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Executive Head Teacher: Mr C. Flaherty

Head of School: Mr K Scanlon



St Anthony's Catholic Primary Sch
Fordbridge Road,
Kingshurst,
Birmingham
B37 6LW

Friday 24th January 2025



This half term, we are growing to be grateful for our own gifts, for the gift of other people, and for the blessings of each day; and generous with our gifts becoming men and women for others.



I am determined, as King, to preserve and promote the principle of generosity of spirit and care for others, with all my heart.

Charles III – King

Admissions



We have a limited number of Nursery places remaining for a September 25 start. If you haven't yet applied or you know of someone that may be looking for a Nursery place for their child please speak to the school office.

We also have 2 year-old places available in Tiny Ants but they are going quickly! If you are interested in a place for your 2 year-old, please contact the school office.

Phone safety

At Christmas, I'm sure that many children received mobile phones, and other devices. Please be reminded to check what your child is accessing, and check their activity regularly. Be aware of what types of messenger platforms your child is using to communicate with others; even if this is their family and friends. Children have access to a huge variety of content online. Remember to add parental control and add two factor authentication where you can.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about JUSTALK KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

JusTalk Kids is a child's version of the JusTalk app – a highly popular social networking platform – designed for users up to 13 years of age, allowing them to video call, message and participate in group chats. While adults can link their own JusTalk account to their child's and make use of parental controls, it's important to understand the risks associated with the app.

SUBSCRIPTION FOR PREMIUM ACCESS

While JusTalk Kids is free, there's the option to subscribe to a kids' premium account or a premium family account. At a cost, this feature allows children to have access to more fun features such as games they can play with others in a call; exclusive stickers; a badge denoting them as a premium subscriber; and exclusive ringtones and themes.

RESISTANCE TO CONTROLS

JusTalk Kids endeavours to allow children the sense of having a chat-based app while allowing parents to set controls (within the app or from their own adult JusTalk account). The basis behind this is positive; however, some children are challenging their parents by refusing to use JusTalk Kids, preferring to use the adult version without any restrictions in place.

KNOWING THE PARENT PASSCODE

After downloading JusTalk Kids, parents can set a passcode which users must enter to add contacts. The parental controls help to manage which content can be viewed and who children can add as a contact: this then allows children to chat with friends in a controlled environment. However, prospective contacts don't have to know a specific username. In theory, someone could type in a random name and then add them as a friend.

POTENTIAL DATA LEAKS

JusTalk and JusTalk Kids claim to be secure and encrypted, going so far as to state that even the developers themselves won't access your data. However, a security lapse in 2022 highlighted that messages were not in fact encrypted – leading to concerns around the security of the app and the transparency of the development team.

CYBERBULLYING

Online chats can provide a sense of anonymity, leading some users to post things which they wouldn't normally say in person. Combined with the option of group chats, there's a risk that young people might join in with this kind of behaviour, escalating it further and potentially turning what should be a fun experience into something deeply negative.

TOO MUCH SCREEN TIME

A report by the UK Parliament Education Committee highlighted a 52% increase in children's screen time between 2020 and 2022 – as well as finding that 25% of children used their smartphones in a manner consistent with screen addiction. Introducing children to social networking apps when they're too young can lead to bad digital habits and a reliance on technology from an early age.

Advice for Parents & Educators

JUSTIFY THE CONTROLS

If parents allow their child to use JusTalk Kids, they should explain that they're putting parental controls in place to make the app safer. Make sure the child knows not to put their full name on the account and doesn't use a photo of themselves as their profile picture. This type of open discussion will help to ensure that a child is aware of the app's potential risks and knows how to reduce them.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE FRIENDSHIPS

Young children could be excited to use this app. However, highlight that they must do so in a positive, respectful and responsible manner. While it can be easy to get caught up in a group chat, it's important to talk to others politely and call out any unpleasant behaviour. Discuss the importance of limiting their contacts to people they know in real life and use parental controls to enforce this.

