SUNNYSIDE SPENCER ACADEMY
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Friday 2nd October 2026

Sunnyside Newsletter

Highlights of the Week

This week in Acorns, we have been learning all about what makes us unique and special. Our Book of the Week, What Makes Me a Me? has helped us to explore what makes each of us an individual and celebrate the things that make us different. We have been learning more about our bodies, talking about our similarities and differences and noticing that everyone is wonderfully unique. The children have enjoyed discussing what makes them special and developing new vocabulary to help describe themselves, their bodies and their individual qualities.

In Year 1, we have been learning about the different seasons and exploring which season has the most sunlight and which has the least. We have also been learning about different famous landmarks around London and discussing what makes them special and important.

In Year 2, we have been publishing and sharing our amazing writing about 'Katie in London'. We have used adjectives and added more detail to create exciting stories to share with Year 1.

This week in Year 3 and 4, we started our new unit on dialogue. We immersed ourselves in the story of *Stig of the Dump*, explored how characters might speak and react, and created our own chalk drawings of Stig with words and sounds he might use. In Geography, we have started designing our own maps. We planned them carefully by choosing roads, symbols, landmarks and features, thinking about where each one should go and giving our maps their own names.

This week in year 5 and 6 we have continued reading the Survivors book and using it to inspire our survival guide writing. We have been focusing on modal verbs and passive voice to write advice on how a young explorer should prepare for an expedition. We also continued researching mountains in geography and thought about how mountains can become popular tourist destinations.

Questions of the Week

EYFS
What makes you special and different from other people?
Can you tell me something you like about yourself?

Year 1 & 2
Can you name an adjective to describe the lion in the story?
Can you retell your 3s and 5s timetable?

Year 3 & 4
How can dialogue help us show what a character is thinking, feeling or like as a person?
What features make a map clear and useful for somebody else to follow?

Year 5 & 6
What is 3472+89,721?
Change this sentence to passive voice: You should boil water that you find to ensure it is safe to drink.

School Uniform & PE Kit

School Uniform – Navy cardigan/jumper, white polo shirt/shirt, grey/black trousers/skirt/ pinafore dress/shorts, black school shoes. **Logoed items are optional.**

PE Kit – blue/black shorts/joggers, white T-shirt & black trainers/plimsolls. To be worn on the day of PE.

Attendance

Whole School
All Pupils – 95.4%
Girls - 96.1%
Boys – 94.7%

NB. Colour coded in line with National. Attendance currently: 95.3%: Green = above national
Red = below national

Class Winner for week commencing 28th September is: Cherry Blossom with 96.67%

Pride Pound Winner

Our Pride Pound winner for week commencing 28th September are **Team Empathy.**

Happy Lunchtime Winner

Our Happy Lunch time winner for week commencing 28th September are **Year 3 Class**.

Menu – Week Commencing 28th September

Monday	One Pot Pasta with Sausage & Broccoli or Roast Vegetable Pasta, Sliced Carrots, Garden Peas	Steamed Jam Roll & Custard Cheese & Biscuits, Jelly, Yoghurt, Fruit
Tuesday	Roast Chicken or Roast Quorn Yorkshire Pudding, Creamed Potatoes, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Gravy Or Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna	Rosalie Biscuit Cheese & Biscuits, Jelly, Yoghurt, Fruit
Wednesday	Caribbean Chicken Curry or Vegetable, Pea and Potato Curry Steamed Rice, Sliced Carrots, Green Beans	Banana Sponge & Custard Cheese & Biscuits, Jelly, Yoghurt, Fruit
Thursday	Mince Beef Roll or Vegetarian Mince Roll New Potatoes, Garden Peas Or Jacket Potato with Cheese/Beans/Tuna	Fruit Cookie Cheese & Biscuits, Jelly, Yoghurt, Fruit
Friday	Fish Finger (2) or Vegetarian Sausage Roll Chips, Baked Beans	Sprinkle Cake Muffin Cheese & Biscuits, Jelly, Yoghurt, Fruit

Dinner Costs: Nursery £1.80 per meal
Reception – Year 2: Free
Year 3 – Year 6: £2.95 per meal

Weekly Activities

Monday:
PE – Year 5 & 6
Forest School – Year 3 & 4
Art Club – Year 3 & 4 (3:30pm – 4:30pm)
Choir Club – Year 2 – Year 6 (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Tuesday:
Drumba – Year 1 – Year 4 (AM)
Forest School – Year 5 & Year 6
Rocksteady Music Lessons – (PM)
Calligraphy Club – Year 3 & Year 4 (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Wednesday:
PE – Year 1 & Year 2
Forest School – EYFS

Thursday:
PE – EYFS
Forest School – Year 1 & Year 2
Swimming – Year 5 & Year 6 (PM)
Cooking Club – Year 3 & Year 4 (3:30pm – 4:30pm)

