



5th June 2026

This Week at St Mary's...

Welcome back to the final part of the year. How quickly has this year gone by already?! We are very much looking forward to a jam-packed final half term with trips, visits and our upcoming enrichment week. Keep a lookout on dojo for more information.

Whole school
attendance this
week...

93.3%



Dates and Events

JUNE

16th Year 5 Safety awareness day
(info to follow)

19th Father's Day event AM

19th SPORTS DAY & SUMMER FAYRE

22nd Class 2 trip

23rd School Class Photos

Fathers' or another significant family member is invited to join their child/ren from 9-10am on the school field to take part in fun and games.

Please indicate if you will be attending by completing this form.

1 adult per child please.

[CLICK HERE](#)



19th June

Family Picnic from 11.50am
Sports Day begins 1pm

Bring Your Own Picnics: Enjoy a delightful picnic with your family and friends! You are welcome to bring picnic blankets and fold out chairs. No Alcohol allowed on site.

No Glass Containers: For safety reasons, please ensure there are no glass items included in your picnic.

No Smoking or Vaping: We are strictly a no-smoking site, this includes vaping.

School Picnic boxes and hotdogs will be available to pre-order.
More info to follow next week!

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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

BUILDING SCHOOL-READY LANGUAGE SKILLS

Oral language is fundamental to children's learning, literacy, and social and emotional development, with long-term impacts. As language develops rapidly between the ages of three and six, early, evidence-based support is essential. This guide offers practical ways to help the children in your care become confident communicators, including through proven approaches such as the DfE-funded NEU programmes available to settings in England.

- BUILD ORAL LANGUAGE**
Support children to use language, not just hear it. Give them the time to talk, respond, and question, and share their ideas. Every conversation, shared activity, and reading together provides practice both speaking and listening. At nursery or school, programmes such as NEU help build their vocabulary, storytelling, attention, and listening skills, helping children grow in confidence as communicators.
- SUPPORT LISTENING SKILLS**
Help children to listen and follow simple instructions during everyday routines. Break instructions down into short, manageable steps and check their understanding. For example, say, "Please put your coat on," rather than giving them several instructions at once. Strong listening skills support learning, attention, and participation at school.
- GROW THEIR VOCABULARY**
Talk with children about the world around them, naming objects, actions, and feelings. Use a wide range of words during everyday activities such as shopping, cooking, and playing. Repeating and explaining new words help children understand and use vocabulary more confidently, supporting their comprehension and communication.
- SHARE STORIES TOGETHER**
Read storybooks together regularly and talk about characters, events, and illustrations. Ask simple questions such as "What's happening here?" and validate children's responses with the feedback. Acting out stories together, asking open questions, and giving children the chance to be the storyteller can all support their narrative skills and confidence.
- NAME DIFFERENT FEELINGS**
Help children learn to express themselves by talking about different feelings and naming them clearly, such as happy, sad, or angry. When role play can support their understanding of this. Being able to express their feelings verbally helps children build positive relationships with adults and peers, reduces frustration, and supports their social development as they prepare for school.
- WORK WITH SETTINGS**
Strong communication between home and the nursery/school, or early years setting can help children feel more confident and supported. Parents can visit the setting with their child before they start, helping them become familiar with the environment and key adults. Educators can share relevant information with families and colleagues, so each child's needs are understood. Neurodiversity can also help families continue language learning at home.
- SPOT LANGUAGE NEEDS**
Children develop their language and communication skills at different rates, so early conversations between home and settings are important. If parents have concerns, they should speak to their child's nursery/school, or early years setting. Educators can use tools such as language passports, included in the NEU programmes, to build a profile of a child's speaking and listening skills and help identify suitable support.
- EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORT**
Prioritise language and literacy approaches that are underpinned by robust research evidence. Evidence-based programmes help ensure children receive support that is more likely to make a meaningful difference. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) provides guidance on the strength of evidence behind different strategies, supporting informed decision-making and effective use of school time and resources.
- MEET INDIVIDUAL NEEDS**
Settings can use evidence-based assessment tools to understand children's language skills and identify where support may be needed. These tools support EEF's research, only if used in line with the language development, helping children receive support that reflects their individual communication needs.
- TAKE PART IN RESEARCH**
Research trials can give schools, early years settings, and families a valuable opportunity to contribute to evidence construction and future policy. Parents may be asked to give consent, share feedback, or support activities at home, while educators help deliver and monitor approaches in practice. The EEF offers free trials that settings can join, including whole-class oral language programmes designed to support children's communication development.

