



Lytham Church of England Primary Newsletter



Worship

This week in Collective Worship, we began looking at our Christian value of Thankfulness. We talked about all the things we have to be thankful for, from our families and friends to our school, food, homes and the wonderful world around us.

We are encouraging the children to take time to notice the little things and remember that there is always something to be thankful for, even on a tricky day.

Family Challenge: Why not start a “Thankfulness Jar” at home? Simply write down something you are thankful for and pop it in the jar!

What a lovely start we have had to the new school year! It has been wonderful to see the children settle back into school so positively and we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and attitude they have shown.

A huge thank you to all the children and families who gave up their time last weekend to help tidy our school grounds and plant flowers around school. Your hard work has made such a difference, and we have received so many lovely compliments about how wonderful our school looks. We are very grateful to everyone who helped.

We were also delighted to hold our Open Day this week and welcome so many families into school. It was fantastic to have the opportunity to show them around and share what makes our school such a special place. I was particularly touched to receive an email from one family afterwards telling us just how warm and welcoming they found our school. I couldn't agree more.

An online form has now been sent to families in Years 1 to 6 regarding our after-school clubs. Reception children will also have the opportunity to join clubs a little later in the year, once they have had plenty of time to settle into school life.

As always, thank you for your continued support. It really does make such a difference, and we are looking forward to a very exciting year ahead together.

Stars of the Week

Reception - Emilia
Year 1 - Mila
Year 2 - Flo
Year 3 - Hunter A
Year 4 - Finn
Year 5- Millie
Year 6 - Dion

Parable of the Talents

Writing/ Presentation

Reception - Monty
Year 1 - Teddy
Year 2 - George
Year 3 - Lily C
Year 4 - Jesse
Year 5- Isaac
Year 6 - Gabe

Attendance

Reception - 98.5%
Year 1 - 93.3%
Year 2 - 95.5%
Year 3 - 92.3%
Year 4 - 96%
Year 5- 98.2%
Year 6 - 93.5%

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.

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.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 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.

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.



The National College

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: 09.09.2026