

Friday 16th October 2026

Happy, Healthy, Aiming High

Headteacher's Message

Dear Families,

It has been another busy and positive week across the Angel Road Schools.

This week saw the start of the three-week consultation regarding the proposed merger of the Infant School and Junior School to create Angel Road Primary School, with a planned opening date of 2029. This is an exciting opportunity to help shape the future of our school community, and we encourage all parents, carers and stakeholders to take part in the consultation. Please do take the time to share your views and feedback by emailing Luke Delderfield at L.delderfield@evolutionacademytrust.org.uk

We have also been delighted to welcome a large number of prospective parents and families to the school as part of our tours for the 2027 Reception and Year 3 intakes. As always, it has been a pleasure to showcase our wonderful school, the quality of education we provide, and most importantly, our fantastic children. Visitors have commented on how polite, welcoming and enthusiastic our pupils are. The children have once again been excellent ambassadors for Angel Road, making our guests feel welcome throughout their visits.

A few polite reminders:

Classroom doors do not open until 8.45am. Please do not arrive at school too early, particularly if the weather is bad, as there are limited spaces with shelter to wait.

School play equipment should not be played on outside of school hours at the beginning or end of the school day.

The area outside the Reception classrooms is their outdoor learning area. Please do not allow your children to play with the equipment or activities that the teachers have set up for the children for that day.

Please remember to supervise your children whilst on school site at all times.

Next week is our final week before the half-term break. We are open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please remember that our last day in school is Thursday 22nd October, and the school will be closed on Friday 23rd October. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 2nd November.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

E J Savage

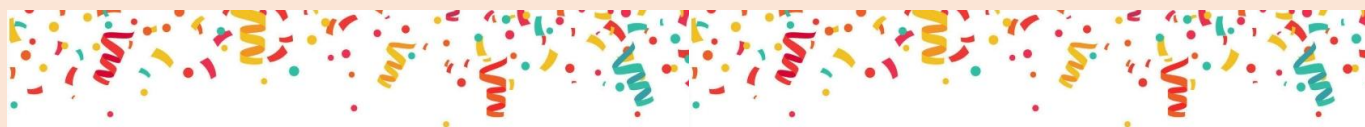
Headteacher

Celebration Assembly and The Golden Book

Every week we celebrate the children's achievements during Celebration Assembly, whether these achievements are in or out of school. If your child has a special achievement they would like to share with school, please email office@angelroadschools.org.uk and we will try and share as many of these as possible. Golden Certificates are given to children who go above and beyond, whether this is demonstrating resilience with a challenging piece of work, or showing kind and thoughtful behaviour towards their peers.

Golden Certificates were awarded to the following children this week:

Nadia	Kevin	Aya	Elliott H
Trudy	Esmae M	Brianna A-A	Amelie
Shahd	Evie Gr	Ariel D	Azaan
Paula	Devin	Isobel-Rose	



Upcoming Events

Monday 19th October
Parent Teacher Meetings
Butterfly and Swallowtail Class Only
Booking available on Arbor

Tuesday 20th October
Parent Teacher Meetings
3.30pm – 6.30pm
Booking available on Arbor

Thursday 22nd October
Parent Teacher Meetings
3.30pm – 6.30pm
Booking available on Arbor

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

Wednesday 4th November
Flu vaccination Team in school
(Details sent to families from the NHS)

Friday 6th November
Individual and sibling
School Photographs with Vancols
(Sibling photographs will be taken from 8am in the school hall. Please queue outside the school office).

Friday 13th November
Supporting Children in Need
Non-School Uniform Day
Donation posters will be up around school

Attendance News

Every Day Counts



School Absence

The Government set criteria for schools to follow with regards to acceptable reasons for school to authorise absence and reasons a school may not authorise absence. It is the law that when a child is registered at school, they must attend regularly and punctually. The child should only be absent from school due to illness or an unavoidable cause.

Some acceptable reasons for a school to authorise absences are as follows:

- Illness
- Unavoidable medical or dental appointments (however, where possible these should be arranged for after school or during school holidays)
- Day of religious observance (This does not include weddings, confirmations or christenings)
- Exceptional family circumstances, such as bereavement

Examples of reasons a school may not authorise an absence:

- Shopping for school shoes, uniform etc during school hours
- Day trips
- Birthdays (theirs or other family members)
- Looking after brothers or sisters or ill relatives
- Term-time holiday

Whole School Attendance this week

Infant School: 94.1% Junior School: 96.3%

R	Mouse	92.7%	Rabbit	95%
Y1	Hedgehog	92.4%	Squirrel	91.2%
Y2	Fox	95%	Owl	98.9%
Y3	Dragonfly	95.6%	Swallowtail	96.7%
Y4	Deer	96.5%	Hare	100%
Y5	Otter	99.5%	Seal Class	91.9%
Y6	Kestrel	94.5%	Kingfisher	96.3%

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 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.

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 18+ 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.

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.

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 111) 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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