



28th November 2025

This Week at St Mary's...

This week the children in Class 3 visited Thoresby museum, learning a lot about the local military history. We were very proud of everyone for showing the St Mary's way whilst out of school, in particular for such super listening! This week the children sang at the Edwinstowe light switch on and the Christmas tree was decorated in church for the festival. Well done everyone!

Whole school attendance this week...

97.3%

This week's awards go to...

Ryker
Thalia
Aniyah
Will

Eleanor
Esther
Ernie
Lucas f



James, Ryker, Noah, Harriet, Lacey and Jacob

Dates and Events

December

- 2nd - Boys Football v Skegby
- 5th - Friends Secret shopper
- 9th - Class 2 Nativity 2pm
- 10th - Class 2 Nativity 4.30pm
- 11th - Class 1 Nativity 2pm
- 15th - Friends FILM NIGHT

House Leaderboard



Oak

267



Birch

231



Pine

347



Willow

233



School Dojo Leaderboard

Class 1: Olivia

Class 2: Thalia

Class 3: Lexi

Class 4: Evie

Celebrating wider achievements

It has been lovely to see our children performing at the Edwinstowe Light Switch on. Well done to all involved and a big thank you to Miss Wright for supporting the choir in preparation.



Messages

WELCOME: We would like to welcome Mr Worrall to our staff team from Monday 1st December in Class 2. Miss Selby will leave us on Friday 5th December to rest before the arrival of her little one. Mr Worrall will be joining us this week alongside Miss Selby.

REMINDER: School gates open at 8.45am and shut at 8.55am.

PARKING: Please be considerate of our neighbours when parking around the school site, do not park across drives or park in a way that prevents others from moving around the estate.

ROAD SAFETY: Please speak with children about the importance of road safety, particularly those who have permission to walk home.

Christmas is coming...

CARDS: Class teachers will be adding a list of first names to Dojo for those wishing to send cards. Our postbox will be available from 1st December!

NATIVITIES: All families will receive 2 tickets for each performance. If you do not need them all please return to the school office where they will then be allocated on a first come first serve basis.

TREE DECORATIONS: Our tree is up in the hall and looking a little bare. All children are invited to create/bring their own decoration for the tree anytime in the next few weeks!

NEW AND UPDATED SCHOOL SPACES!

We have lots planned this year to enhance the indoor and outdoor space of St Mary's. Following a very generous donation from the Church funds we have been able to purchase new cubby holes for all classrooms - each child now has their own space for all their belongings.



SAFE SPACES!

In school we have added two new safe spaces around school. We hope the children find these useful when they need a minute or two to themselves. We shall be adding to these with the help of school council!

We would love to invite our local elderly community to listen to our children's songs in school. If you know a neighbour or local resident who you think would benefit from a bit of festive cheer please let them know.

Tickets can be booked using this link.

[CLICK HERE](#)

25 spaces available.

ST MARY'S COFE PRIMARY SCHOOL

YOU'RE INVITED

SINGING AROUND THE TREE

FRIDAY 19TH DECEMBER 9.30AM
REFRESHMENTS SERVED

Friends of St Mary's

Thank you!



Film Night – Monday
15th December
£4 per child (Cash only) –
Christmas Film
Complete this form by 8th
December
[CLICK HERE](#)

Friends Christmas stall raised a **FANTASTIC £379** at the Edwinstowe light switch on! A huge thank you to the team who helped organise and run the stall and to those who visited and spent their money with us!

ONLINE SAFETY

Read the full version [here!](#)

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 TIKTOK

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION 13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-13s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
TikTok's following feed shows videos from known creators, while the default 'For You Feed' serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate content, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.
- CONTACT WITH STRANGERS**
Between 1.8 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and invites anyone to download or comment on them.
- MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION**
TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.
- ADDICTIVE DESIGN**
TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, six children spent an average of 37 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention spans, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.
- BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES**
Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the 'blackout' trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Harmful food trends after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.
- IN-APP SPENDING**
TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £3.99 to £24.96, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or corporations, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING**
Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chance of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.
- DISCUSS THE DANGERS**
If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.
- MEET OUR EXPERT**
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.
- BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING**
Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.
- READ THE SIGNS**
If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of interest in other activities, as well as failing to complete homework or schoolwork, are signs that a child's use of TikTok may be affecting their life. Remember, the potential harms are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

[Free full version: \[www.nationalcollege.com\]\(#\)](#)

[@wake_up_weds](#) [www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Release date: 28.11.2025

[#WakeUpWednesday](#) The National College

TAKEHOME

24th - 30th
November



What are some of the different ways we can express ourselves?