DOS AND DON'TS OF SHARING

Some children might not understand the potential dangers of oversharing online. Set clear guidelines around what is and isn't safe to share on the internet, and discuss the concept of a digital footprint. Children need to understand that the things they say and share online can never be completely erased. Even if they delete it themselves, it can be saved and distributed by others.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Apps like JusTalk can sometimes lend themselves to bullying behaviours. Parents should monitor what their child is sending and receiving, check in with them regularly and encourage them to share their feelings (both positive and negative) at home. Remind them that they can block a contact if someone is treating them disrespectfully.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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

SAFETY!

After receiving **yet another** report about dangerous driving, putting the lives of our pupils at risk, we have contacted both the local police and the council regarding the parking issues on Schofield Road.

If you use this road at drop-off and pick-up times, please show consideration and care for our community and do not mount the pavement or drive at an unsafe speed.



School
Safety Zone



Sacramental Preparation

If your child is a Roman Catholic in **Year 6** and is due to make their **Confirmation** on Wednesday 12th February, please attend a meeting in the school hall on **Monday 27th January at 2:45pm.**



If your child is a Roman Catholic in **Year 3** and is due to make their **First Holy Communion** on Saturday 7th June, they will need to attend a commitment mass on **Saturday 8th March at 4:30pm** in St. Anthony's church with an adult.



Pharmacy First

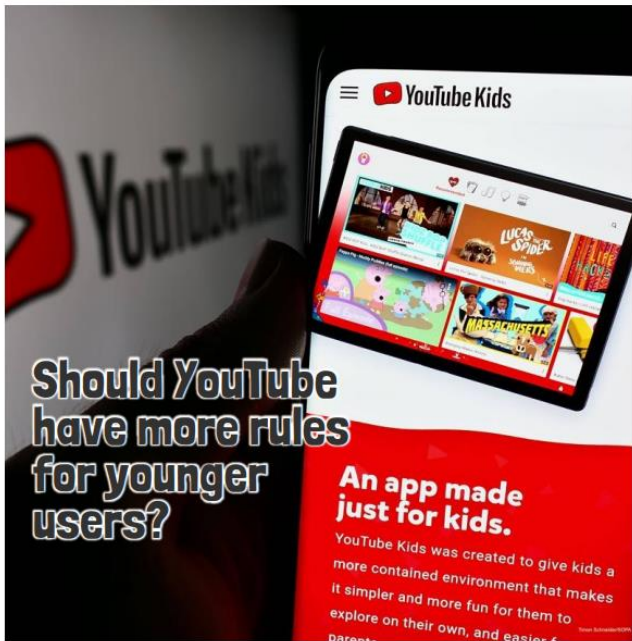
Pharmacy First can support families over winter with minor illnesses and seven common conditions. If appropriate, they can also provide treatment without a prescription for seven common conditions and could be quicker than seeing a GP.

Community pharmacies are ideally placed to offer a more accessible and convenient choice to access healthcare services. This service takes away the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment and may help ensure children and staff get well and back to nursery/school/college as quickly as possible, potentially positively impacting attendance rates.



Time to talk...

TAKEHOME



'TUESDAY NEWS DAY'

This week we learnt that our The UK government's culture secretary, Lisa Nandy, has written to video-sharing platforms, such as YouTube and TikTok, asking them to actively share more educational content for children.

Things you could talk about at home:

- What type of things do you enjoy watching and where do you like to watch them?
- What did the adults in your home watch when they were children? When and how did they watch these shows?
- Do you believe there should be more checks or rules for what people can watch online?

✕

Pope Francis says...

✕

✕

✕



May the Lord open our ears and hearts so that we may listen to His Word and those of our brothers and sisters.

Tiny Ants

This week, in Tiny Ants we have been making our own dens using tarpaulin and pegs. We collected crates to sit on and sticks to create a pretend camp fire.



We erected a tent inside for the children to explore lying down watching stars move around the roof. The children had boxes of books to read we named it our reading tent.



