

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Thursday 23rd October 2025

Autumn 1 Term

HELLO FROM MRS MITCHELL

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of our first half term of the academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on what a truly positive and purposeful few weeks it has been at Leavening. The children have settled back into school life brilliantly, showing enthusiasm, kindness and a real love of learning across all areas of the curriculum. From exciting topic launches and problem-solving in maths, to creative writing, forest school adventures and our "Gladiator" challenge afternoon, there has been a real buzz of energy and curiosity throughout the school.

It has also been wonderful to see our community spirit shining so brightly — from our "Stay and Play and Seeing is Believing" sessions, to the Maths Café for parents, and our harvest celebration. Thank you to all families, governors and staff for your ongoing support, encouragement and teamwork; it makes such a difference and really brings our motto "Together We Can" to life.

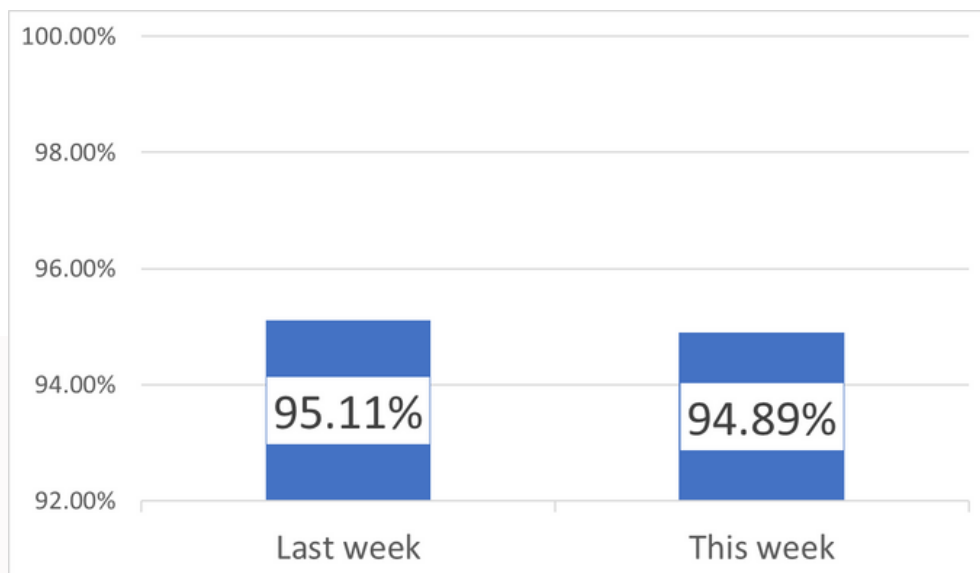
I wish all our children, families and staff a restful and enjoyable half-term break. Take time to recharge, enjoy the autumn days, and I look forward to seeing everyone back for another exciting half term leading up to Christmas.

Warmest wishes,



Sian Mitchell
Headteacher

School Attendance



DIARY DATES

OCTOBER

Fri 24th Last day of term

W/C 27th Half term

NOVEMBER

Mon 3rd Training day

W/C Mon 3rd Extra-curricular clubs start-details to follow

W/C Mon 10th - Fri 14th

Parent/Teacher Consultations & Census Week for Breakfast Club attendance

W/C Mon 10th

Anti-bullying week.

Wear odd socks day (Mon)

Fri 14th Children In Need day

DECEMBER

Thurs 4th Christmas Craft afternoon with parents/carers
Also Christmas dress-up day in exchange for tombola prize

Fri 5th Christmas Fair after school

Fri 12th Christmas production performances at 9.30am & 2pm

Mon 15th

Rock Steady Concert 9.15am

Tues 16th Pantomime visit (Conkers & Oak Trees)

Weds 17th FOLS Movie night 3.15pm-5.15pm

Thurs 18th Christmas parties

Fri 19th Village carol singing 2pm. All welcome. End of term

Pop-Up Library Dates:

6th November

27th November

11th December (collection only)

Our Safeguarding Team at Leavening CP School:

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Mrs Mitchell**

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is: **Mrs Bennett** | Our Safeguarding Governor is: **Mrs Isaacs**

♥ GET INVOLVED – TOGETHER WE CAN!

Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts in our Parental Engagement Survey. One key theme was how much families value being part of our school community — and how many already help in so many ways!

