ads can even have an impact on children's behaviour. Some of these adverts use manipulative tactics that take advantage of children's developmental vulnerabilities, intentionally or otherwise. This approach may cause a child's mood to shift: becoming more stubborn, for example, if they begin wanting their parents to buy a specific product for them.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### START A CONVERSATION

It's important to have regular conversations with children about online advertising so that they understand the risks of interacting with pop-ups. For example, if a child asks for a product which has been advertised to them online, ask them why they want it and how they found it: this will present an opportunity to talk youngsters through the tactics used in online marketing.

#### SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child may be following pop-up ads to make online purchases or viewing content that could be harmful, it's important to be able to spot the signs. Due to the often-manipulative nature of these adverts, children who interact with them regularly may show signs of distraction, stubbornness and an increasingly materialistic worldview.

#### MONITOR CONTENT

It can often be difficult to spot when a pop-up advert is malicious – even more so for impressionable younger users. It's important to monitor the content they're consuming to prevent them from clicking on something dangerous. If a pop-up ad seems too good to be true – promising a free iPad, for example – it probably is.

#### PRIVACY SETTINGS

Most modern devices have privacy settings that let you limit the amount of advertising a child is subjected to while using apps or browsing the internet. You may also want to speak to teachers about avoiding sites and apps with advertising, as well as adjusting digital privacy settings on any education technology they use.

#### LIMIT SPENDING

Try to stay aware of what children are spending and ensure that payment details aren't linked to or saved on the gaming platform that they use. Most video games and internet-enabled devices have settings that can help you manage what children can or cannot purchase online.

#### CUT DOWN ON SCREEN TIME

Given the prevalence of pop-up ads (which can appear on everything from smartphones and tablets to internet-connected toys and games), it might be beneficial to limit the time children spend on digital devices to curb their exposure to digital advertising.

#### Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for Forbes, TechRadar and Wired, among others.



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



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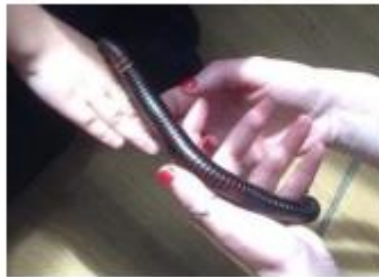
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This week in 1/2R



This we enjoyed a visit from Zoolab where we got to meet and handle lots of interesting animals including: a giant African snail called Susie, a giant millipede called Millie, a Madagascan hissing cockroach called Coco and a North American corn snake called Cookie. We learned lots of interesting facts about each animal such as what they liked to eat and what their habitat is like in the wild.



In our Design and Technology lessons we are designing and making a puppet. We have learned different of joining techniques such as gluing and stapling and we have learned how to sew using a running stitch. We have drawn plans to show what we want our puppets to look like and used a template to make the outline of our puppets.

