

Friday 11th September 2026

Happy, Healthy, Aiming High

Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,

What a fantastic first full week we have had at Angel Road!

A special welcome and huge congratulations to our new Reception children, who started school this week. They have settled in incredibly well, embraced new routines with confidence, and thoroughly enjoyed the start of their school journey. Starting school is such an important milestone, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and excitement. A particular highlight was their very first lunch with us today, which they were all looking forward to!

Throughout the rest of the school, children have returned to learning with a positive attitude and a determination to succeed. Classrooms have been busy with engaged learners showing care in their work, pride in their achievements, and great effort in all that they do. It has been lovely to see such a strong start to the year.

We have also reopened our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) activities at lunchtime. The children have been delighted to have these opportunities available again, and there is much more to come over the coming weeks. Next on the list are our sandpits, which we know will be a very popular addition!

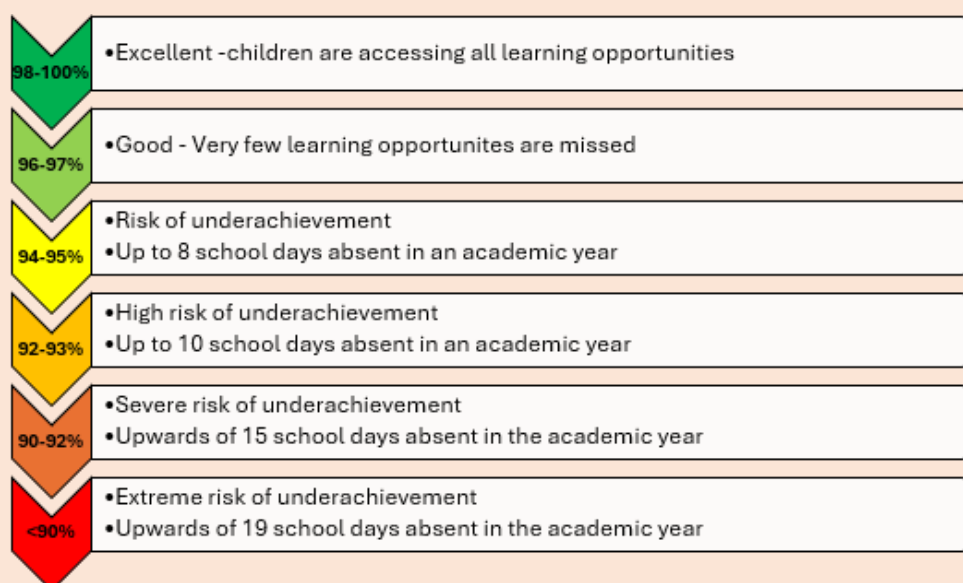
A big well done goes to the children who represented Angel Road in the Evolution Cup at Elm Tree Primary today. Mr Cunningham was extremely proud of their efforts and the way they represented our school community.

We suspect many children will be feeling quite tired after such a busy and successful first full week back. We wish all of our families a restful and relaxing weekend and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday.

Thank you for your continued support.

E J Savage
Headteacher

Attendance Monitoring Chart



Upcoming Events



Thursday 17th September
Whole School Online Safety Day

Thursday 24th September
Reception and Year 6
National Height and Weight Programme
 (Information sent via email)

Wednesday 7th October
Year 2 Trip to Sheringham Park
 (Details to be sent out soon)

Thursday 22nd October
Last Day of Half Term

Friday 23rd October
Staff INSET Day
School closed for children

Half Term
Friday 23rd October – Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November
First Day of Autumn Term 2

Attendance News

Every Day Counts



Attendance Expectations

At Angel Road Schools, we expect pupils to attend school every day. You can support your child to have excellent attendance by taking these steps:

- Ensure your child arrives on time for school every day and is ready to learn. Pupils must be in school by 08.55am. Arriving after registration is recorded as late. Being late to school means important learning is missed.
 - Avoid taking holidays during term time.
 - If your child appears to be only slightly ill, please bring them in to school. We have staff who will contact you if we are concerned.
 - Try and book any medical appointments outside of school hours. If this is unavoidable, please book for as late in the afternoon as possible and inform the school of appointments in advance.
- If your child becomes reluctant to go to school or you need help, please contact the school immediately; we are more likely to be able to work together to solve any problems if we act early.

(Please take time to look at the chart underneath the Headteacher's Message to understand how attendance is monitored within school).

Whole School Attendance this week

Infant School: 92.6%

Junior School: 97.3%

R	Mouse	88.0%	Rabbit	95.2%
Y1	Hedgehog	92.6%	Squirrel	89.5%
Y2	Fox	94.2%	Owl	94.4%
Y3	Dragonfly	94.4%	Swallowtail	98.1%
Y4	Deer	99.6%	Hare	98.1%
Y5	Otter	100.0%	Seal Class	90.5%
Y6	Kestrel	98.9%	Kingfisher	98.2%

Please [click here](#) for more information about Working Together to Improve School Attendance

'Should I keep my child off school?'

A handy checklist for all those common illnesses.

Please click here!

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.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 18 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.

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.

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 0808 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 and [Insert NC courses I have written].



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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