This week thinking about people who help us we decided to become hairdressers, the children took turns to be a customer and a stylist, even the teachers were allowed to have a cut and blow-dry.



Nursery

This Week as part of our topic 'People who help us' we have been focusing on Dentists. Our role play area has turned into a Dental Surgery and the children have loved taking on the role of Dentists and Patients. We have learnt that we need to brush our teeth morning and night for two minutes at a time, and that we should use toothpaste.



Pretending shaving foam was toothpaste to brush our toy teeth alongside the two-minute sand timer has also proved popular this week.



Nursery also now know which foods are good for our teeth and which foods we should only have a small amount of. We have developed our understanding of this through carrying out a science experiment with three eggs; one in water, vinegar and fizzy pop to observe how each liquid changed the appearance of the egg shells.



Reception

This week in Reception we have continued to explore the theme of 'People who help us'. This week it has been all about Firefighters; we have built fire engines in our construction area, used different materials to build fire stations, and have even been putting fires out in our phonic house!

In Maths we have been learning about capacity. We have really enjoyed using different containers and materials, such as water, sand, and even fluffy pom poms to understand and describe; half full, half empty, nearly full, nearly empty, full, and empty. We have also been discussing in RHE about how amazing our bodies are, and how God created us all. We talked about some of the ways in which we use our bodies and celebrate God's creation. Tori shared "I love my eyes; I like them open to look outside at the birds". And Bella shared "I use my body and my legs at dancing to do the splits."

In English we have read the Rainbow fish. We have created some wonderful work describing and sequencing the story. It is a favourite story for many of the children. In particular Ruby, who could recall some of the text before Miss Carson had even begun!



Thank you,
Reception, for
another
wonderful week!



Year 1

Year 1 have been working really hard on their maths lessons this week. We have been looking at recognising our numbers to 20 and using number lines. The children worked in their Kagan groups find the midpoint on their number lines before calculating one more or one less and estimating! In RHE the children made some beautiful artwork to represent the Holy Trinity. At the end of the week, the children reflected on the wildfires in America and planned a spiritual prayer liturgy.



Year 2



This week in Year 2, we have been busy learning and growing!

In Maths, we've continued our money topic, focusing on how to give change. In PE, we've worked together as supportive partners, practicing different rolls in gymnastics. In RHE, we've planned our very first child-led prayer services, which we're excited to present next week.

Well done Year 2 for all your hard work and enthusiasm!



Year 3

Year 3 have had a wonderful week!

We made our way to the prayer garden, where some of the children lead us in prayer and Liturgy about the Last Supper.



Year 5

Year 5 have had an exciting and engaging week!

In Science, they took on the roles of Managers and Scientists at a Sewage Treatment Plant. Working in teams, they devised methods to separate solid waste from liquid, helping to reduce pollution in rivers and seas.

Additionally, Year 5 teamed up with Birmingham University to capture stunning images of nature using microscopes. The children visited Babbs Mill Park to explore and collect natural objects to examine under the microscope. They managed to capture some truly impressive images—so professional that they could easily be mistaken for ones found on Google!



Attendance



EDUCATION
PARTICIPATION
ADVISORY SERVICE
SOLIHULL MBC

Attendance Support

Does your child worry about going to school?

Do you feel you have tried everything to ensure your child attends school but nothing seems to be working?

Do you feel there has been a relationship breakdown with your child's school?

Do you have general questions around school attendance?

Then please attend one of our drop in sessions for attendance support.

There is no need to make an appointment. Just drop in during the drop in times below.

Chloe and Liz will be completing drop in sessions at the family hubs after the Christmas break. They will be offering attendance advice, support and guidance.

Drop in details:

Tuesday 12-1.30pm @ Elmwood Place

Friday 9.30-12.00pm @ Hatchford Brook

We are here to support families struggling with school attendance.

If you have any questions please email attendanceenquiries@solihull.gov.uk



Elmwood Place
37 Burtons Way,
Birmingham
B36 0UG

Hatchford Brook,
Old Lode Lane,
Solihull
B92 8JE

Parent Information

Free data for those who need it most. If you're struggling to stay connected, ask for the National Databank in any O2 store.

