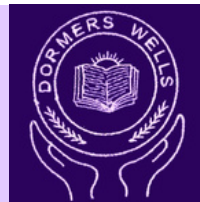


DORMERS INFORMER

Believe. Aspire. Flourish



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents/Carers,

November has been another busy month! I continue to be proud of our school community, our great learning and improving attendance.

Attendance Awards-NOVEMBER 2025

We want all our pupils to achieve 97% and be in the 97 Club! A big shout out to our amazing children who continue to show a love of learning by coming to school every day. A Special Well done to the TOP EIGHT classes for their excellent attendance, so far.

Attendance and Punctuality - GOOD ATTENDANCE =GREAT RESULTS!

If your child's attendance is below 90%, they are classed as a persistent absentee. We strongly encourage parents whose child's attendance is below 95%, to improve attendance, starting from Reception. Good attendance supports our pupils to flourish both individually and collaboratively, in their personal and academic development. Thank you for your continued support and understanding that excellent attendance is essential to productive learning, positive life-long habits, setting them up for success as adults. We ask that you continue to support us, improving attendance, as it is important that your child is in school every day learning.

SAFEGUARDING: ONLINE SAFETY

To further help you keep your children safe online, this month's Parent Guide is: Online Slang.

Parents Evening 2025

We had our first parents' evenings of the year on Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd October, with an individual 10-minute video call. Attendance ranged from 48% to 79%, an average of 62%. This is higher than last year. 19% of parents booked and did not attend; so we encourage those parents to make an appointment ASAP to discuss your child's progress.

Nursery Places available for January 2026 and April 2026

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 December 2022, s/he can start Nursery (MORNING ONLY) in January.

If your child was born between 1 January 2023 and 31 March 2023, s/he can start Nursery in April: a fun environment where the children learn through play and develop social skills. Please come to the school office for an application pack and we will start them as soon as possible.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES: THERAPEUTIC THINKING TIP: Choose your battles

All humans resist feeling controlled by someone else, and kids are no different. The more they feel "pushed around" the more they rebel. That's a good thing! Training a child to be obedient means you'll always have to be there to give orders, and as they grow up they may find it more difficult to stand up for themselves. Teaching a child self-discipline raises a child who can think for themselves, stand up for what's right, and isn't likely to be taken advantage of.

How can parents help? Choose your battles. Make sure your child knows you're on his/her side and that they have some choices. When you feel you are entering a power struggle, offer them two choices that you feel OK with. This will allow them to feel they have some control, while you also continue to hold your boundaries. Coach your child rather than trying to control him/her.

Position	Class attendance
1st	5Z Zephaniah 99% 😊
2nd	4W Wangari 98.2% 😊
3rd	4A Attenborough 97.5% 😊
4 th =	2C Curie 97.3% 😊
4 th =	3T Tendulkar 97.3% 😊
4 th =	6J Johnson 97.3% 😊
7 th =	5B Blackman 96.8% 😊
7 th =	2L Latimer 96.8% 😊
9th	3F Farah 96%
10th	1E Earhart 96%
11th	YR Pollock 95.7%
12th	1S Seacole 95.2%
13th	AM Nursery Raza 94.3%
14th	6T Turing 94.1%
15th	YR Mahlanu 93.6%
Overall NOVEMBER	96.6% (TARGET OF 25-26, 96% MET 😊)

Winter Fair

Thank you for all your donations, so far as we prepare for our Winter Fair next Thursday! And a huge thank you to Costco Hayes for their donation. Tokens have been on sale prior to the fair on School Comms (these will be handed to the children on the day of the fair). Tokens will be available up until Tuesday the 2nd December. All tokens are non-refundable; we will also collect cash on the day. We also welcome any more donations or gifts from you or local businesses. We look forward to seeing lots of families at the Winter fair, as we prepare for Christmas together and raising funds for the school.

Movie night

Thanks to all families who contributed as we raised a fabulous £589 for the school, whilst the children had a fun afternoon with their blankets and cuddlies!



A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Reading

Reading is always one of our school priorities. Have you completed your child's reading record or checked they have completed it? Happy Reading!