Meet Our Expert
OxEd is a university of Oxford spin-off company specialising in early language and literacy assessment and intervention. They are the delivery team for the Nuffield Early Language Intervention (NELI) programmes, funded by the Department for Education for schools in England, and for NEU Preschool, which supports nurseries to strengthen children's early language development through evidence-based practice.

See full reference list on the website www.thenationalcollege.com

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As a school we introduce a new musician each month. Here is the info for this month...

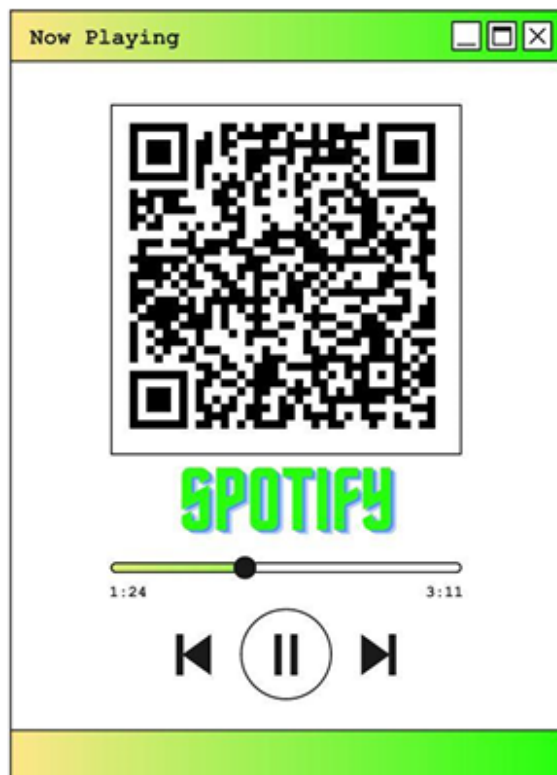


HOME INFORMATION



June's Musician of the Month

*Clara
Schumann*



About: Clara Josephine Schumann was a German pianist, composer and piano teacher. Regarded as one of the most distinguished pianists of the Romantic era, she exerted her influence over the course of a 61-year concert career, changing the format and repertoire of the piano recital by lessening the importance of purely virtuosic works. She also composed solo piano pieces, a piano concerto, chamber music, choral pieces and songs.

Genres: Classical, piano

Active from: 1828 - 1891

Origin: Leipzig, Germany

If you like Clara Schumann, try...



- Augusta Holmès
- Amy Beach
- Robert Schumann



Picture News

TAKEHOME

1st - 7th June



**How can people
create hope during
difficult times?**



In the news this week

Teenage sisters, Tala and Farah Mousa from Gaza, have created a project called Build Hope. They collect rubble from damaged buildings, crush it, and mix it with materials such as clay, ash, and straw to create new bricks to be used for rebuilding communities. The sisters developed the idea while living in a tent after their home was destroyed during the war in Gaza. Their venture won The Earth Prize, a global environmental competition for young people, for the Middle East region.

Things to talk about at home ...

- Do you think young people can make a real difference in the world? Why?
- Have you ever turned something old or broken into something new or useful?
- Share what the word 'hope' means to you.
- What can help people stay hopeful during difficult times?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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Helping Hedgehogs with AI

Can you name any nocturnal animals? Owls, bats and foxes are all awake when it is dark, and so are hedgehogs! These small, spiky animals are a favourite in the UK, but there are far fewer hedgehogs than there used to be. Scientists at the University of Cambridge, in England, are using satellites and artificial intelligence (AI) to help protect them. The new AI tool, called Tessera, studies satellite pictures taken from space to find places where hedgehogs live, such as hedgerows and gardens. Sometimes clouds cover parts of the pictures, but Tessera can use AI to fill in the missing parts and create a more complete map. Researchers hope this will



Pictured: A hedgehog at nighttime.
Source: Canva.

help them understand where hedgehogs can safely find food and shelter. Some hedgehogs are even wearing tiny GPS trackers, which scientists jokingly call 'digi-hogs'! Professor Silviu Petrovan said, researchers hope AI can help hedgehogs 'safely move around the countryside'. In some parts of the UK, hedgehog numbers have fallen by as much as 75% since 2000. **Do you know any other forms of technology that can help animals?**

Hop On and Go!

