



Lowerhouse Junior School Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026



At Lowerhouse Junior School, we build everything we do around our four key values of

Aspiration, Integrity, Resilience and Respect

Our School Motto is 'Inspiring a lifelong love for learning.'



Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you to our children, families and staff for the lovely welcome I have received in my first week back after time off. Your kind words, thoughtful messages and warm greetings have meant a great deal. I am delighted to be back and part of our school community.

This harvest, we are delighted to support Burnley FC in the Community Foodbank, helping to provide essential food and supplies for local families who need them most. Donations will be collected until **Friday 23rd October**. Please send any donations into school with your child. We understand that times can be challenging for many families, so there is absolutely no expectation to contribute. However, any donation, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated.

Best wishes

Mr G Lloyd

Headteacher



The School's Attendance

Target is 96%

Class	Attendance
Elm	93%
Willow	92%
Maple	89%
Rowan	84%
Chestnut	91%
Oak	98%
Ash	92%
Sycamore	95%

This week's winners are...
Elm and Oak

Headteacher's Value of the Week – RESPECT

Yr3 Elm Albie	Yr3 Willow Freddie
Yr4 Maple Joseph	Yr4 Rowan Albie
Yr5 Chestnut Lucy	Yr5 Oak Hollie
Yr6 Ash Rhea	Yr6 Sycamore Ashelia



Class Dojo Winners



Lower Juniors	Upper Juniors
Willow	Sycamore



Stars of the Week



Yr3 Elm Aleksandra	Yr3 Willow Henry
Yr4 Maple Alexia	Yr4 Rowan Reggie
Yr5 Chestnut Myles	Yr5 Oak Iileana
Yr6 Ash Tommy	Yr6 Sycamore Tom



**Yr4 TTRS
Winners
Maple**

Sporting Activities through the Week!

It has been a busy week at school, with children proudly representing us in a range of exciting events. On Tuesday, four Year 3 children attended the OAA Bonanza and showed brilliant teamwork as they tackled problem-solving activities. They were fantastic and finished in the top three in the orienteering challenge. Next, our Year 4 Glow Dodgeballers enjoyed a fun afternoon at Padiham Green. Finally, the Year 5 and 6 football team played their first Hartey Cup match against St James, losing narrowly 7-6 after a thrilling game. Thank you to all our enthusiastic pupils and staff.



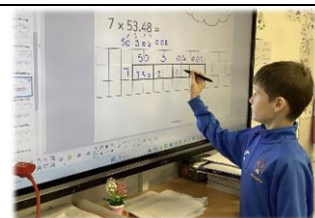
Hello Yellow Day Celebration – 9th October 2026!

What a fantastic sight it was last week as we were awash with yellow to celebrate "Hello Yellow Day". We're thrilled to raise an amazing £142 for mental health and gather funds to support this cause. Your efforts make a real difference in promoting mental wellbeing and breaking down the stigma surrounding mental health issues.



Curriculum In Action: Maths – Multiplying Decimals (Yr6 Ash)

Year 6 Ash have been working incredibly hard on strategies for multiplying 2 decimal place numbers, showing fantastic determination, focus and growing confidence in maths. It has been brilliant to see pupils tackling challenging problems, sharing their thinking and building their skills step by step. We are so proud of their effort and progress!



Dates for The Diary

16th October - Y6 Road Sense session by Lancashire Fire and Rescue

19th October – Yr3 Church Visit – Religious Education

21st October - Panathlon Ten Pin Bowling Competition @ Discobowl

21st October – Yr6 Transition Glow Benchball @ Spirit of Sport

22nd October – Yr6 “This Girl Can” Activity Festival @ Roefield Leisure Centre

22nd October – Yr5/6 Girls Football Match Fixtures

23rd October – School Finish for Half Term (3:25pm)

2nd & 3rd November – INSET Days (School Closed)

4th November –

Whole School RockSteady Music Assembly



Maths Problems of the Week – Yr4

Round 452 to the nearest 100

$$3 \times 9$$

A cup holds 165 ml of juice.

A bottle holds 450 ml of juice.

How much more juice does the bottle hold?

Which is heavier, 5 kg or 500 g?

How many tenths are in one whole?

Picture News & British Value!



Staff Shout Out

Each week we like to celebrate our amazing staff and the hard work they put in for everybody at school. Our winner this week is.....



Miss Fairhurst

because she always helps keep people organised.



Lowerhouse Junior School Facebook

Follow the link below to like and share our school Facebook Page.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/12FgqYkUfLH/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI COMPANIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school – such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) – as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book *Ethical AI and Education*, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.



See full reference list on our website



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#WakeUpWednesday

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