

Summer Term 2

N e w s l e t t e r

Key Dates:

End of Term 6- Friday 25th July

Start of Term 1– Thursday 4th September

Sports Day is here! Whole school Zumba warm up!



Our Living Classrooms: The School Ponds

Thanks to the support of the National Trust, our school is now home to two vibrant new ponds and they're bursting with life!

The journey began in winter 2024, when our pupils braved the cold to help measure the pond depths. By spring, they were planting native wildflowers and aquatic plants chosen to attract and support a wide variety of wildlife while also adding natural beauty and a sense of calm to our outdoor space.

This summer, we've partnered with Ponds Alive! an exciting initiative funded by the National Trust's community grant, to inspire young people and the wider community to appreciate the amazing benefits ponds bring to both nature and our wellbeing.

In just a few short months, the transformation has been incredible. We spotted the first frogspawn in February, and since then, the ponds have welcomed damselflies, dragonflies, and fascinating creatures like great diving beetles and whirligig beetles. Just last week, two palmate newts were discovered exploring the orchard pond, a great sign that our ponds are becoming thriving ecosystems.

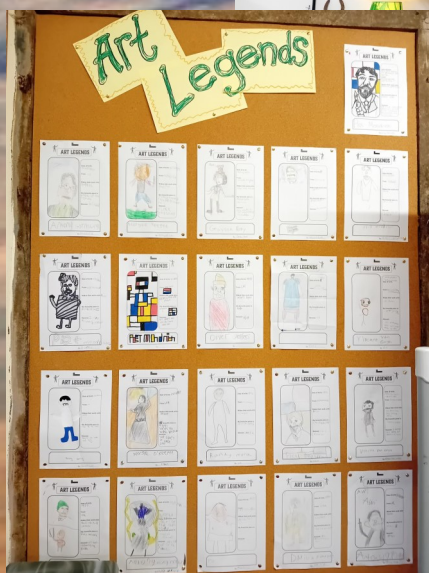
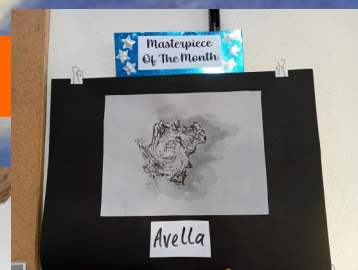
Pupils have been captivated by the wildlife arriving in their very own school ponds. Through hands-on learning, they're gaining valuable scientific skills, a deeper connection to the natural world, and a growing sense of responsibility for protecting it.

We're so proud of their enthusiasm — and we can't wait to see how our ponds continue to grow.

This project is funded by Species Survival Fund. To find out more about the project visit:

[Porlock Vale Riverlands project](#) | [Somerset](#) | [National Trust](#)





What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

EMOJIS

Emojis are more than playful expressions — they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook, Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 🍑 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but seems often interpreted as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'dank' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji 🧑 (a) once signified awkwardness but might now be reinterpreted for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviour. For instance, 🌪️ (falling leaves emoji) or 🍷 (glass emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🍷 (fallen flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. 🍷 (glass emoji) or 🍷 (fallen flower emoji) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojiexplains.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Sharing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental control and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to — not just someone who's watching them.

EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples - please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

COMMON EMOJIS:

👉 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around	👉 (Pleading face) Over-affectedness or 'singing'
👉 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or raffish	👉 (Eyed) Watching drama unfold
👉 (Heart face) Intense attraction or excitement	👉 (Giant) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)
👉 (Meme) Stare-faced, unbothered	👉 (Ninja) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference
👉 (Crown) 'Slaying'; as in doing great	👉 (Red flag) Red flag: a warning sign about someone's behaviour

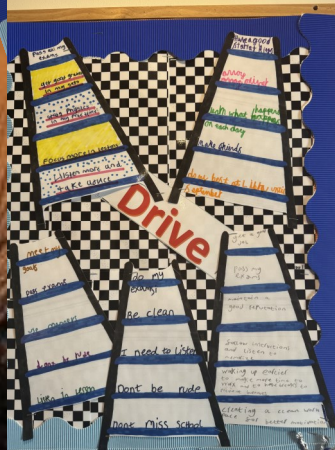
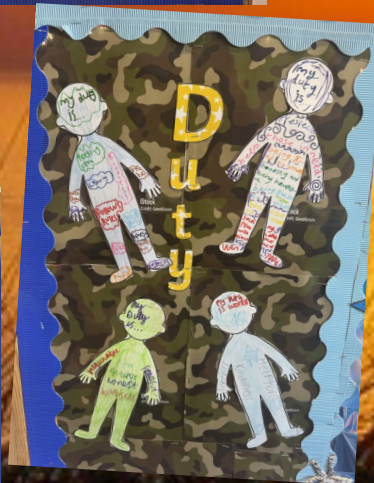
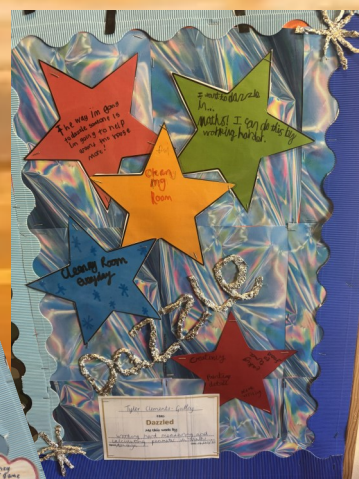
POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

👉 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms)	👉 (Withered flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness
👉 (Snowflakes, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine	👉 (Knife) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'
👉 (Key, key face) Related to cocaine use	👉 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm
👉 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cocaine	👉 (Warning) Used to emphasise danger, threats or emotional turmoil
👉 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse	👉 (Steaming bowl) Refers to 'burns' (Noods! is an abbreviation of noodles)

Meet Our Expert

Keith Brown is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojiexplains.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University of London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.

The National College



A tutor display showing our school motto