This year, we're offering **flexible volunteering opportunities** so everyone can get involved, even if time is limited. You might help with reading, gardening, forest schools, or share a skill or hobby with the children at a regular or one off lunchtime or after school extra curricular club.

Every little bit of help makes a big difference.

If you'd like to volunteer, please speak to staff or contact the school office.

Together We Can!

ACORNS NURSERY HIGHLIGHTS

Acorns were so excited watching the maize harvest through the nursery windows, we decided to follow them to the allotment for a closer look!...

What an amazing experience to be so close to the combine and watch the farmers in our local community at work.



CONKERS HIGHLIGHTS

**This half term, the Conkers have had a real push on writing
- in particular sentence structure.**

We have focused on oral rehearsal and quality writing over quantity.

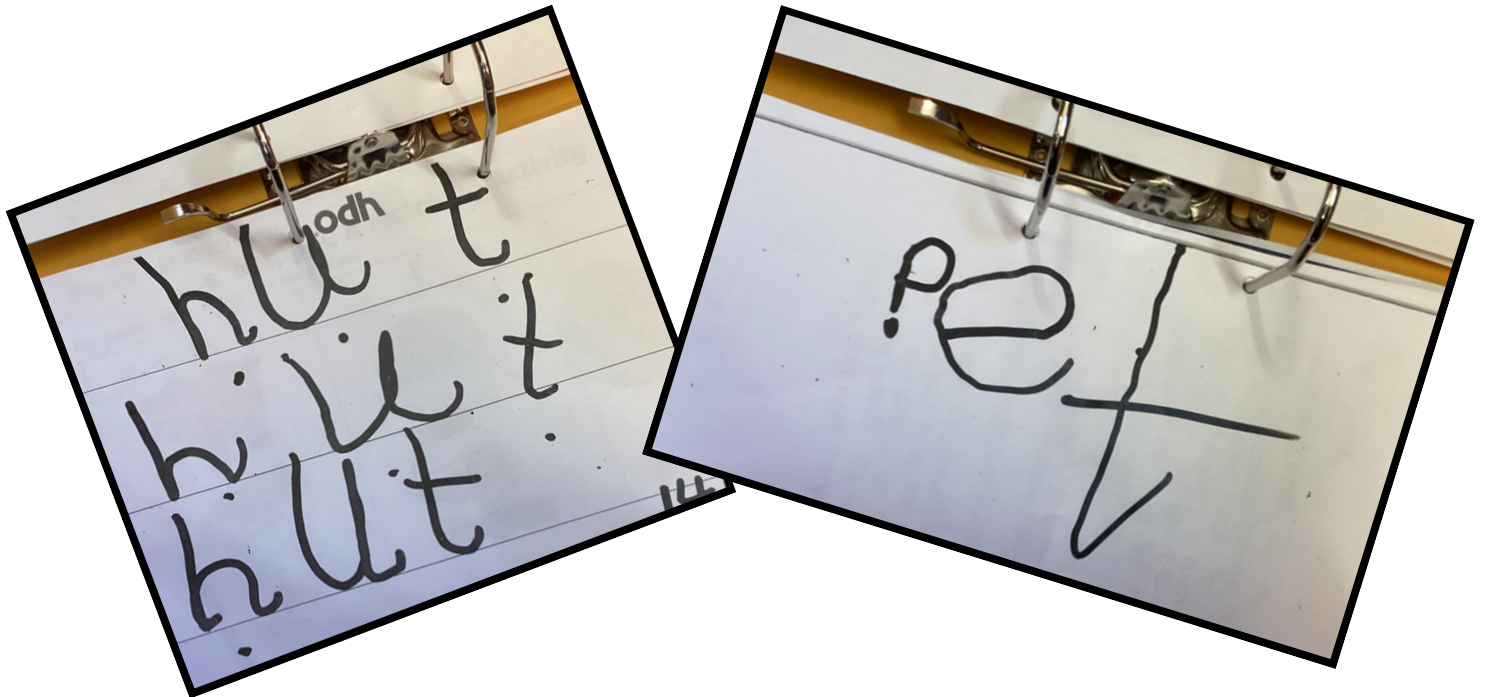
Here are a few examples from our 'space story' work:

*The plane flew into the cyan blue sky. The boy approached the night... Henry
The boy felt happy, nervous and grateful. He danced on the moon and the moon
called back to him. Nola*

*Suddenly, the moon became dark, blustery and misty. The boy felt worried,
terrified and upset in the shadowy night. Flora*