Friday:
PE – Year 3 & Year 4
Forest School - Nurture

Dates for your calendar

09/10 Hello Yellow non-uniform day
15/10 School Disco – EYFS 3:00pm, KS1/KS2 3:45pm
16/10 Last day of term
02/11 Inset day
03/11 Back to school
10/11 Remembrance day
11/10 Parent consultations
16/11 Odd Socks Day
20/11 Anti-bullying week University Day
23/11 Young Voices showcase and banner making
09/12 Winter Fair
15/12 Rock Steady Performance
TBC - Christmas dinner day
TBC – Christmas Jumper day
TBC EYFS Nativity
18/12 Non-uniform (Party clothes)
18/12 Staff panto (Children only)
18/12 Class Christmas parties
18/12 Break up for Christmas
04/01 Inset Day
05/01 Back to school
07/01 Year 5 Young Voices at BP Pulse Birmingham
12/02 Last day of term
22/02 Inset day
23/02 Back to school

Hagg Farm Update

This year, the Year 6 Hagg Farm residential will take place from **Wednesday 9th June 2027** to **Friday 11th June 2027**. The cost of the trip is **£119.12.** Unfortunately, this year we will only be able to offer **14 places**. Places will go live on Arbor **on Monday 5th October at 4:30pm**. To reserve your child's place, a non-refundable deposit of **£50** must be paid. Please note that we are a **cash-free school**, so places can only be reserved through the Arbor App. We are unable to accept cash payments to book your child's place.

Thank you for your support.

THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

Childrens Emotional Health and Wellbeing Webinar

For Parents and Carers (Primary Age)

This one hour webinar aims to provide parents with a understanding of common mental health difficulties in young people. We will explore common mental health difficulties such as anxiety and how this might present in primary aged young people. We will also explore how you can support a young person's mental health and how to refer to the MHST.

Tuesday 17th November 2026
12-1pm

Parents can join via Web using this link: https://www.microsoft.com/engb/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting by inputting the Meeting ID and Passcodes from the poster, by scanning the QR code or by clicking this link. Please note, parents won't be able to join until the day.

Meeting ID: 370 826 015 883 475
Passcode: bY9nN29n

Making a Difference
Trust Honesty Respect Compassion Teamwork

SUNNYSIDE
SPENCER ACADEMY

READ AT HOME

KINDNESS
ASPIRATION
OPPORTUNITY
COMMUNITY

Small reads make a big difference

CHOOSE A BOOK | READ | RECORD | EARN | ACHIEVE

30 READS	60 READS	90 READS	AND MANY MORE...
TICKET	TICKET	TICKET	TICKET

Earn a ticket each time you reach a reading target!

COULD YOUR CHILD BE THE WINNER?

£50 RESTAURANT VOUCHER

Read daily at home or anywhere

Please record each read in your child's reading diary.

Earn tickets as you reach each target.

Read more, achieve more!

BETTER READERS | BRIGHTER FUTURES

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER AT CHELSEY'S CAFE

Chelsey's Cafe & S.E.N.D Community Hub
Inham Nook Recreation Ground

FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

9am - 12.30pm Chelsey's Cafe open

9.30 - 12 noon
Citizens advice drop in session

Dukki gifts & souveniers pop up stall
(it's never too early for xmas shopping!)

FRIDAY 9TH OCTOBER

9am - 12.30pm
Chelsey's Cafe open

SENSORY PLAY SESSION

THURSDAY 15TH OCTOBER

9.30AM - 11.30AM

OUR FIRST MONTHLY PARENTS & CARERS DROP IN SESSION

pop along, have a cuppa and catch up, speak to other parents/carers, make new friends in a safe and welcoming environment. All welcome, feel free to bring along younger children - toys and activities can be provided.

EVERYONE WELCOME!

FRIDAY 16TH OCTOBER

9am - 12.30pm
Chelsey's Cafe open,

DARK DEN SENSORY SESSION

10am - 12 noon
EMMA NOY will be joining us from the National Deaf Society

National Deaf Children's Society

Come along to speak with Emma, get support, information and advice, and find out how the National Deaf Children's Society can help you and your family.

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

** PLEASE NOTE LATER OPENING TIME DUE TO HALF TERM **

9.30AM - 12.30PM
CHELSEY'S CAFE OPEN

HALLOWEEN CRAFT SESSION

HOT DRINKS, CAKES, BREAKFAST & MORE!

A SAFE, FRIENDLY & WELCOMING SPACE FOR EVERYONE!

FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER

** PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF OPENING TIMES **

9.00AM - 11.00AM
CHELSEY'S CAFE OPEN
HALLOWEEN CRAFT SESSION

HALLOWEEN SENSORY STORY TIME & MINI ME CLAY CLUB

** ADVANCED BOOKING ONLY **
LIMITED SPACES, PAYMENT SECURES BOOKING

12.15PM - 2.30PM
12.15 - 1.25 PM
INTERACTIVE SENSORY STORY TIME

1.30PM - 2.30PM
MINI ME CLAY CLUB

Inham Nook Recreation Ground,
Pearson Ave, Beeston,
Nottingham NG9 4GQ

Everyone welcome!
Children welcome - supervised at all times

FOLLOW US FOR UPDATES AND MORE EVENTS!

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 ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, Techradar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

See full reference list on our website

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