



15th May 2026

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

This week our Y6 children have done us proud with their commitment, resilience and hard-work during SATs week. We have enjoyed a great day of 'Football Golf' to end the week thanks to AI Multisports for providing us with another great inclusive day of sports!

Whole school attendance this week...

96.2%

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



None this week!

## Dates and Events

May

- 11<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> KS2 SATS week
- 15<sup>th</sup> Sports Enrichment Day
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Last day of term

June

- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> - INSET DAYS
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Return to School

## House Leaderboard



Oak

303



Birch

356



Pine

243



Willow

217



## School Dojo Leaderboard

Class 1: Marsali

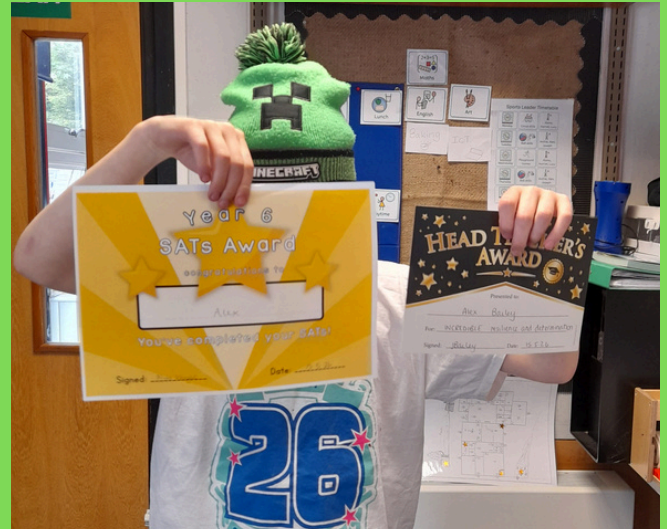
Class 2: Lewis

Class 3: Elliot O

Class 4: Jonathan

# Celebrating wider achievements

Awards this week have included a headteacher's award for Alex, Danny and James for super resilience and learning. Children have also achieved in Dance, football and Brownies out of school. Well done all!



## Online Safety

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

At the National College, we help our secondary games engender and equip parents, carers and children 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 offer wider topical issues.

For further guides, facts and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.gov.uk](http://nationalcollege.gov.uk)

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 83% since 2017/18.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES**  
Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or reuse the names of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel more personal. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.
- EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY**  
To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside monetary offerings, they may use compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or coerced to continue.
- GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS**  
Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and start conversations in private messaging. This isolation makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

#### THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sexortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content. This increasingly targets low-income children and young people, often through gaming. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share photos with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear, shame, or embarrassment. This grooming is particularly dangerous because it's often the responsibility of the victim to report it, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

#### GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay, then move to private messaging. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

#### CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR**  
Rather than having one 'big talk' about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share your own device to model acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. Encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are more likely to share concerns or report when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.
- UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE**  
Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children use. Read the platform's parent guides, terms of service, and privacy policies. Use resources like the National College guides or contact local experts to understand how to best monitor and support children on these platforms. Remember, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and help any child or young person if you understand the platform's features.
- CREATE A 'TELL ME' CULTURE**  
Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.
- STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS**  
Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or one-on-one contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school may indicate a 'groomer' checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online. Help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert  
The National College is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and reporting capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College

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## Uniform Notice

We currently have a large amount of unnamed uniform accumulating, which is not being collected.

We are also aware that some named uniform items have gone missing. Please could you check at home to ensure your child does not have any items that do not belong to them, and return any that may have been taken by mistake.

Lost property will be made available for parents to check next week—please take the opportunity to look through it.

Thank you for your support.

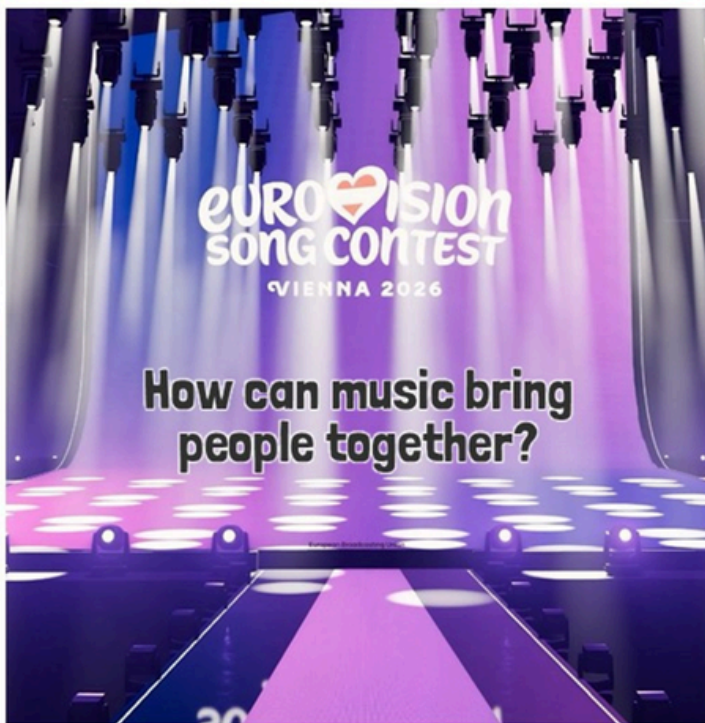
# OTHER NEWS...