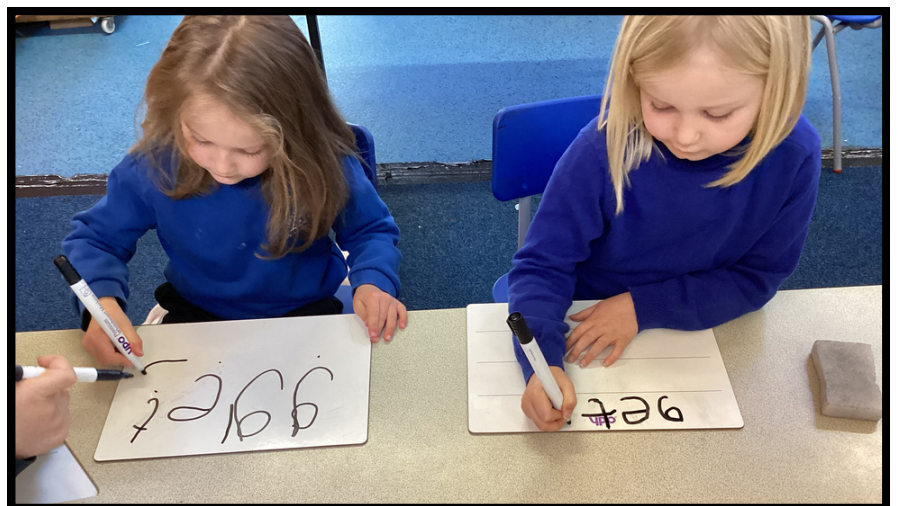
His torch shone on the shooting stars and the moon. Eddie

The alien was as green as grass. Riley



Our Reception girls have also started to write using their newly developing phonic knowledge.

Please join us in marvelling at our pupils 'first words'!





Children In Need

Miss Mitchelmore and the Young Leadership Team are busy planning fun activities for the upcoming Children In Need day on

Friday 14th November. Further details to follow soon!

Harvest Assembly

Thank you to all who attended our Harvest Assembly. It was wonderful to see so many of you there to celebrate this special time of year with us.

We are also extremely grateful for your generous donations of food items. These have now been delivered to our local food bank, where they will help to support families and individuals in need within our community.

A special thank-you goes to Mrs Stockill, our Music and French teacher, for preparing and leading the lovely songs that made the assembly so enjoyable. Your kindness and support truly make a difference — thank you for helping us share the spirit of Harvest with others.



School Reminders

Coats: Please ensure your child has a coat with them every day.

Toys: With the exception of Teacher requests for topics or After School Clubs Teddy Bears picnic, please do not send any toys (including large keyrings) into school.

Jewellery: Under no circumstances should earrings or jewellery be worn to school. Under our Health and Safety Guidance children will be unable to take part in PE or other physical activities such as playtime and lunchtime play.

Pupil Absence: If your child is unwell, please –

- *Email or ring/leave a voicemail with the school office before 8:45am*
- *Please always include the reason for absence, not just stating 'unwell'.*

Please see the link below to support you if your child is well enough to attend school:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Hot Chocolate for sale!

Hot chocolates will be on sale after school this Friday as a wintery alternative to our summer ice lollies!

All proceeds will go towards educational opportunities and resources for the children.

**£1 with or
without whippy
cream!!**



The School Library

The library is now open to pupils every **Thursday morning.** We look forward to children using this fantastic resource.

Thank you to staff for helping to create this provision.

Any book donations from home are most welcome. Please drop off at the school office.

Thanks for your support!

Invitation to attend our **FREE breakfast club** during **Census Week**

10th-14th November

Leavening School has become an 'early adopter school'. This means we get access to government funding to deliver a FREE daily breakfast club provision. This is available to all children in

Reception to Year 6 from 8.05am-8.35am.

After this time, they are supervised until the start of school at 8.45am.

Children can enjoy a healthy breakfast **at no cost.**

This includes a choice of **cereal, toast with preserves, fruit, yoghurt, fresh juice and water.** Food allergies are catered for.

Engaging activities are planned each morning and led by our existing school staff- Miss Woodcock, Mrs Isaacs and Mrs Taylor.

Why choose Breakfast Club?

- 🍌 A healthy breakfast sets children up for a successful day of learning.
- 😊 Children arrive at class settled, calm and ready to learn.
- 🤝 Helps children build friendships across different year groups.
- 🧠 Boosts concentration, memory and focus in lessons.
- ⌚ Gives families a stress-free start to the day with a reliable childcare option.
- ⭐ Children enjoy fun activities in a safe and welcoming environment.
- 🍏 Starting the day positively improves attendance, punctuality and wellbeing.