Data is essential to everyday life — from banking and job hunting to simply staying in touch. But many people in the UK are struggling to stay connected and access these vital services.

We co-founded the National Databank with the UK's leading digital inclusion charity, [Good Things Foundation](#). The National Databank provides free mobile data, texts and minutes to those living in data poverty. It's like a foodbank, but for mobile data. Drop by and see us and ask for the [National Databank](#) in any of our O2 stores.

Please follow this link for more information: [National Databank Free Mobile Data, Minutes & Calls](#)



TTRS battle



The January battle has commenced!

It's boys v girls - and with each child from Y2 – Y6 accessing TTRS, the scores should be incredible!

Keep playing between the hours of 7am and 9pm to earn points for your team.



Support for parents and pupils

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 digital citizenship. Formally endorsed by National Crime Agency, these guides have a direct address to our target audiences. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit www.thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HEALTH & FITNESS APPS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Physical wellbeing apps are useful tools for monitoring and improving our health. They allow us to balance nutrition, set goals, track our activities and sleep patterns, and motivate us to exercise. Nonetheless, there have been some reported drawbacks; this guide outlines some of these concerns and explains how to use fitness apps safely.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Many apps take a one-size-fits-all approach, failing to account for the varying ages and abilities of children: a 11-year-old, for example, will have different physical needs to a child of 16. This can create unrealistic expectations and set objectives which may be too advanced for younger children or too simple for older ones.

NOT DEVELOPED BY EXPERTS

Some fitness and wellbeing apps are developed by experts in the field – but a concerning number of them aren't. As a result, these platforms may contain inaccurate information. They may present safety concerns by giving incorrect advice regarding physical activities or using unsafe age-inappropriate content which could create safety risks for users.

REDUCED INTERACTION WITH OTHERS

Physical wellbeing apps can remove the social and interactive elements which physical activities can offer – for instance, meeting people at fitness classes, at the gym or during any other such activities. Research has found that young people generally do like this aspect of fitness apps, suggesting that they would rather exercise in the company of friends or other like-minded individuals.

DATA AND PRIVACY CONCERNS

Physical wellbeing apps tend to collect a lot of personal information from their users, including names, locations, date of birth, details of their physical health and more. It's worth keeping in mind that some fitness apps may collect data in third parties. We'd advise that any app young people download should have the correct legislation in place to protect their safety and privacy while using the service.

ADDITIONAL COSTS

While many fitness apps are free to download, the initial content is quite basic. Users will only receive more helpful content (such as new workouts, nutrition advice or a personalised plan) by signing up to a subscription or paying for extra features. This can involve users spending money on the service – a cost which can quickly mount up.

DEPENDENCY ON THE APP

While physical wellbeing apps can help motivate young users to manage their fitness, there's a possibility that – without being used frequently and consistently – children could start to lose their natural ability to be active. Young people may also become disenchanted, treating their exercise health and wellbeing habits: this can have negative effects on their mental and emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXERCISE AND SOCIALISE

Highlight the importance of children enjoying fitness activities with family and friends, rather than always exercising alone. Encourage the fun they can have by interacting with others rather than solely relying on an app to motivate their regime. Remind them of the importance of staying active, as well as the benefits of doing so with company.

PROMOTE POSITIVE BODY IMAGE

While we want children to be active and healthy, we must also ensure they don't become fixated on how they look and begin late things too fast. During childhood and adolescence, the body is still growing and changing. It's vitally important for young people's wellbeing that we promote a positive body image and a healthy relationship with food, empowering them to make informed decisions about their diet and lifestyle.

