



24th April 2026

This Week at St Mary's...

This week we have continued to think about Thankfulness in our collective worships reflecting on the story of the ten lepers from the Bible. Children considered what it means to be thankful and the ways we can share thanks. It has been lovely to see some excellent artwork being produced across school with clay sculptures in Class 1, careful drawings in Class 2 and a painting afternoon in Class 3.

Whole school attendance this week...

97.7%

This week's awards go to...



Ryker
Elijah
Marlie
Jonathan



Louie
James
Theo
Anya



Lexi, Evanna and
June

Dates and Events

May

1st Chocolate bingo

4th Bank Holiday

11th - 14th KS2 SATS week

15th Sports Enrichment Day

House Leaderboard



Oak

272



Birch

321



Pine

239



Willow

188



School Dojo Leaderboard

Class 1: Ryker

Class 2: Elijah

Class 3: Harriet

Class 4: Jonathan

Celebrating wider achievements

Amazing achievements in gymnastics, hockey and football. What a lot of sporty children we have!



Online Safety

To read the full version click 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 YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account, while some videos are marked as age restricted; this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.
- TRENDS AND CHALLENGES**
Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'Ice Bucket Challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.
- EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT**
The platform's algorithms often promote content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include violence, extremist viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.
- CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS**
YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.
- SUGGESTED CONTENT**
YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users see a stream of trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.
- SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT**
YouTube Shorts - short, fast-paced videos - are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS**
YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.
- CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS**
If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.
- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage young users' screen time. SuperView Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.
- WATCH TOGETHER**
Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like [Downtime in Family Link](#) can also help limit unengaged viewing.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including [Wired](#), [TechRadar](#), [Tom's Guide](#), [The Evening Standard](#) and [The New Statesman](#).

[WakeUpWednesday](#) The National College

See full reference list on our website

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Thoresby Colliery
All Stars 2026

When: Fri 8th May 17:45-18:45 (8 Weeks)

Where: Thoresby Colliery Cricket Club
(NG 21 9NS)

Cost: £50 for 8 weeks coaching and a participants kit bag (All Stars).

All Stars SIGN UP HERE:



FOREST SCHOOL UPDATE

On Thursday afternoon, Year 6 had an exciting afternoon in our new Forest school! The children became expert den builders, creating some brilliant shelters, they thought of everything, even adding beds inside! It was especially exciting setting up our new hammocks, which quickly became a favourite spot to relax.

There were also lots of fun in the mud kitchen, where everyone got wonderfully messy making imaginative recipes, Mrs Lee even enjoyed a mud cappuccino whilst testing out the hammock!

A brilliant afternoon full of creativity, teamwork and muddy fun!

' Not all Classrooms have four wall'



THANK YOU - We have already received some kind donations from this wishlist!

We are very grateful for all the donations we receive into school - it really does make a difference!

If you would like to help school out, we keep our wishlist updated regularly.

[CLICK HERE](#)



As part of our work with the Partnership for the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project, we are asking parents and carers to complete a short survey.

Many of you shared your views earlier in the project—thank you. We are now inviting you to complete the survey again. This helps us understand whether things have changed and how we can continue to improve.

The survey takes less than 10 minutes to complete and is anonymous.

[Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools \(PINS\) - Spring 2026](#)



Or scan the QR code

If you have more than one child at the school, you are welcome to complete the survey for each child.

The survey will be open until Wednesday 29th April.

Thank you for your time and support.

CHOCOLATE BINGO

FRIDAY 1ST MAY

TICKETS £3 FOR EACH PLAYER
STARTS 3.30PM

5 GAMES WITH UP TO
CHOCOLATEY 15 PRIZES

Send money in a labelled envelope with how many tickets you require to the school office. Loose money will not be accepted.

2

ONLY 50 TICKETS AVAILABLE,
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

18



CHOCOLATE RAFFLE

£1 A TICKET

10 HAMPERS TO BE WON



PTA MEMBERS WILL BE ON HAND TO SELL
TICKETS AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL DAY
THROUGHOUT THE WEEK.

RAFFLE DRAWN AT CHOCOLATE BINGO
ON 1ST MAY



TAKEHOME

20th - 26th April



Is it ever too late to try something new?

