



Weekly Bulletin - 11th September 2026

Click the link for each item to head straight to the relevant information.

Upcoming dates for diaries

Please see the full list of important dates for this academic year, including Christmas Performances, [here](#) (class assembly dates to follow)

- 14th September - After school clubs begin
- 26th September - Tour de Winns
- 2nd October - Reception parents Coffee Morning

Information from outside agencies and organisations

- What parents and carers need to know about Character.AI from The National College ([click here](#))
- A complete guide to all the free Parent/Carer Support available from Waltham Forest ([click here](#))
- Information about a parent/carers survey from Waltham Forest ([click here](#))
- Information about family learning courses from Waltham Forest Adult Learning Service ([click here](#))
- Information about School Nurse drop in sessions in school ([click here](#))

Calendar Dates Academic Year 2026-27

Please note, these dates are subject to change.

September 2026

14th – After School Clubs (ASC) start

26th – FOTW Tour de Winns

October 2026

Black History Month

2nd – FOTW Reception Coffee Morning

16th – ASC finish

wb 19th – Parental Consultation meetings (late close Thursday)

23rd – Y6 Careers Fair

26th-30th – Half Term Holiday

November 2026

2nd – INSET Day (staff only)

6th – Diwali celebration

9th – ASC start

10th – Individual and sibling photos

16th-20th - Anti Bullying week

December 2026

5th – FOTW Winter Fair (TBC)

2nd -11th – Christmas Concerts (see below for all Christmas dates)

11th – ASC finish

18th – Last day of Autumn term

January 2027

4th – Inset Day (staff only)

11th – ASC start

wb 11th – Spring Meet the Teacher Online Meetings

February 2027

5th – NSPCC Dress Up for Digits Day

9th – Safer Internet Day

12th – Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

15th-19th – Half Term Holiday

22nd – INSET Day (staff only)

March 2027

2nd – CJ Storyteller in (World Book Week)

3rd – Book Fair (3rd March – 10th March)

4th – World Book Day dressing up

5th – 14th – British Science Week

12th – Eid Celebration

19th – ASC finish

wb 22nd – Parental Consultation meeting (late close Wednesday)

25th – Last day of Spring term

April 2027

12th – First day of Summer term (staff & children, no INSET day)

19th – ASC start

wb 19th – Summer Meet the Teacher Online Meetings

22nd – Earth Day

May 2027

3rd – Bank Holiday (school closed)

wb 10th – KS2 SATs (Y6)

21st – ASC finish

wb 31st – Half Term Holiday

June 2027

Pride Month

7th – INSET Day (staff only)

wb 7th – No ASC

wb 7th & 14th – Multiplication Tables Check (Y4)

wb 14th – Phonics Screening Check (Y1)

wb 14th – Y6 Treginnis week 1

wb 14th & 21st – Creativity Weeks (art work displayed at Summer Fair)

14th – ASC start

22nd – Y1, 2, 3 Sports Day

23rd – Y4, 5, 6 Sports Day

wb 28th – Y6 Treginnis week 2

July 2027

4th – FOTW Summer Fair (TBC)

6th – Young Enterprise

7th – 9th – Y5 Residential to The Hive

16th – End of year reports sent home

16th – ASC finish

19th – Y6 Leavers' Production (after school)

20th – Leavers' BBQ

22nd – Leavers' Assembly

22nd – Final day of the Summer term

Christmas Performances 2026

	Tues 1st Dec	Wed 2nd Dec	Thurs 3rd Dec	Fri 4th Dec	Tues 8th Dec	Wed 9th Dec	Thurs 10th Dec	Fri 11th Dec
9:10am	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6

All performances will take place in Green Hall

All concerts will last around 30 minutes.

Class Christmas Parties – further details to follow

Tuesday 15th December – Years R, 1, 3 & 5

Thursday 17th December – Years N, 2, 4 & 6

Christmas Lunch

Wednesday 16th December

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters. These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 18 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC helpline on 0800 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership, and governance. He works internationally, supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance, as well as teaching the key fundamentals of AI use and safety to educators at The National College.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.09.2024

Parent/Carer Support

September – December 2026

A complete guide to free parenting support available in Waltham Forest

- ✓ Increase knowledge and understanding of children's development and needs
- ✓ Build positive relationships
- ✓ Improve behaviour and communication
- ✓ Meet other parents
- ✓ Reduce parenting stress



For full list of available support, please [click here](#)

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HELP US SHAPE EXPERTS AT HAND IN WALTHAM FOREST



Right support,
right time,
right for you
& your child.

Parents and carers – we want to hear from you!

Experts at Hand will bring Educational Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Specialist Teachers into schools and settings to provide earlier support.

Have your say on how it should work in Waltham Forest.



Children
and young
people
at the heart

Stronger support
brighter futures



SURVEY OPENS:
9am Friday
4 September



SURVEY CLOSES:
5pm Friday
25 September


PRIZE DRAW!

You can choose to enter our
draw to win one of

5 x £20
Amazon vouchers.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
OR CLICK THE LINK
TO TAKE PART!**



**CLICK HERE
TO TAKE PART**

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/c3yqR1E81G>



[Click here to take part](#)

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Family Learning

Helping children grow and thrive.

September Courses and Workshops for Families and Parents



Parenting Courses

Calm Parents Calm Children

Queens Road Family HUB
23/09/2026 until 21/10/2026
Wednesday
10:00am - 12:00pm



Supporting children and young people with school avoidance

Online
23/09/2026 until 30/09/2026
Wednesday
7:00pm - 9:00pm



WALTHAM
FOREST
**ADULT
LEARNING
SERVICE**



Click on
QR code to
sign up today !



Family workshops

Let's Get Creative with books Craft Activities for Early years

Walthamstow Library
22/09/2026-20/10/2026
Tuesday 10:00am-12:00pm

Art Club for SEND families

Queens Road Learning Centre,
Queens Road E17 8QR
26/09/2026
Saturday 10:00am - 12:00pm

Contact Info

Email: adult.learning@walthamforest.gov.uk

Phone: 020 8496 2974

Waltham Forest Adult Learning Service

[Click here to follow the link in the QR code](#)

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NELFT School Nurse Drop-In Sessions 2026

17th Sept 26 and 1st October 26

9:00 – 10:00 AM

The Winns Primary School

The School Health Team will offer advice, support on healthy eating, behavioural problems, head lice, hygiene (hand washing and oral health), bed wetting, hearing and vision, height and weight management, emotional health, and any other health-related concerns. All parents with children aged 5+ are welcome!

Arrange an appointment by completing <https://forms.office.com/e/VFijs6hqc7> and Allison will contact you.

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