REVIEW THE APP FIRST

Before allowing someone under 18 to install a fitness and wellbeing app, check its age rating, read its reviews and scroll through its data policy to ensure its suitability for younger users. You could also try it yourself to see if it's appropriate for the child's particular needs and to see if you're comfortable with them using it. Ensure that any privacy-compromising features – such as location tracking – are disabled.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

As with all apps, it's important for parents to familiarise themselves with any controls on the app and to use these on a child's account. The specific settings vary between platforms but – most commonly – these will relate to screen-time limits, disabling or logging in-app purchases, and managing social aspects of features which aren't age appropriate. By utilising these controls, you can help to ensure a child's getting a safe experience.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire McDevitt is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government concerning internet use and online behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: see full reference list on guide page at: <https://www.thenationalcollege.com/guides/wake-up-wednesday-2022-23-13022>

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Views in this guide do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Education. Content as of the date of release: 22.11.2022



Next week's menu ...

FOOD FESTIVAL
By Aspens

LUNCHTIME

TRADITIONAL
Week 1

Autumn Winter 2024-25:
2/9, 23/9, 14/10,
4/11, 25/11,
16/12, 6/1, 27/1

	 THE MAIN EVENT <small>Vegetarian</small>	 MEAT-FREE MAGIC <small>Veggie Dish</small>	 RAINBOW ALLEY <small>Vegetables and Potatoes</small>	 BIG TOPPING <small>Filled Jacket</small>	 DESSERT TROLLEY
MONDAY	Margherita Pizza Slice and Wedges	Veggie Pepper and Sweetcorn Pizza Slice with Wedges	Sweetcorn	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Toffee Frozen Yoghurt
TUESDAY	BBQ Cheesy Chicken	Butterbean Ratatouille	Apple Slaw and Wholegrain Rice	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Sweet Potato Brownie
WEDNESDAY	Roast Gammon, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Quorn Sausage, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Peas and Carrots	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Flapjack
THURSDAY	Lasagne	Vegetable Lasagne	Green Beans	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Cookie Dough Apple Crumble
FRIDAY	Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Chips	Cheesy Bean Wrap and Chips	Baked Beans	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Jammy Thumbprint Biscuits

DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT
AVAILABLE DAILY

DAILY SANDWICHES AVAILABLE

PASTA TWIRLER
AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

Topped Pasta
Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce and Cheese

T1

Our catering providers are now offering sandwiches on the lunchtime menu.

