



03/10/25



Wow! What a week. We had so much going on I don't think our feet touched the ground. We had our visits from the army and Airbus. The children really enjoyed them and made some brilliant Mars Landers. We missed our ambulance visit as they had to leave on an emergency as soon as they arrived.

Then to end the week we put on our very own MacMillan coffee morning. It would not be too much to say that it was an absolute success. Our students were excellent ambassadors for the school. They welcomed guests, they served and they had some great conversations. Once we had served our guest each class had the opportunity to come and be involved.

I want to thank everybody who was involved, staff and students. We talk a lot about character in our celebration assemblies and our students really put their best foot forward this week. They showed confidence, oracy skills, resilience, they demonstrated initiative and worked well as teams. Well done everyone. My personal favourite was the flapjack. Thanks Acorn class.

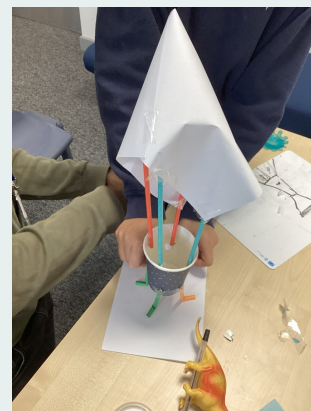
On another note in the coming weeks we will be thinking about travel to school. As a new school, one of the requirements we have to meet is the development of a travel plan. Within this we discuss with the students in assembly how they get to school, pollution and air quality, being safe and being seen and crossing roads safely. We will also take part in some traffic monitoring.

I am aware that most students need to travel quite far to get to us so may not be able to walk to school. These events are about raising awareness and considering how we can make a difference in our community. Over the next term we will send out surveys around travel to get your views on travel to school.

Wednesday 22nd October—We will be inviting all staff, students and visitors to be bright, and dress in their favourite yellow outfit for Hello Yellow to celebrate World Mental Health Day. Our lovely yellow hands in reception are from last year's event. I can't wait to see what we get this year.

Our Mission

We **Navigate Success** Together with **Ambition** and **Relevance**



WHAT HAVE WE DONE IN OUR CLASSES THIS WEEK?

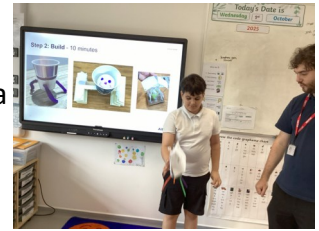
Acorns

In Acorn class this week we have been working hard to prepare for the Macmillan coffee and cake morning. We have also enjoyed having visitors from the army and Airbus, inspiring our futures. In PSHE, we have been focusing on empathy and responsibilities. We have also reflected on how we can show ready, respectful and safe behaviours at school.



Maple

This week in Maple class we have been thinking about what skills and attributes we might need for our future careers. To help us imagine this we drew ourselves in the role. Armani wants to be a brain surgeon, Theo a police dog handler, Ralphie a motorcross rider and Josh a streamer. We also worked hard on designing our quizzes using Scratch. We thought of three questions and created a program that would ask the questions and tell the user if they were correct or not. Mrs Richardson was able to answer the Maths questions but didn't do very well at answering the motorcross ones!



Chestnut

This week in Chestnut, we've had an exciting time exploring future careers! We were visited by the Army and Airbus, who shared insights into their roles and what skills we'd need to join them. Airbus also ran an incredible STEM workshop where we built and tested our own space capsules! Inspired by these visits, we began researching our dream jobs — from paramedics and zookeepers to YouTubers — discovering the pathways we'd need to follow. It's been a fun and inspiring week full of learning, curiosity, and big dreams for the future!

Oak

This week in Oak class we have been looking at square and cube numbers and multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. We have enjoyed Army and Airbus careers visits. We made moon landers, showing our engineering skills. We have made some delicious cakes ready for the Macmillan Coffee morning and decorated them superbly. In science we made a neutral solution by mixing acid and alkali.



Let's Celebrate!

Thank you to all who took part in our Coffee Morning on Friday 3rd October in aid of Macmillan. They really did a fantastic job. Thanks to all our guests and neighbours who came along and enjoyed tea, coffee, hot chocolate and lots of cakes. We are still counting up our final amount which I will announce next week but it has exceeded our expectations.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTH VIOLENCE

Youth violence affects one in four children in the UK, but it doesn't have to. When parents, carers, and educators understand the risks, they're better placed to support young people. The right support, mentoring, therapy, and guidance can help young people affected by violence to feel safe, manage conflict, and make positive choices.