Attending the Early Adopters Breakfast Club from 8.05am during Census Week, will help our school to provide data to the Government to support our funding.

To book your child's place and take advantage of this scheme, please email the office admin@leavening.n-yorks.sch.uk

Remember, you may book in for the **occasional morning or just for a couple of mornings a week**; it does not have to be a regular commitment.





Christmas Card Competition

Message from the Mayor of York and North Yorkshire

The theme is: **"Your Favourite Place in York and North Yorkshire at Christmas"**

We are lucky to live in such a beautiful and historic region, full of incredible landscapes, landmarks, and local treasures.

Whether it's a favourite park, a historic building, a scenic view, or even a cosy café or playground, I want to see what makes York and North Yorkshire special to the children who live here.

The winning design will feature on my official Christmas card, which will be sent to key community figures, organisations, and partners across the region. The winner and runners-up will also receive a special certificate and an invitation to meet me at my office in York.

How to enter:

- The competition is open to all primary school pupils across York and North Yorkshire.
- Entries should be on A4 paper and designed using any materials or techniques (paint, crayons, collage, digital art, etc.).
- Please ensure the child's name, age, school, and a short explanation of their design are included on the back.
- Schools will submit entries by emailing scanned designs to mayor@yorkandnorthyorks-ca.gov.uk

Closing date for entries: Friday 14 November

The winning design will be announced in early December.

Good luck! 😊

NORTON HIVE LIBRARY



HALLOWEEN

CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARTY

To be held on Friday, 31st October

Time: 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Come and enjoy Party Games,

Make a Halloween Spider

Light Refreshments Provided.

**Booking is recommended to avoid
disappointment.**

E-mail: nortoncommunitylibrary@gmail.com

Telephone 01609 534552

A donation towards costs would be greatly appreciated.

NORTON HIVE LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY HUB

**JOIN US FOR FUN AND
CREATIVITY THIS HALF TERM!**



HALF TERM ART GROUP



Event Date: Tuesday, 28th October

Time: 13:00 – 15:00

What's Happening?

- 
- Informal & Friendly Art Group for Children
 - All Materials Provided – Just bring your Imagination!
 - Spaces Are Limited – Booking Recommended
 - Suggested Donation: £2 (helps cover materials)

**Come along and get creative! Make new friends
and enjoy a colourful afternoon at our friendly Library**

Booking & Contact

Reserve Your Place:

Email: nortoncommunitylibrary@gmail.com

Telephone: 01609 534 552



BONFIRE NIGHT

**Sat 8th Nov
from 6pm**

Field opposite The Rise

///captive.lawns.cackling

**Bonfire
Firework Display
Hot Food & Drinks**

Wanted

**Wood (no nails please) and old carpets
Please leave outside your home by the roadside for
collection on 8th November at 10am**



**Catering for the event kindly provided by the Jolly Framers, a great
location for a post bonfire drink.**

No entry cost, donations collected by cash or card on exit.

No sparklers please



Saturday 1st November

Stamford Bridge

Bonfire & Fireworks

Tickets from Eventbrite

or Stamford Bridge

Post Office

Scouts 

Event date - Saturday 1st November 2025

Where - Primrose Hill, Buttercrambe Road, Stamford Bridge, YO41 1AW (behind the nursery).

Gates open - 17.30 - 18.30, fireworks 19.00, event finishes at 20.00.

Catering - All tickets include a hot dog and hot drink and bonfire toffee!

We aim to cater for everyone if we can. We are serving hot dogs and hot chocolate as standard.

If you have any allergies or other dietary requirements, please e-mail:

stamfordbridgebonfire@hotmail.com by 25th October.

Sparklers – Sparklers are 2 for £1 on the evening, plus tombola, bottle raffle & cake stall.

Parking - Very limited parking only available for disabled badge holders. Please walk from Stamford Bridge which takes about 5-7 minutes.

Tickets - Available on Eventbrite (<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> Search Stamford Bridge Fireworks). Tickets also available from Stamford Bridge Post Office. The event is open to all, so please let friends know too!

AllproceedstoStamfordBridgeScoutGroup,registeredcharity517561

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.



See full reference list on our website



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.10.2025



The National College®

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven 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. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College