Ding ding! Mind the doors and get ready for a summer saving! This summer, travelling around London on its famous red buses and trams, from parks or museums to well-known landmarks, could be cheaper than ever! Between 25th July and 31st August, people using London's buses and trams on Saturdays and Sundays will be able to travel all day for £1.75 (the price of just one fare). The Hopper fare first started in 2016. It lets people change buses and trams within one hour without buying another ticket. Transport for London says more than one billion Hopper journeys have been



Pictured: A busy central London with its iconic red buses! **Source:** Canva.

made since then! The new offer could help families enjoy more adventures across London this summer. Sir Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, said the scheme would help make travel 'more affordable'. Three buses have even been decorated with colourful frog designs to help spread the news – encouraging families to hop on and explore! **If you could hop on a big red London bus, where would you go?**

Do we learn more from winning or losing?



Yes, we can learn from our mistakes and try to do better!

Sanvi

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



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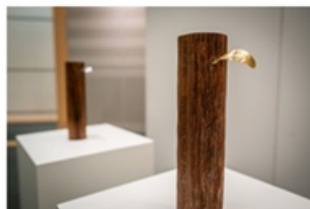
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Tree-mendous Award



Pictured: European Tree of the Year 2026 winner.
Source: European Tree of the Year on Facebook.

A tree in Lithuania has been awarded first place in the European Tree of the Year competition. The oak tree is 400-years-old! Until recently, the tree had been almost forgotten, only known to the locals in the small Rukai village. This tree won due to its strong cultural and environmental significance to the local Laukiai people. Last year, the community restored the area around the tree, built a stone wall for



Pictured: European Tree of the Year 2026 first prize.
Source: European Tree of the Year on Facebook.

protection, and brought the Laukiai people together at a celebration in the oak's honour. Now, the sixth generation is growing up alongside the winning tree. Petr Skrivanek, coordinator of European Tree of the Year, said, 'The competition was extremely close – the ranking remained uncertain until the very last moment'. Some of the other trees in the competition include a wild apple tree in Slovakia, which achieved second place, withstanding extreme weather conditions such as snowstorms and heatwaves for more than 150 years! The third-place tree is a white elm in Poland, known as the Crooked Elm of Szyslowiec. It grows on an island and has an unusual shape, where it leans towards the moat that surrounds the island.

Do you like trees? What is your favourite type of tree?

Reef Restoration

A team of 260 volunteers came to Chichester Harbour in Portsmouth, England to take part in 'the UK's largest subtidal oyster reef restoration project', as described by one of the participating organisations. The volunteers introduced 20,000 oysters into the sea across the area of English coast called the Solent, to attempt to recover the lost species of oyster. Historical coastal communities relied on oyster beds for food, trade and employment. There is even evidence of oysters being harvested in the harbour in Roman times! The aim of the restoration is not only to recover the species, but also to help to reconnect the region with its historical heritage. The volunteers gathered at the University of Portsmouth's Institute of Marine Sciences to clean and check



Pictured: First set of oysters ready to go out to the new reef. **Source:** Chichester Harbour Conservancy on Facebook.

the oysters before they were released into the ocean. Oysters are very important to the ecosystem. One oyster can filter 200 litres of water each day! This helps as it improves the water quality, and the reefs which the oysters form provide habitats for many other marine species in the area. These reefs also help to prevent coastal erosion.

Do you like the sea? What do you know about oysters and what they do?

Do we learn more from winning or losing?



If you lose, you can learn from the opposing team and improve your skills for next time.

Thomas

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