



Monday Memo Newsletter

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Welcome back Summer 1 Term

As we begin our Summer 1 term, we are excited to welcome everyone back and ready to learn and grow as a community. Please continue to check the Monday Memo each week for updates, including any changes to the Diary Dates.

Eco Warriors – Thank you!

At the end of last term, our newly appointed Eco Warriors had their first meeting to conduct an environmental review. This allowed our pupils to generate an idea of what our school needs to become more sustainable and environmentally friendly.

The first mission – to recycle our rubbish.

With the generous support of **VMR Office Solutions**, we now have playground bin stores to enable us to do this. A huge thank you!



Worship Values

Our worship value this half term is Joy.

In our weekly Thursday worship, we will celebrate 1 pupil from each class who has shown the term's value.

This term we will celebrate our 'Jubilant Joy'.



Parish News & Events



Warm Space (coffee and bacon butties)

Tuesdays 09:00am – 11:30am

Supported by members of our Children's Chaplain from 10:00-10:30am

Diary Dates

Monday 28th April Year 4 Class Trip SATs Mock Week	Tuesday 29th April Fairtrade Visit	Monday 5th May May Day - School Closed	Tuesday 6th May Year Reception/Year 1 Tots on Tyres	Thursday 8th May 80th Anniversary VE Day
Friday 16th May Year 4 Reading Break-fast 09:05am	Wednesday 21st May Year 4 Class Worship 09:05am	Thursday 22nd May EYFS/Key Stage 1 Sports Day Morning Key Stage 2 Sports Day Afternoon	Friday 23rd May End of Term Awards 09:05am School closes at 3:20pm	More dates to follow



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ZEPETO

FOR SALE

AGE RESTRICTION
14+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ZEPETO is a fast-growing app blending social networking with a virtual world experience – attracting around 20 million monthly users, with 15% from Europe. Players create 3D avatars to explore immersive environments, play games and interact with others; however, with minimal safety controls, anonymous chat and monetised content, ZEPETO poses a number of online safety concerns that parents and educators should be aware of.

NO PARENTAL CONTROLS

Although ZEPETO is intended for users aged 14 and up, it lacks built-in parental controls or age verification, instead relying on safety features on the device it's played on. This lack of a parental controls feature raises concerns about whom children may be interacting with on the platform.

Hi there...

CYBERBULLYING RISKS

As with many social platforms, children can be targeted for bullying, harassment or exclusion by both strangers and their peers. Unfiltered chat and avatar-based interaction can allow bullying and other forms of harassment to continue, impacting children's wellbeing and mental health.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As a mix between a virtual world and a social media platform, ZEPETO features a wide range of user-generated content. Some areas may reference mature themes, such as TV series aimed at adults, or include inappropriate material created by other users – all of which children may stumble across without warning.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY

Daily log-in rewards, such as coins, and in-game incentives can encourage compulsive behaviour, with some users feeling pressure to check in constantly to avoid missing out. This can lead to excessive screen time and conflict with schoolwork or offline hobbies or commitments.

STRANGER DANGER

By default, users can message and interact with anyone else. This open communication creates an environment where predatory individuals can pose as peers to gain trust, potentially leading to grooming, scams, and exploitation, such as blackmail.

SPENDING REAL MONEY

While the game is free to play, ZEPETO includes a store offering virtual clothing and accessories for avatars. These items are bought with 'ZEMs' – a paid currency – and the appeal of exclusive items or branded collaborations can make it easy for children to overspend.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Visit the child's profile settings to restrict who can send messages – options include Everyone, Followers Only, or No-one. Encourage children to avoid sharing any personal information on their profile, as this is visible even on private accounts.

CONTROL SPENDING

To prevent accidental purchases, set up purchase approval systems such as Apple's Ask to Buy or Google's Purchase Approvals. Alternatively, consider removing payment methods or using pre-paid cards with set budgets.

LIMIT IN-APP TIME

Use parental controls on Android (Google Family Link) or iOS (Screen Time) to restrict app usage by setting hours or daily limits. Encouraging breaks can help children develop healthier habits and reduce app dependency.

HAVE REGULAR CONVERSATIONS

Talk openly with children about whom they interact with online and the kinds of things they see or experience. Encourage them to speak up if someone makes them uncomfortable or if they come across inappropriate content. Teach them how to recognise red-flag behaviours such as asking for secrets, giving gifts, or requesting personal information.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College