In the news this week

An 82-year-old runner, Eileen Hieron, has shown that age hasn't stopped her trying something new. She only started running in her 70s and ran her first marathon at the age of 74. Since then, she has completed nearly 10 marathons and even won her age group at the London Marathon. This Sunday, runners from all over the world will take part in the 2026 London Marathon, and stories like Eileen's are inspiring others to think about whether it's ever too late to try something new.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Have you ever tried something new that felt difficult at first? What helped you keep going?
- Do you believe age should matter when trying something new? Why or why not?
- Is there someone you know who has tried something new later in life? What have they done?
- Why do you think people take part in challenges like the London Marathon?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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A Referee Makes History

Have you got a favourite sport – football, netball, rugby or something else? Every game needs someone to keep it fair. In rugby league (a fast, high-energy team sport where players run, pass and try to score points) that person is called a referee. Now, Tara Jones has made history by becoming the first female to referee a men's rugby Super League match! The 29-year-old, from Warrington, England, has been involved in rugby for many years. Tara began refereeing at the age of 12 after she could no longer play in a boys' team. She joined a girls' team, but at the time there were fewer opportunities for girls to play, so Tara took on a different



Pictured: Tara Jones
Source: Tara Jones, Facebook

role in the sport – becoming a referee. Since then, women's rugby has grown, with more teams and more opportunities. Tara went on to play at a high level as an adult, before becoming a top referee. She said, 'I just do what I do, and I hope I can inspire young girls.' Tara has also just received an MBE from Prince William at Windsor Castle, which is a special award for her work in rugby league. **Would you like to inspire others through sport?**

Rain, rain... stay or go?

In parts of Northern Europe, April is known for its showers. One minute it's raining, the next the sun is shining! But what if a weather app on a phone makes it look wetter than it really is? Some popular places to visit, including Chester Zoo, say this is happening. They say a simple rain cloud symbol on a phone can make it seem like the whole day will be rainy, even if it is only a short early morning shower. This can sometimes lead to families changing their plans and staying at home. For places like zoos, theme parks and gardens, this can make a



Pictured: A warm, sunny day on a weather app.
Source: Canva.

big difference. Some places say they can lose lots of visitors, even on days when the weather turns out to be bright and dry. Many people check the weather before going out, so these symbols can have a big impact. The Met Office says it is working on ways to make forecasts clearer. So next time a rain cloud appears, it might not tell the whole story – the day could still turn out sunny! **Would you still go out if rain was forecast?**

What should represent a country?



I think animals and nature are really important!

Bethan

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

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Beautiful Blossoms

Many people have been sharing their photos of Japan's famous cherry blossoms in full bloom. Cherry blossom plays a large role in Japanese culture, symbolising renewal and hope and showing a visual sign that spring has truly arrived. The blossoms (called *sakura*) appear in late March and April, and have inspired art, poetry, and festivals for many years! During the spring season, families and friends get together in parks and gardens to have picnics or parties while appreciating the flowering trees.



Pictured: Kawazu cherry trees in bloom.
Source: The Gov't of Japan @JapanGov on X.

This custom is called *hanami*, which translates to cherry blossom viewing, has been observed for centuries. There are many varieties of cherry tree, and they produce delicate blossoms of pinks, whites, and even yellows. Blossom is the name for the flowers produced by stone fruit trees, like plums, cherries, apples, and hawthorns. The blossoms are colourful and sweet-smelling flowers, which attract insects that pollinate the trees and help them reproduce.

Do you enjoy seeing blossom on the trees?

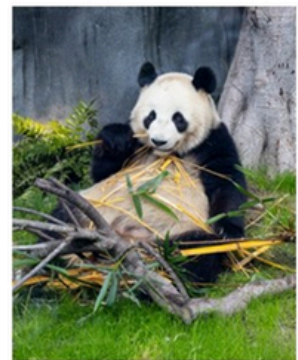
What other signs of spring have you seen?



Pictured: A child with cherry blossom.
Source: Canva

Bringing the Zoo to You!

A 24-hour, 7-days a week animal streaming service is now reaching an estimated 25 million viewers every year! The San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance Wildlife Explorers Channel allows viewers all over the world to experience the sights and sounds of the zoo through their screen. The channel is streaming all the time, showing zoo animals as well as educational programmes. The initiative began so that children who could not leave Rady Children's Hospital didn't miss out on the zoo experience. 'Many of our patients have weakened immune systems, so they're unable to go to places like the zoo and the channel has brought the zoo to them,' said Margaret Fitzgerald, from Rady Children's Hospital. 'It has had a huge impact, on our patients. I do recall one time there



Pictured: A Panda at San Diego Zoo.
Source: San Diego Zoo on Facebook.

was a little girl who was about 3 and her mum had to go to work, and she was sad because her mom had to go, but then we turned on the zoo channel and she just lit up!

The virtual alternative has expanded to more than 400 hospitals and facilities across 48 states and 12 countries.

Would you like to watch this channel?

What should represent a country?



I think that we should have wildlife because it might help people think about nature more.

Willow

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

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