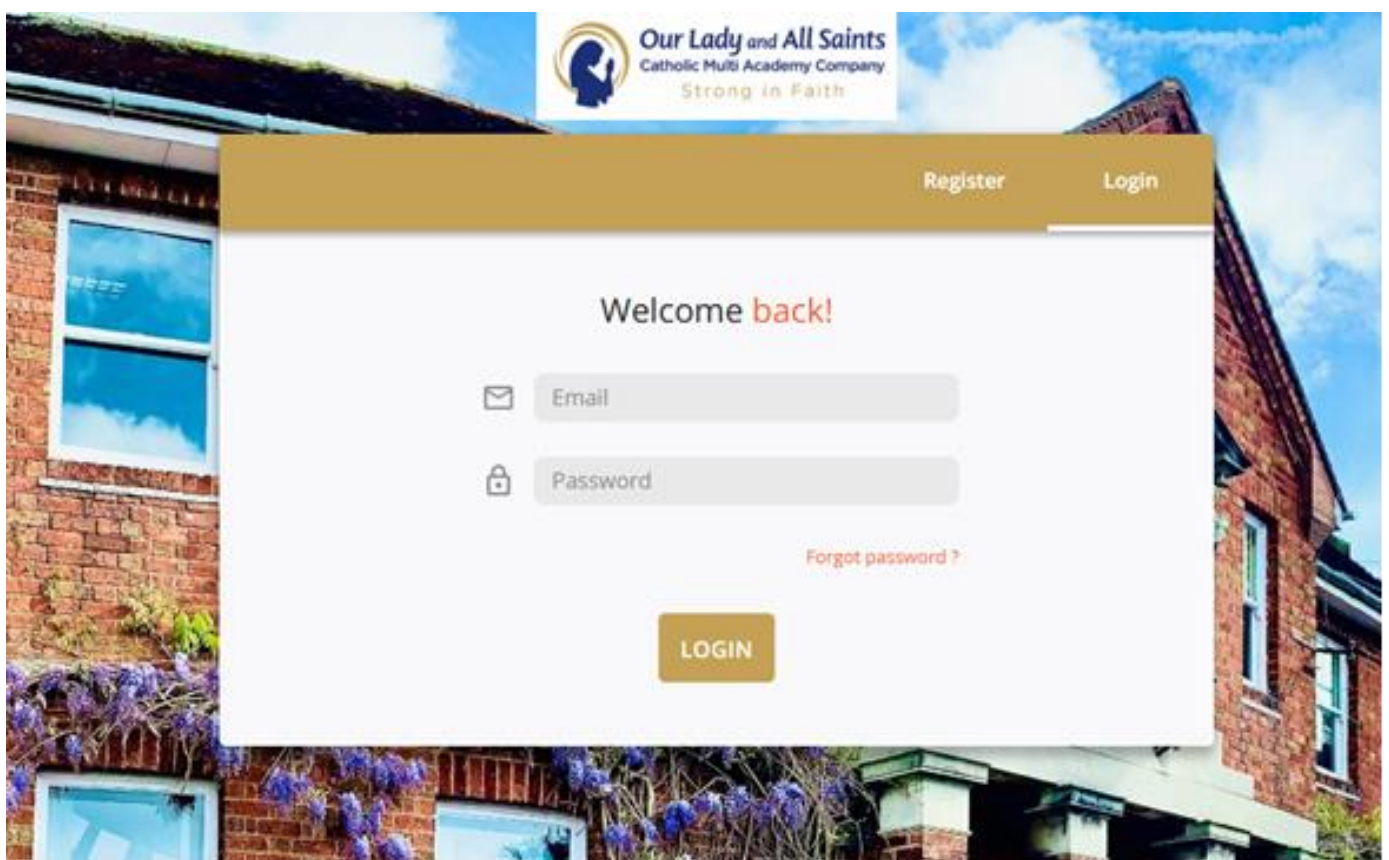
Sandwich filling choices are; ham, cheese and tuna (no ham on Fridays) and the choice of filling can be ordered in class.

If meals are not pre ordered, a choice of jacket potato, sandwich or pasta is offered every day.

Ordering meals update

From Monday 27th January, we will be using Blue Runner to order your child's school meals; this will be used alongside ParentPay. You should have received information today regarding how to activate your account, but if not please let the school office know. Any meals that have already been pre ordered on ParentPay will need to be ordered again on Blue runner. Apologies for any inconvenience. The Parent Portal will be available for parents to access after 5:30pm today; you will have access to the menus going forward and the opportunity to pre order meals.

If you have any problems, please let the office know.



Special Menu

**FOOD
FESTIVAL**
By Aspens

LUNAR NEW YEAR

Wednesday 29th January

**Golden Dragon Sweet
& Sour Chicken Noodles**
(Wok Fried Oriental Veg)

Or

**Fortune Veggie Chinese
Noodles**
(Wok Fried Oriental Veg)

And



**Lunar Luck Ginger
& Coconut Cookie**

On Wednesday 29th January, we are celebrating 'Chinese New Year'. Please remember to pre order your child's meal via Blue Runner.

Jubilee Year 2025

Today we joined together virtually with a huge number of pupils from schools all across our Archdiocese to officially begin our year of Jubilee. The focus is 'Pilgrims of Hope' and so we are going to strive to radiate hopefulness this year. We were led in prayer by Archbishop Bernard.



Expectations

It is essential that all parents / carers have read the expectations that was sent out. This has been resent to some families so please ensure you read it and complete the Microsoft Form found at the end of the document.

School Ties

We now have a new clip tie priced at £4.90 each available to purchase from the office. If you would like one, please make a payment on ParentPay and collect from the school office.



P.E Days

Please read carefully as the PE days can change from week to week.