Winter Jumper Day/ Christmas Lunch

Christmas Lunch will be served on Wednesday 17th December. This year, the Christmas meal is FREE, which will enable as many pupils as possible to enjoy this special meal together. However, you still need to order a school lunch on School Comms, as usual. The pupils will experience a traditional Christmas Lunch Menu. Plus, music and lots of fun! Pupils will be allowed to wear a Winter/Christmas jumper or accessory (can be home-made) on this day. There will also be a 'Disco in the dark' on this day, to raise more funds for our school. Tickets will be available on school Comms from the 25.11.2025.

Christmas Post Box

If pupils would like to send Christmas cards (can be homemade) there is a school post box. Our youngest pupils should be helped to write the recipient's name (and class) on the envelope, so they can be sorted appropriately!

Free school meals

If you haven't already made a free school meal application, apply <http://fsm.bslforum.com/ealing/Dseat.jsp>. If you are successful, your child will be eligible for Food vouchers during the holidays, a winter family payment to help with fuel costs AND extra funding for their school from the Government, worth £1,300 per year. That's extra money to spend on enrichment activities, teacher development and targeted support. If you qualify inform school as soon as you receive your notification: The Voucher is £15 per week, per eligible child and a top up payment in February towards heating. Don't miss out, apply today!

Other support available-Cost of living

Support for children and families from Ealing Council website has lots of information about the different sources of help, benefits, grants and money-saving discounts the council has on offer. Visit for more information: https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201320/cost_of_living_support_and_advice. Parents might also be interested in the free data sim cards available from Ealing libraries for students. The council's four community hubs include Southall Library, https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201033/council_and_local_decisions/3073/location, a registered data bank providing sims cards for those who do not have online access or are struggling to pay for mobile data. Anyone struggling to meet food costs, cover their rent or purchase essential items can apply for financial assistance. To find more information or to make an application go to: https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201264/help_for_residents/2687/help_with_your_money/2. Information about all the different sources of help, benefits, grants and money-saving discounts on offer is also available: https://www.egfl.org.uk/sites/default/files/Cost%20of%20living%20leaflet%20with%20translations_0.pdf

DWJ Top Reading Tips

Reading for Pleasure is at the Heart of What We Do

Top Tips for Reading with your Child:

1. Find a time that works for you. Bedtimes are great, but anytime during the day works too!
2. Tell stories in the everyday world. Even what's happening outside of the car window on the way to school.
3. Talk about the pictures.
4. Be as expressive as possible when reading aloud to your child. Use emotion, use voices, and make sounds, as it all adds to your child's enthusiasm for the story.

Questions you can ask while reading together:

During the story

'How do you think this story will end?'

After the story

'Why did the writer want to tell this story?'

'Which character was most like you?' or 'Which was your favourite character?'

'Did you like the book? Why?'

'How do you think the character felt at this point of the story?'

Remember to only ask one or two questions every story time, you don't want to distract them too much!

Recommended Read for the Month of November – Remembrance Day



KS1
Where the Poppies now
Grow by Hilary Robinson & Martin Impey

Set during the First World War, in simple rhyme, Where the Poppies Now Grow takes readers on a journey of friendship set against a changing landscape of innocence, of war and then finally, of peace.

KS2 - Now or Never by Bali Rai

A gripping adventure in an exciting new series reflecting the authentic, unsung stories of our past! Now or Never brings a young soldier, Private Fazal Khan, from his home in India to the battlefields of the Second World War.



Winter 2025 Junior Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

BOOKINGS OPEN
Wednesday 12 November 2025

22 December 2025 to 2 January 2026
(Excluding Weekends, Christmas Day & Boxing Day)

Young people can book to attend up to 4 sessions, free* across the whole programme.

GET ACTIVE try yoga, circus skills, taekwondo, trips and visits.

GET CREATIVE with theatre, dance, filming, cookery, and festive crafts.

GET SOCIAL have fun, meet different people and enjoy food together.

To find out more and book your child's place, please scan the QR code or visit www.ealinghaf.org.uk

Eligible families will be emailed directly with the booking links shortly before bookings open.

Contact:

HAF@ealing.gov.uk

or call **020 8825 6331**

(lines open 9am - 1pm)



FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION (DfE).
*FOR ELIGIBLE YOUNG PEOPLE.

End of term Arrangements-Friday 19th December

The timings for the last day of the Autumn term on Friday 19th December is 1pm. Nursery last day of term is on the same day this year: Thursday 19th December. The first day back to school for pupils is Monday 5th January 2026.