Another great session with AI multisports who gave the children an insight into Football Golf. It was great to see the children having fun with most children scoring it a 10/10 for enjoyment!



# TAKEHOME



## In the news this week

This week, countries from across Europe and beyond are taking part in the Eurovision Song Contest. Each country performs a song, and millions of people watch and vote for their favourites. The contest celebrates different styles of music, languages, and cultures from around the world.

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

- What kind of music do you enjoy most, and why? Does everyone in your house enjoy the same music?
- Why do you think people from different countries enjoy listening to music together?
- Do you believe competitions like Eurovision are fair? Why?
- In your view, does music bring people together, or can it sometimes divide opinions?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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## Seagull Squawk Showdown!

There are so many different sounds that birds can make – ducks quack, owls hoot and magpies chatter. But one bird's call has inspired a very unusual competition!

At this year's European Seagull Screaming Championship, people showed just how impressive a seagull's squawk can be! Many dressed up as seagulls and tried their best to copy the sound of the birds. A panel of judges listened carefully to decide who had the most realistic squawk. The organiser, Claude Willaert, said the event hopes to help people think kindly about seagulls, which are sometimes seen as noisy or cheeky birds. The event took place in the seaside town



**Pictured:** A seagull squawking! **Source:** Canva.

of De Panne in Belgium, where around 70 people of all ages took part. People travelled from more than 15 countries to join in. There were plenty of laughs and cheers from the crowd, with no prize for winning – just the joy of taking part! Claude said, "When you are on holiday, you always remember the waves of the sea and the calls of the seagulls." **Did you know that seagulls have excellent memories and can remember places where they have found food before?**

## School Bus Solution

Have you ever been on a school bus? Well, some football fans are planning some bus journeys in a very different way this summer – and they're not going to school! A group of Scotland football fans are getting ready for the FIFA World Cup 2026 in the United States in June.



**Pictured:** The Scotland fans will travel to matches on a yellow school bus! **Source:** Canva.

They will need to travel to stadiums in the US to watch the matches. But there is a problem... getting to the stadiums is very expensive using public transport. So, the fans came up with an idea – they decided to hire school buses instead! They thought that when schools are closed, the buses might not be in use. The plan worked, and they have been able to hire a number of buses, so lots of fans can travel together. One fan, Davy Hood, said, "We came up with the idea of ... these school buses", although as the buses are made for children, there won't be much leg room for the adults! Davy joked taller fans might end up a little squashed! **What do you think of their idea?**

### What is the best way to support people who need extra help?



We should be inclusive. Also, improved technology can be used to people's advantage.  
**St. Michael's Amazing Ants**

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

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## Wear It Green Day

It's 'Wear It Green Day' on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May! It's an awareness day, run by the Mental Health Foundation to promote ways to boost mental health. People are encouraged to wear green and raise funds and awareness for good mental health. By going green, schools, workplaces and communities can help raise vital funds for research, awareness for mental health, and help deliver programmes to support good mental



**Pictured:** Pixie Lott on wear It Green Day 2025. **Source:** Mental Health Foundation on Facebook.

health in every community. Singer-songwriter Pixie Lott wore green to support Mental Health Awareness Week last year, saying, "Wear It Green Day is such a simple but powerful way to show solidarity and make a difference. I hope people across the UK will come together, wear green in whatever way they like with pride, and help raise funds for the incredible work the Mental Health Foundation does to prevent poor mental health and achieve the goal of good mental health for all."

**Is your school taking part in 'Wear It Green Day'? Do you think awareness days are useful?**



**Pictured:** Nature-inspired ways to boost your mental health. **Source:** Mental Health Foundation on Facebook.

## Roar of Approval

To celebrate 200 years of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) the Royal Mint has released a new £2 coin! The coin is designed to highlight and raise funds for the zoo's extensive conservation work. It features three animals from the ZSL's most significant conservation programmes: the Sumatran tiger, the Socorro dove, and the Partula snail.



**Pictured:** A Sumatran tiger in Tiger territory at the zoo with a two-metre wooden replica of The Royal Mint's commemorative ZSL £2 coin. **Source:** The Royal Mint on Facebook.



**Pictured:** A Partula snail on The Royal Mint's commemorative ZSL £2 coin. **Source:** The Royal Mint on Facebook.

The Royal Mint posted, "The coin was officially launched at ZSL London Zoo, where a giant two-metre wooden replica was presented to the Zoo's Sumatran tigers to give their roar of approval. The replica formed part of the tigers' daily enrichment programme, activities designed to stimulate natural instincts such as stalking and hunting. A portion of net proceeds from the coin will be donated to ZSL, supporting the charity's global conservation work across more than 70 countries."

**Who or what would you design a coin to celebrate?**

### What is the best way to support people who need extra help?



We should ask people how we can help them. So, we can provide the support they actually want.  
**Czarek**

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

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