Week beginning Monday 27th January

Reception - Friday

Year 1 - Tuesday and **Wednesday**

Year 2 - Wednesday and Friday

Year 3 - **Monday** and Friday

Year 4 - Monday and Thursday

Year 5 - **Monday** and Tuesday
(swimming)

Year 6 - Tuesday and Thursday



Please remember that pupils need to come into school in their PE kits on these days:

- plain white t shirts (or those with the school badge on)
- **PLAIN BLACK** shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings.
- Hair must be tied back
- No jewellery should be worn.
- Please remove your child's earrings before school. If your child's ears have been recently pierced, please cover the earrings with plasters to enable your child to participate in PE.

**Don't
Forget!**

Please continue to pre-order your child's meals for the following week via ParentPay. If you do not pre-order, your child will be given the option of a jacket potato, pasta or a sandwich but this is time-consuming for staff so please make every effort to pre-order, even if one of these is their preferred option.



Diary Dates



2025

Mon 27 th Jan	Parents of Y6 Confirmandi	Parent meeting at 2:45pm in school
Thurs 30 th Jan	Tiny Ants and Nursery parents	Speech and language workshop at 9am
Weds 12 th Feb	Year 6	Confirmation at 6pm in church
Fri 14 th Feb	Whole school	Last day of half term for pupils

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2025

Mon 24 th Feb	Whole school	INSET DAY FOR STAFF – no pupils in school
Tues 25 th Feb	Whole school	Return to school
Weds 26 th and Thurs 27 th Feb	Whole school	Parents Evening
Fri 28 th Feb	Whole school	Whole school Mass at 9:30am – Year 2 leading
Sat 8 th Mar	Year 3 First Holy Communion pupils	Commitment Mass in church 4:30pm
Tues 11 th Mar	Year 6	Trip to Harvington Hall
Thurs 3 rd Apr	Year 4	Trip to Parliament
Fri 11 th Apr	Whole school	Whole school Mass at 9:30am – Year 5 leading
Fri 11 th Apr	Whole school	Last day of half term for pupils

EASTER HOLIDAYS:

Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April 2025

Mon 28 th Apr	Whole school	Pupils return to school – start of Summer Term
Mon 5 th May	Whole school	May Bank Holiday – SCHOOL CLOSED
Fri 23 rd May	Whole school	Last day of half term for pupils

HALF TERM HOLIDAY:

Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May



Diary Dates



Mon 2 nd Jun	Whole school	INSET DAY FOR STAFF – no pupils in school
Tues 3 rd Jun	Whole school	Return to school
Fri 18 th Jul	Whole school	Last day of the school year for pupils
Mon 21 st Jul	Whole school	INSET DAY FOR STAFF – no pupils in school

Please note the INSET day for staff on 2nd June. Children will return to school for the Summer 2 half term on Tuesday 3rd June.

DATES OF SACRAMENTS 2025		
Weds 12 th Feb 6pm	Year 6	Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop David Evans
Sat 7 th Jun 11am	Year 3	Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion)

Term dates 2025 - 2026			
	Term starts	Half term	Term ends
Autumn	1 st September 2025	27 th Oct – 31 st Oct	19 th December 2025
Spring	5 th January 2026	16 th Feb – 20 th Feb	27 th March 2026
Summer	13 th April 2026	25 th May - 29 th May	20 th July 2026
Inset days: 1 st September, 24 th October, 23 rd February, 20 th July plus two more dates TBC			



Head Teacher's Awards



Congratulations!

Reception – Tony – for always showing thoughtful ideas and contributions in our Catholic life.

Year 1 – Frankie – for being a kind and loving friend to everyone.

Year 2 – Arabella – for being a joy to teach and an amazing, caring Kagan partner.

Year 3 – Quinn – for producing fantastic work with such imaginative and creative ideas.

Year 4 – Ryan – for his improved attitude towards learning and being a superstar!

Year 5 – Thomas – for living out our generous and grateful school virtues.

Year 6 – Zara – for really showing her confidence and determination to succeed.

Mr K Scanlon, Head of School