In the news this week

McDonald's changed the colours of its famous Happy Meal box in the UK, making it white on three sides, for children to colour and design it themselves. The company said the new boxes encourage creativity and let children express their ideas and feelings through drawing. Four million of the new 'colour-your-own' boxes have been given out as a trial to see how children respond.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Talk to someone at home about the campaign. Share your thoughts - do you think it's a good idea? Share what you might draw on the box.
- One of the aims of the campaign is to encourage children to express themselves. Do you believe it achieves this aim? Can you think of any other ideas?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



© Picture News 2025

Paddington Takes a Bow!

Paddington Bear is now starring in his very own musical at the Savoy Theatre in London, England. Children and adults can watch him begin his journey in Peru, travel to London, and join the Brown family – with plenty of funny moments along the way!

Paddington is well known for loving marmalade sandwiches, and the show includes lots of music, bright costumes, and a few sticky marmalade surprises. The songs are written by Tom Fletcher, an author and singer.

The Paddington in the musical looks like the one from the first books, written in 1958. The designers looked at the old pictures to help them create the

Picture: A jar of orange marmalade, Paddington Bear's favourite sandwich topping!
Source: Canva.



bear for the stage. People who have seen the musical say it is cheery and makes them smile. One person called it 'jaw-droppingly good'. Another said, 'it tells a really important story' about kindness and welcoming others. If you could go to the show, would you take a marmalade sandwich for the interval?

Do you know where Paddington Bear keeps his marmalade sandwiches?

Black Friday or Buy Nothing Day?

Friday 28th November is 'Black Friday'. Many shops have big sales on this day, and lots of people buy presents, toys, or things for their home. Some people enjoy finding a bargain, and shops can get very busy. But the same day is also called

'Buy Nothing Day', when people choose not to buy anything all day. Instead, they might go for a walk, play a game, or spend time with friends and family. People who follow Buy Nothing Day say it helps them think about what they really need, rather than just buying something because it is cheaper on sale. Others say Black Friday can be fun and helpful if you are saving up for something special. Both happen on the same date, so everyone can choose what feels right for them.

What would you prefer the idea of – Black Friday or Buy Nothing Day?



Picture: A Black Friday Sale sign.
Source: Canva.

What would you tell world leaders if you were at COP30?



I would tell world leaders to all make sure they keep ALL their promises!

Connie

Let us know what you think about this week's news

[picture-news.co.uk/discuss](https://www.facebook.com/picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

help@picture-news.co.uk

@HelpPicture

© Picture News 2025

Driverless Electric Bus

Passengers have been able to board a driverless electric bus at Casa de Campo park in Madrid, Spain! After five years of testing, the vehicle has entered the real-world phase of the experiment with driverless vehicles for public transport. The 100% electric, caterpillar-shaped vehicle operated for ten days during five busy hours, driving around to pick up passengers at six stops. The bus was developed by the Madrid Transit Authority (EMT) and Automotive Technology Centre of Galicia (CTAG). The vehicle is described as fully



Picture: People boarding the CTAG Autonomous Shuttle during tests.
Source: EMT Madrid on Facebook.



Picture: CTAG Autonomous Shuttle.
Source: EMT Madrid on Facebook.

autonomous, and capable of detecting things it may need to brake for, such as people, animals, crossings, stop signs, traffic lights, and roundabouts. Developers say it can make decisions on when to brake, accelerate, turn, and open/close the doors. A safety officer has been on board throughout, just in case. 'This bus is one of the best I have ever tested,' said César Omar Chacón Fernández from EMT. 'It behaves very well dynamically. Let's say that the technology is very well integrated, it doesn't behave erratically or robotically like other buses. The vehicle detects any object, from a bicycle to an animal, and reacts accordingly to avoid collisions. It is a fully autonomous line, but we never leave anything to chance.'

Do you enjoy bus rides?
Do you think you would use this bus?

Shout at Stealing Seagulls

A recent study has shown that seagulls trying to steal food can be scared away by simply shouting. Researchers from the University of Exeter tested 61 herring gulls in nine seaside towns in Cornwall. They played recordings of a male voice shouting, 'No, stay away, that's my food!', along with recordings of the same words being spoken instead, and also the neutral birdsong of a robin, all at the same volume. The scientists experimented to find the best way to stop the birds from snacking on a box of chips on the ground. Dr Neeltje Boogert, from the university, commented, 'Normally, when someone is shouting, it's scary



Picture: A seagull.
Source: Canva.

because it's a loud noise, but in this case, all the noises were the same volume, and it was just the way the words were being said that was different. So, it seems that gulls pay attention to the way we say things, which we don't think has been seen before in any wild species, only in those domesticated species that have been bred around humans for generations, such as dogs, pigs and horses.'

How would you stop a seagull from trying to eat your food?

What would you tell world leaders if you were at COP30?



I want them to talk about clean air and how to sort our rubbish properly so there is no more rubbish in the sea.

Ralph

Let us know what you think about this week's news

[picture-news.co.uk/discuss](https://www.facebook.com/picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

help@picture-news.co.uk

@HelpPicture

© Picture News 2025