



27th February 2026

## This Week at St Mary's...

It has been a super week back to school from the half term. Children across school have been seen 'showing love' in so many different ways from using good manners in the hall to assisting others when they need help. It is always a pleasure to see how our children respond with care and compassion to one another. This half term we focus on the value of RESPECT - we discussed how it is important to treat others how we wish to be treated ourselves.

Whole school attendance this week...

97.4%

## This week's awards go to...

Maddison  
Eliza/Lewis  
Amber  
Henry

Eleanor  
Elijah  
Amber  
Jacob



David, Phoebe, Maddison & Fearne

## Dates and Events

### March

- 5th - World Book Day
- 6<sup>th</sup> - Parent Forum
- wb 7<sup>th</sup> - Science Week
- 10th - Parents Evening
- 13th - Mothers Day event
- 17th - Spring Disco
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Y3/4 Football
- 20th - Comic relief

## House Leaderboard



Oak

321



Birch

394



Pine

258



Willow

350



## School Dojo Leaderboard

Class 1: Teighan

Class 2: Danny

Class 3: Archie

Class 4: Lucas C

# Celebrating wider achievements

Well done to Ernie for gaining Man of the Match in his football training with The Colts.

Keep it up!



## Online Safety

[To read the full version click here](#)

At The National College, our [WebSafeWednesday](#) 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 (through Change, formerly delivered by National Online Safety), these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, blogs and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.org.uk](#)

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

**13+** AGE RESTRICTION

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- GROUP CHAT PRESSURES**  
Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but that can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can become visible, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.
- SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS**  
Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include impostors posing as family members to receive money, or posing as someone requesting sensitive data. These scams lead to identity theft or access to private communications.
- DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES**  
WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Vanish Mode' which allow users to share a faster period of visibility. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate communications or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.
- EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS**  
'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations. However, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or otherwise harmful content, including misinformation and harmful messages.
- UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING**  
WhatsApp users can share their live location and if not managed carefully, this can allow others to track their location. Young users may be contacted by strangers, and without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.
- COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT**  
WhatsApp now includes ads in its 'Updates' feed and has introduced AI-generated 'Meta AI' across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**  
Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Block Unknown Caller' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.
- TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS**  
Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.
- BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS**  
Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Vanish Mode'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the message was gone, so that they know that privacy should not mean secrecy.
- TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI**  
Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and how personal data is shared to target ads or AI-generated responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

**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 edited the research for the [Age Appropriate](#) project and has led research into the use and wellbeing of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

**WakeUp Wednesday** The National College

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We are very excited to announce that Mrs Lee begins her Forest School training next week so that she can lead sessions across school - **COMING SOON!**

In other news...

Our playground will be getting an exciting makeover in the coming weeks! After speaking with classes across the school, the School Council gathered ideas from the children — and the top requests were a stage area, den-building opportunities, and new climbing equipment.

We're delighted to share that, thanks to the hard work and generosity of our Friends group, who fundraise tirelessly for the school, we are now able to make these improvements a reality. We can't wait for the children to enjoy this fantastic new equipment!





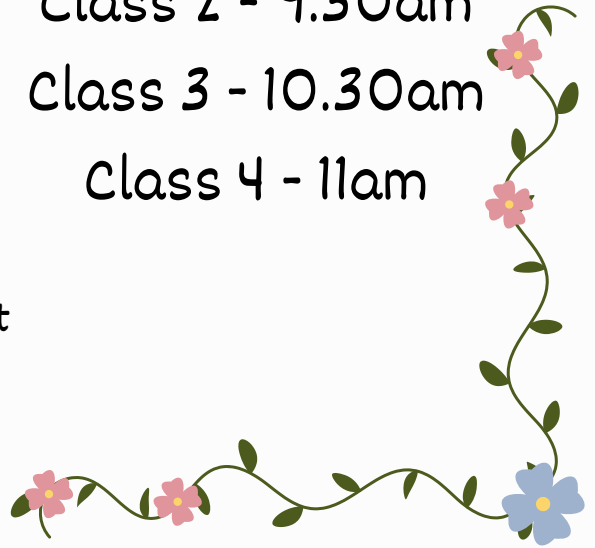
## Mothers Day event 13<sup>th</sup> March

You are invited to our mother's day event where the children will share a little song/poem/prayer with you before enjoying some activities together.

Please use the following form to book a place for this event. You are welcome to join one or more of the sessions or alternatively siblings can join each other on one time slot. Please let a member of staff know when you arrive.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Class 1 - 9am  
Class 2 - 9.30am  
Class 3 - 10.30am  
Class 4 - 11am



## Coffee & Chat Group

Project for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools [PINS]

### FOR

- Any parent/carer of a child with any additional needs – no diagnosis needed.