With best wishes,
Mrs Toni George
Headteacher

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

UPCOMING DATES

1/12/25

- Christmas post box open
- NHS Height & Weight for Reception & Y6

3/12/25: 6pm GB Meeting

4/12/25: 2.30 - 4.30pm Christmas Fair

5/12/25: Y5 Trip to Warner Brother Studios

9/12/25: 2.45pm Reception Christmas singing concert

10/12/25: 11am Nursery Christmas concert

15/12/25: Y5/6 Boys Football League Round 1(selected pupils)

17/12/25

- Christmas Lunch & Winter wear day
- 97% club movie afternoon for selected classes

18/12/25: 2.30pm Y2 Nativity to parents

19/12/25:

- Attendance award assemblies
- Last day of term for all pupils. (pupils finish at 1pm)

5/1/26: Start of Spring term. All pupils return to School

Nursery

Nursery children have been busy exploring shapes and patterns. They have enjoyed looking closely at objects in the classroom and outdoors, discovering 2D shapes and simple patterns. Through play, sorting activities, and hands-on exploration, they are beginning to recognise shapes and notice how patterns repeat.



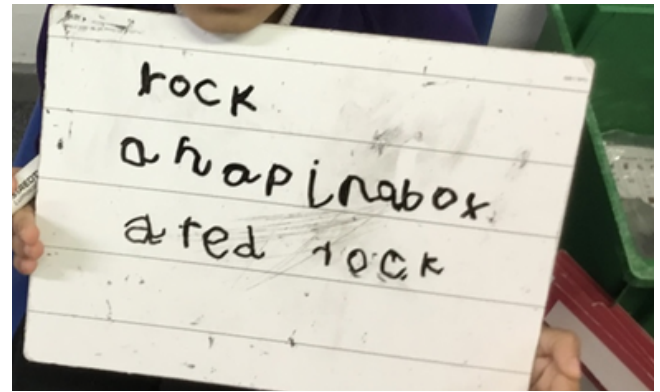
Year 1

This month children in Year One have been preparing for many special events at school. We made poppies to decorate our school hall for Remembrance Day and we wore blue to celebrate World Children's Day. The children also participated in a Mary Seacole Workshop to support their learning in History.



Reception

Our Reception children have been doing amazingly in phonics! They have been working hard to sound out words for their spelling and using their grapheme mats to help them feel confident and independent. They are also beginning to read tricky words, which is fantastic progress. We are very proud of them all.



Year 2

Year 2 Children enjoying a captivating performance of The Sleeping Beauty pantomime



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Year 3

3T had an amazing time with Artis. We were able to show our feeling and actions linking to our core text, The Iron Man and children had a chance to work with different partners.

Sanad had an amazing time taking part and allowing the class to follow his dance moves.



Year 5

Year 5 were thrilled to welcome local MP Deirdre Costigan to their school. They asked her a range of thoughtful and inquisitive questions about her important role as a Member of Parliament and how she represents her community in Westminster. MP Costigan also joined the school in their Remembrance Day celebrations, taking part in a special moment of reflection and respect.



As part of Year 5's Hook Day to launch their new English topic, the children experienced the magic of the Sorting Hat! Each pupil was placed into one of the famous Hogwarts houses, creating an air of excitement and anticipation across the room. While some were delighted with their placement, others felt a little unsure about where they'd been sorted. However, as we all know, the Sorting Hat can be full of surprises – and there just might be a few changes ahead, depending on how it feels...



Year 4

Maths - In Maths we have been focusing on adding and subtracting two 4-digit numbers, including those that require exchanges. Both Year 4 classes have been working incredibly hard to master these skills, using accurate mathematical terminology while tackling challenging reasoning questions.

Writing - In preparation for the diary entries we will be writing soon, the children have been exploring the differences between formal and informal language. Last week, they produced fantastic work showcasing their understanding of fronted adverbials, all within the context of our new text The Journey.

DT - Last week in DT, Year 4 have been learning how to construct nets for a range of 3-D shapes. The children explored different nets, discussed how 2-D shapes fold into 3-D forms and practised creating their own. They worked carefully and successfully built a cube and many also challenged themselves to make a cylinder. The class showed fantastic problem-solving skills and creativity throughout the activity!

