

St Martin's Newsletter



SPRING TERM - Friday 28th February

For Parents

Wednesday 5th March at 10am:
Whole school Mass for Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent

Thursday 6th March 8.50-10am:
Whole school Stay and Read for World Book day

Events Calendar

There are other events happening such as bikeability for Y5 and Y4 which you can check on the School Spider App and on the school website. Please have a look regularly to see what is happening during the upcoming week.

St Martin's Stars

Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

Nursery: Star- Alyx T
Value-
YEAR R: Star- Harper F
Purple tie- Archie F
Value- Paxton L
YEAR 1: Star- Fraser H
Purple tie- Alex C
Value- Amelia-Rose R
YEAR 2: Star- Amelia M
Purple tie- Joshua E
Value- Jasmine D
YEAR 3: Star- Maisie F
Purple tie- Savannah R
Value- Vlad I
YEAR 4: Star- Mila W
Purple tie- Evie S
Value- Damien C
YEAR 6: Star- Jessica B
Purple tie- Harrison C
Value- Lydia G

World Book Day

World book day is on **Thursday March 6th**, so as a reminder here are the themes for each class this year:

Pre-School and Reception – Dress as pirates

Y1 and Y2 – animals from books

Y3 – based around the book Stone Age Boy – Can be modern day or prehistoric i.e. cave people

Y4 – Magical creatures i.e. witches, wizards, fairies, dragons etc

Y5 – Characters from Road Dahl books – Willy Wonka, BFG, Matilda, The Twits, etc

Y6 – Villains from books e.g Voldermort, Count Olaf, Miss Trunchbull, Cruella De Vil, The White Witch etc

THERE WILL BE NO SWIMMING ON WORLD BOOK DAY.

The book fair will be in school and open for families after school each night next week – children will be able to use their world book voucher to get £1 off any book from the fair.

On **Thursday**, between **8.50 and 10am**, parents are invited to stay and read with their children in class and there will also be fun world book day activities that can be completed together.

There will be competitions run by the school council during this week

Each class will be taking part in a virtual world book day zoom workshop and Y3 will also be visiting Halton lea Library on **Friday** afternoon (Please pay £1 on the gateway for bus fare)

Attendance

Pre-School- 81% 7 Lates

Year R - 96% 1 Late

Year 1 - 92% 4 Lates

Year 2 - 94% 7 Lates

Year 3 - 95% 10 Lates

Year 4 - 86% 3 Lates

Year 5 - 93% 8 Lates

Year 6 - 93% 2 Lates

Well done to year 1, this weeks Dojo Champs

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance



Attendance

This week we had an attendance of **92.1%**. All classes except 1 received their puzzle pieces for Punctuality once again!!!! Thank you and well done!

Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel's](#) with their families.

Safety Advice

This free guide breaks down the risks associated with the popular multiplayer title [Marvel Rivals](#) and lets you know how best to safeguard children and young people playing the game.

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](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MARVEL RIVALS

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

ESRB advise nobody under the age of 13 should play

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Marvel Rivals launched in December 2024 and amassed a player count of nearly 150,000 in mere weeks. This player versus player (PvP) shooter packs in a host of recognisable comic-book characters, pitting two teams of six against each other. Despite the game's cartoonish nature, there are several potential risks for parents and educators to be aware of.

IN-GAME CHAT

Voice chat allows players to speak to teammates and opponents within the game, but in a competitive environment, some conversations can become unpleasant. Text chat is equally prominent among those playing on PC and will be shown on the side of the screen. Moderation on chats is relatively lax, so it's important to recognise that potentially inappropriate messages could arrive at any time.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

While Marvel Rivals is free, there is an in-game store, selling character skins from recognisable movies and comic-book titles. Each season also includes a £10 Battle Pass (much like those seen in Fortnite and Call of Duty), offering a series of exclusive cosmetic items. These passes don't expire – but they can't be purchased once the next season rolls around, creating a fear of missing out.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With such a huge player base, it's impossible to predict whom your child will be teaming up with or playing against. They're virtually certain to run into strangers through voice and text chat, for starters. Most of these people will just be ordinary gamers enjoying the action, but there is the risk of some users behaving inappropriately with younger players – either intentionally, or because they don't realise that they're speaking to a child.

VIOLENT CONTENT

There's no gore in Marvel Rivals, and the violence depicted is comparatively cartoonish – but the playable characters available vary between more traditional superheroes and supervillains, and figures like Black Widow and The Punisher, who use more realistic firearms. Given the game's nature as a shooter, this may make some parents and carers uncomfortable as some players will be firing these weapons at each other.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The game includes some innuendos and mature themes in the dialogue, which could expose youngsters to content unsuitable for their age, detracting from a safe and family-friendly gaming experience. As we mentioned previously, the content of the in-game chat could also be age-inappropriate, ranging from swearing to mature themes to potentially harmful content.

FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

The inclusion of iconic characters might make Marvel Rivals appear more approachable than other games in the genre, with recognisable heroes and villains like Spider-Man and Venom. This could lead to more interest from younger players, increasing the likelihood of children playing the game without properly understanding the risks.

Advice for Parents & Educators

FOLLOW ESRB RATINGS

The ESRB rating for Marvel Rivals says the game shouldn't be played by anyone under 13. Most children of that age will be able to appreciate the moral compass of the roster of characters (people can play as Hela, the Goddess of Death, for example), while also ensuring that the violence, however cartoonish, won't overwhelm them.



FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

The game's inclusion of fan-favourite characters like Iron Man and the Hulk, plus its increasing popularity, means that younger Marvel fans will likely be eager to see what the fuss is about. Since it's free, consider playing Marvel Rivals yourself to gauge how you feel about a child playing it. Alternatively, you could let them play against the game's AI in Practice Mode, until they're old enough to compete online.

MONITOR OR TURN OFF CHAT

Voice and text chat can both be adjusted within the in-game settings. If you're particularly concerned about exposing children and young people to them, however, you can disable both forms of chat in the game's settings. If a child wants to play alongside friends, remind them that they can use their console's party chat feature or host a call on a third-party service like Discord.



DISCONNECT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Parents should ensure that no payment options – such as debit cards – are linked to the game, to prevent unauthorised purchases and charges. Children can be tempted by enticing in-game offers without fully understanding the costs. Removing payment methods avoids impulsive in-game spending and instils a sense of financial awareness, teaching young people to be careful with their money.



Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor at the Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, he has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

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