UNDERSTANDING YOUTH VIOLENCE

WHY DO YOUNG PEOPLE COMMIT SERIOUS VIOLENCE?

A recent study surveyed over 10,000 young people affected by violence, asking why serious violence occurs among their peers, such as an assault involving a weapon or sexual violence. The most common reasons given were due to a personal characteristic of the victim e.g., race, religion, sexuality, gender, a gang or school rivalry, and being provoked. While not all young people face these issues, many lack the emotional regulation skills needed to manage provocation.

WHAT ARE SIGNS A YOUNG PERSON IS AT RISK?

Children and young people often express that something is wrong through behaviour rather than words. Be alert to signs such as sudden mood changes, secrecy around friendships, excessive phone use, unfamiliar slang, unexplained injuries, fear of school, aggression, going missing, or substance use. They may also be associating with older peers. These behaviours can indicate underlying issues that can lead to violence.

ONLINE INFLUENCES

Social media plays a powerful role in normalising and escalating violence. Platforms like TikTok and Snapchat can expose young people to harmful content, often shared by algorithms. Many see violent material that distorts reality, leading to fear and desensitisation. A recent study found 70% had seen real-world violence online, and 80% felt less safe in their communities. Alarmingly, 39% said it made them more likely to carry a weapon. Online conflict can often spill into real life, with serious and sometimes tragic consequences.

Opportunity

Community

Wellbeing

Respect

UNCERTAINTY

CONFLICT

FEAR

WHEN IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

For children and young people in England and Wales, the hours between 4 pm and 8 pm – just after school – carry a particularly high risk for serious violence. This can stem from conflicts that escalate during the school day, online arguments, or simply moving through unfamiliar areas on the way home. Understanding this risk helps us support safer travel and routines. Our recent report found that over one in three young people don't feel safe in the area they live in, and 36% don't feel safe walking the streets.

WHY MIGHT A YOUNG PERSON CARRY A WEAPON?

Young people may carry weapons due to fear, threats, peer pressure, or a false sense of protection. Many young people tell us they feel unsafe and carry weapons 'just in case', while others may be influenced by social media, peers, or criminal activity. Some don't realise it's illegal or may believe it earns respect.

WHERE IS VIOLENCE MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN?

Violence often happens in certain places. Busy areas like transport hubs carry risk simply because lots of people gather there. Other hotspots, like places linked to drug activity, attract those more likely to be involved in violence. Some areas become risky due to poor supervision, such as under-resourced public spaces. Understanding where violence tends to occur helps us guide young people safely through their communities and advocate for better support and safer spaces.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALKING TO CHILDREN ABOUT STAYING SAFE

Choose a safe moment for the conversation, emotionally and physically. If a child is upset or angry, help them settle before discussing serious topics. Listen actively without judgement, even if what they share is difficult. Avoid interrupting and offer advice when the time feels right. If you're worried, you're not alone; support is available.

AVOID CONFLICT & MANAGE ESCALATIONS

Encourage young people to consider the 'Safe T's' – Trust instincts, Take a breath, and Talk to a trusted adult. When triggered or provoked, they may react from their 'survival brain', unable to think clearly about the consequences. Taking a breath helps calm, and helps them access their 'thinking brain'. Remind them that moments pass, and seeking support from trusted adults builds resilience and safer decision-making.

HELP CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES

Young people can be searched by police or teachers if suspected of carrying a weapon. If found with a knife, they could face arrest and criminal proceedings. A conviction can result in a criminal record. Even being present during a violent assault, encouraging it, filming, or sharing footage can lead to prosecution. Open and honest conversations can help children understand these risks and make safer choices.

REPORT INFORMATION

We all have a role in preventing violence. If a child shares concerns, you can act. For educators, it's important to follow your school's safeguarding procedures. Other adults can report anonymously through Fearless or Crimestoppers, and speak with other parents, the school, or local police through 101. If someone is in immediate danger, always call 999. These steps help protect children and the wider community.

Meet Our Expert

The Ben Kinsella Trust is a UK anti-knife crime charity educating young people through immersive workshops, awareness campaigns, and community resources. Visit: benkinsella.org.uk



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/youth-violence>



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