Parent Reading Workshop - Our recent reading workshop was a great success with an excellent turnout. It was wonderful to see children fully engaged with their parents, proudly sharing and demonstrating their reading skills. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the session so positive and enjoyable!



Year 6

Year 6 went to Paradox Museum in London. They had an amazing time. Children were very excited whilst participating in all the interactive activities. *"I enjoyed the mirror maze and the zero gravity room that was spinning at the Paradox museum."* - Lucky 6T

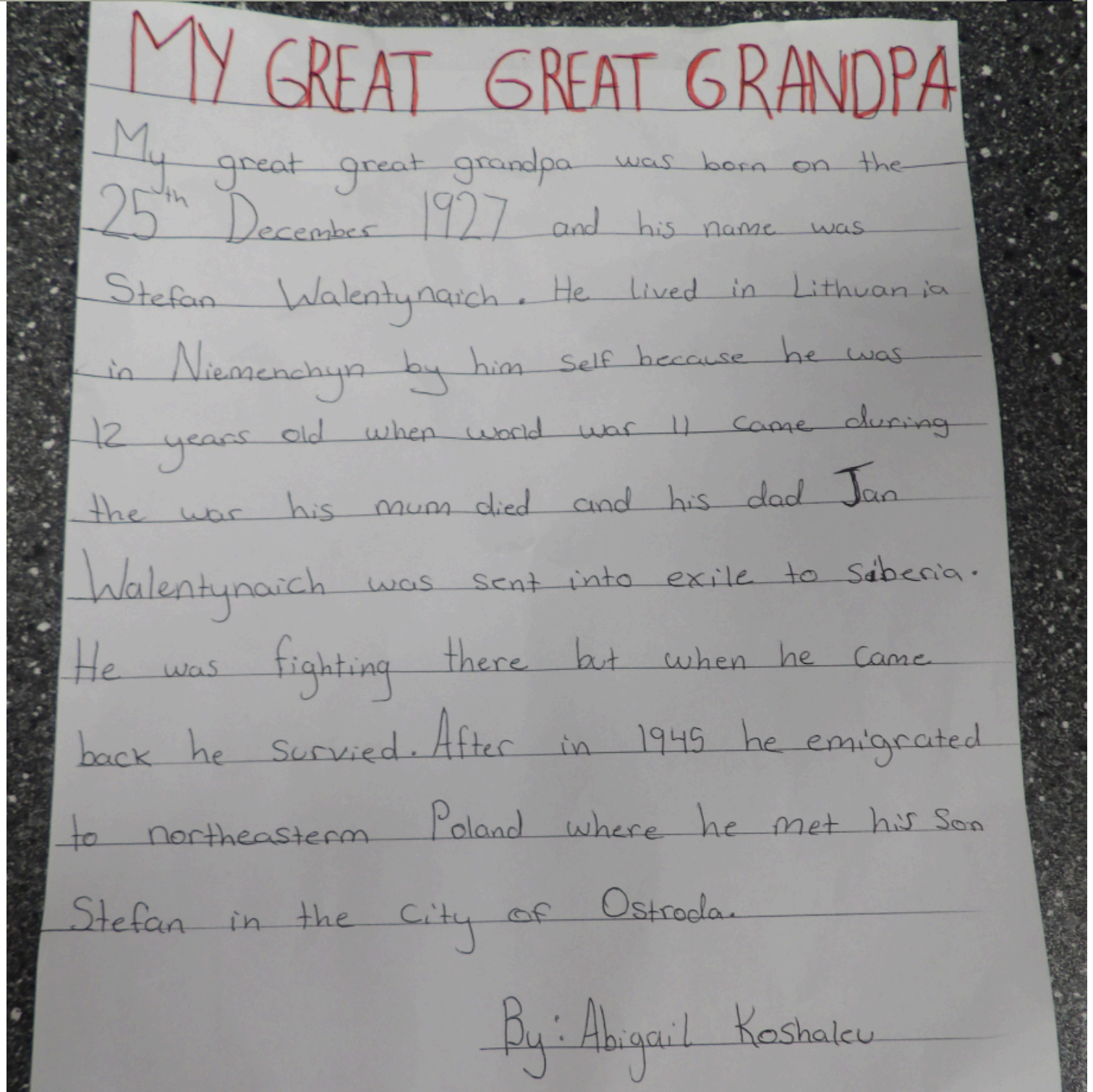


EXTRA STORIES

Remembrance Day

The whole School observed a minute silence on the 11th November.