### SESSION 3 – Continuing Support and Working Together

- Receive clear information and signposting to support services
- Explore ways to stay connected and keep supporting one another
- Discuss how a group could work with school staff on key issues and build lasting collaboration

### WHEN:

- Fri 6th March, 9:30 -11am

### WHERE:

- St Mary's CofE Primary School



For further information please contact: [enquiries@nottspcf.org](mailto:enquiries@nottspcf.org)



*These sessions are being run by Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum - an independent charity run by and for parent carers.*

**NO NEED TO HAVE ATTENDED EARLIER SESSIONS – ALL WELCOME!**



# Picture News

## TAKEHOME

23<sup>rd</sup> February - 1<sup>st</sup> March



## In the news this week

Scientists at NASA are preparing to send astronauts back to the Moon, as part of a new space programme running over the coming years. The series of missions aims to test new technology, learn more about the Moon, and help humans prepare for future journeys deeper into space. The next mission is Artemis II. The plans have sparked discussions about why people explore space and how they could help life on Earth.

### Things to talk about at home ...

- > What do you already know about space or the Moon? What would you like to find out?
- > Why do you believe people choose to explore space, even though it can be difficult and risky?
- > If you could explore anywhere beyond Earth, where would you go and why?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

## Toads on the Road!

A toad-ally brilliant event is happening near the city of Bath, England, this spring. A road called Charlcombe Lane is closed so toads, frogs and newts can cross safely to a pond to lay their eggs. When spring arrives, these amphibians wake up from their winter sleep and make the journey back to the pond they visit each year to lay their eggs. Frogs jump, newts walk and wriggle, and toads shuffle along – but roads can be tricky for them. Closing the road means vehicles can keep out of their way. From 9<sup>th</sup> February - 29<sup>th</sup> March, volunteers are going out each evening to give the toads a helping hand. They gently pick the animals up and carry them across to the grass and bushes



**Picture:** A toad crossing the road.  
**Source:** Canva.

on the other side. This happens in many places across the UK. In fact, there are more than 200 patrols helping amphibians during their spring journey! One volunteer said, 'It feels good to help them get home safely'. Charlcombe Lane has closed every spring since 2003 with help from the local council. It's all part of the campaign called 'Toads on Roads!' **What catchy name would you give it?**

## Tre-fee Fountain

Visitors to the famous Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy, now pay a €2 fee (about £1.70) to step into its popular viewing area. The city says the small charge will help manage crowds and care for the fountain. This is no ordinary fountain – the Trevi Fountain is more than 250 years old and is one of the largest



**Picture:** The Trevi Fountain in Rome, Italy.  
**Source:** Canva.

fountains in Rome. It was finished in 1762. At the centre stands a huge stone figure, called Oceanus, with water rushing and tumbling all around him. People from all over the world come here to throw a coin over their shoulder into the water. There is a tradition that says if you throw one coin, you will return to Rome one day. Twice a week, thousands of coins are collected from the fountain and given to charity. Even with the new fee, visitors are still lining up to make a wish. One tourist said they would simply 'pay and smile'. **What do you think about the new fee?**

### Should children have social media?



Going outside and playing with our friends is so much better for our mental and physical health.  
**Crescent**

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

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

[help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk)

@HelpPicture

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## Double Digits

This June, Picture News will be 10 years old! We are hoping to plan some celebrations as we enter into double digits. We would really love to hear any ideas you have about what we should do! Picture News co-founder, Katie Harrison, thanked teachers saying, 'I'd like to thank you so much for being part of our journey. Picture News has been completely shaped by you and your children. I really had no



**Picture:** Happy Birthday Picture News.  
**Source:** Picture News.

idea the impact it would have, and the wonderful community it would become. I honestly can't thank you enough and look forward to hearing any ideas!

**Please let us know your ideas for how we should celebrate reaching this milestone!**

**What do you think we should do?**



**Picture:** Children singing happy birthday.  
**Source:** Canva.

## George's Journey

**Picture:** George Pig and Jodie, who played his audiologist.  
**Source:** Jodie Ounsley on Facebook.

The makers of the TV show, Peppa Pig, have announced that George Pig is growing up, and his storylines are expanding too. Gladiator Fury (real name Jodie Ounsley) will appear in a special episode of Peppa Pig in March. Jodie, who was born deaf, will voice George Pig's audiologist and share the news that Peppa's little brother is moderately deaf in one ear. Audiologists diagnose, manage, and treat conditions that affect hearing and balance. The storyline is about George's hearing loss and will see him receive a hearing aid. The episode has been developed in partnership with the



National Deaf Children's Society. Jodie Ounsley described how being part of the episode made her feel really proud, saying, 'This story is so close to my heart. Thinking about my own journey and everything my parents went through in those early days, I can't help but feel that something like this back then could have meant so much. Representation truly matters, especially for little ones who are still learning to understand themselves and their place in the world. I'm so excited to see this story help bring awareness, start conversations and hopefully encourage deaf kids to feel proud of who they are.'

### Should children have social media?



I don't think that children need social media. We can stay in touch with our friends other ways.  
**Livy**

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