Abigail Koshaleu Y6 wrote a beautiful heartfelt remembrance of her great-great-grandpa, written with compassion, clarity, and beautiful detail.



EXTRA STORIES

Sleeping Beauty Panto



Year 6 No Pens Day



Rights Respecting

World Children's day to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improve children's welfare. Pupils were invited to come to School wearing blue to celebrate.



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE SLANG

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Slang moves fast – and for many young people, it's not just how they talk, but how they share their identity and feelings. Learning key terms helps adults connect and show understanding, even if the lingo seems baffling at first.

GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

Words like 'rizz' or 'slaps' can be misunderstood by adults, leading to awkward moments or a breakdown in trust. These phrases often carry subtle social meanings among young people.

RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Slang changes quickly. A term like 'bop' might sound innocent one week and be repurposed the next. This makes it easy for adults to fall behind and for children to misstep.

SHIELDING BULLYING OR EXCLUSION

Inside jokes and trending terms like 'simp' or 'NPC' can be used to mock or exclude others. What looks like harmless fun might actually reinforce social divisions or bullying.

PERFORMING FOR THE ALGORITHM

Slang often reflects what's popular on platforms like TikTok. Young users might exaggerate or act out for likes, creating online personas that don't match their real selves.

CONTENT MODERATION WITH CODED SPEECH

To avoid content filters, young people sometimes use slang or emojis to talk about serious topics – for example, saying 'unalive' instead of other death-related terms. This makes harmful content harder to spot.

LONG-TERM DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

A slang-filled post might seem funny now but could resurface years later during job checks or university applications – possibly out of context, but still damaging.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP UP, DON'T CATCH UP

Follow youth culture pages or ask your child about new slang. Staying informed shows that you're engaged and open to understanding their world.

FOCUS ON CONNECTION OVER CONTROL

Being someone your child can talk to is more valuable than using strict filters or monitoring apps. Openness builds trust.

ASK, DON'T INTERROGATE

Use open questions to invite conversation. You're not quizzing them – just trying to learn more about their online lives.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL MEDIA LITERACY

Talk about where slang comes from, how it spreads, and how it can impact others. This helps young people use language more thoughtfully.

ONLINE SLANG CHEAT SHEET -

The following slang terms are common examples – please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list and both meaning and prevalence can change swiftly.

COMMON SLANG:

- Sigma** - Independent, self-reliant (often male) mindset; proud outsider status. Often celebrated in motivational memes.
- Skibidi** - Nonsense word from the viral 'Skibidi Toilet' meme; expresses chaos or fun. Usually harmless but pervasive.
- Chat** - The collective audience or group of viewers (e.g. on a livestream). Used when addressing followers directly.
- Lock in** - To focus, commit or get serious (e.g. before gaming or sports). Positive encouragement to concentrate.
- Cooking** - Doing something exceptionally well or gaining momentum. Opposite of 'cooked'.
- Rizz** - Charisma or flirting ability (short for charisma). Can praise social confidence.
- Aura or aura farming** - One's perceived 'energy' or vibe; 'farming' means manufacturing clout.

POTENTIALLY CONCERNING SLANG

- Bop** - An adult content creator (e.g. OnlyFans). Indicates exposure to 18+ material.
- Gyatt or gyatt** - Sexualised exclamation about someone's backside. Objectifies appearance.
- Tralalero tralala / bombardino crocodilo / tung tung tung sahur** - Spammy references to AI-generated creatures with 'Italian-sounding' names. Can clog chats, derail discussion, and harass others.
- Glazing** - Overpraising or obsessively defending a streamer or celebrity.
- Crash out** - To lose control, give up or have a meltdown; sometimes hints at self-harm.
- Cooked** - Ruined, exhausted or in serious trouble; sometimes mental health-related.
- Unalive** - Euphemism for death or suicide; used to avoid content filters.
- NPC** - Used to suggest someone is lacking independent thoughts or is repetitive and predictable.

Meet Our Expert

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



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