



17th July 2026

This Week at St Mary's...

What a week! Class 4 put on a spectacular show with fabulous acting, singing and dancing. The Friends group provided the school with a super disco enjoyed by all, even the adults. The Y6 children enjoyed a well deserved trip out to Southwell Minster where their enthusiasm and manners were commended by many. Nursery had their own Pirates and Princess day and Reception visited White Post Farm!

Whole school
attendance this
week...

97.3%

This week's awards go to...

Whole Class 1
Elijah
Jago
Whole Class 4

Whole Class 1
Luna
Marlie
Martha



Lewis & Ernie

Dates and Events

JULY

20th - Residential

22nd Early Yers Playground Sale

23rd - Leavers Assembly

24th - Last Day of Term

SEPTEMBER

3rd - School opens to children

House Leaderboard



Oak



Birch



Pine



Willow

School Dojo
Leaderboard

Class 1:

Class 2:

Class 3:

Class 4:

Celebrating wider achievements

TO BE UPDATED

Online Safety

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

At The National College, we WakeUpWednesday games engineer 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, facts and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about SKIN BETTING

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- UNREGULATED PLATFORMS**
Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.
- REAL-WORLD VALUE**
Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.
- SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE**
In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.
- LIMITED OVERSIGHT**
Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting sites are always accessible, traditional parental controls, if not set up correctly, can be circumvented until significant issues have occurred, in some cases of money.
- GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS**
Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people are ready to engage with them. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if easy access to credit is a false sense of control or risk.
- INFLUENCER PROMOTION**
Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, particularly if influencers encourage audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS**
Familiarise yourself with the games your young people are playing and learn whether they include cosmetic or collectible items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.
- DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK**
Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore rendering the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.
- LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS**
Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, or signs of financial stress, such as a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.
- USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS**
Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, closely monitor time spent on games and restrict young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert
Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Exports Coaching at the University of Exeter.
Ruben Goodhart is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Exeter, as well as President and Co-founder of the Videogames and Exports Foundation.

See full reference list on our website.

WakeUpWednesday The National College

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Words of this guide are in its own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 15.07.2024

Safeguarding

If you have any welfare or safeguarding concerns about a child or family, please speak with one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads:

Mrs Bailey

Mrs Bee

Miss Wright

Alternatively email: esm-safeguarding@stmarysedwinstowe.snmatt.org.uk

PARKING

Reminder to parents/carers to take extra care when driving near to school. Reminder that the carpark is for visitors and staff only. Thank you

OTHER NEWS...



**Early Years
Playground
Sale**

Wednesday 22nd July 3.30pm

At St Mary's School Playground

**SELLING A RANGE OF TOYS,
BOOKS AND RESOURCES.
ALL PROCEEDS TOWARD THE
NEW EARLY YEARS UNIT.**

ALL WELCOME!

As we prepare for our exciting school refurbishment we are having a good old clear out!

Early Years will be holding a playground sale to raise funds towards new resources. Please let your friends and family know if they'd like to join!



FREE Family Cooking: Summer Holidays

Interested in supporting your child's confidence in the kitchen and learning new recipes you can cook together? Join us this summer holiday with your child (or children) where you'll cook a simple two-course meal together with encouragement from our friendly and experienced tutor. The best bit? It's all **FREE**! This session is suitable for primary aged children, but all are welcome.

FRIDAY 14 AUGUST | 10AM-12PM
ABBEY ROAD COMMUNITY CENTRE, NG21 9LQ

To book, contact familylearning@wnc.ac.uk or scan the QR code



MAGAZINE FOR PARENTS.

CLICK HERE



KIDS
EAT FOR FREE THIS SUMMER!

STRESS-FREE SUMMER COOKING
WITH LISA FAULKNER

Netmums' SUMMER HOLIDAYS SURVIVAL GUIDE

Davina McCall

on motherhood, fearless new chapters and why she's passionate about helping women feel empowered

Proud to partner with **netmums**

Tripadvisor

Building a happier, healthier family lifestyle

THANK YOU!

OTHER NEWS...



What a super SUMMER DISCO! Thanks for the help and support of our Friends group for organising, setting up and providing a fun event for all!

A huge THANK YOU to all members and volunteers for their continued hard work and commitment in raising funds for school.



EVENT REMINDER

EXCITING PLANNER OF NEXT YEARS EVENTS COMING SOON

What a great year of events including:

Christmas secret shopper

Film Nights

Chocolate Bingo

Summer Fayre

Disco's

2026 Challenge

We would really appreciate more people joining our PTA group.

If you are interested in helping please send an email to

ptastmarys@outlook.com

Friends fundraising has allowed us to purchase our new playground equipment this year! THANK YOU



Shopping online?
Raise free funds for
us at the same time

Sign up



and 8,000+ online retailers...

PLEASE SIGN UP TO EASY FUNDRAISING!

Already school has accrued over £200 just from using this app with only 10 people signed up so far. Please sign up using the link on this image and help us raise vital funds!

Friends of St Mary's CofE Primary School - Mansfield Fundraising Ideas

Help Friends of St Mary's CofE Primary School - Mansfield raise free funds today by shopping online via easyfundraising.org.uk. Shop at no extra cost and raise free donations for Friends of St Mary's CofE Primary School - Mansfield





TAKEHOME



How can we travel while protecting nature?

In the news this week

People living in remote parts of the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador are using solar-powered canoes to travel along rivers. The boats use energy from the Sun instead of petrol, making journeys quieter and creating less pollution. The project is helping people travel while protecting the rainforest and has inspired other communities in the Amazon to try similar ideas.

Things to talk about at home ...

- > How do you usually travel to school, work, or the shops? Why do you or the adults you travel with choose those ways?
- > Can you think of any journeys that could be different to help protect nature?
- > If you could invent a new way to travel that was kinder to the planet, what would it be like?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

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Brick by Brick to Victory!

A group of Year 10 pupils, from Endon High School in Staffordshire, have competed in a LEGO robotics competition! The competition took place in Jeonju-si, South Korea, and more than 50 teams from 45 countries competed. End-Tec, the team's name, beat 68 other teams to win the First LEGO League UK National Final. The pupils designed and built their own robot using LEGO and coding. They used computer programming language to tell the robot to complete different tasks in the competition. After their UK win, one of the pupils called James said, 'It's a really amazing experience - a once-in-a-lifetime thing.' The team



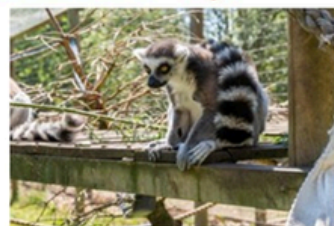
Pictured: The five Endon High School pupils won the First LEGO League UK National Final. **Source:** Endon High School on Facebook.

also raised £25,000 to help them travel to South Korea for the international edition of the contest. Their teacher said the project takes 'hours and hours and hours of dedication' to prepare.

Is teamwork important in a competition? Why?

Keeping Animals Cool ☀️

Animals at a wildlife park in York, UK, have been given frozen treats to help them stay cool during the summer heatwaves. Lemurs, meerkats, and pigs have been enjoying ice-cold snacks made from frozen fruit, vegetables, and leaves. The treats were frozen in bowls of water and given to the animals to help them cope with the high temperatures. Keepers at Askham Bryan Wildlife and Conservation Park said some animals have been struggling in the hot weather, especially the pigs, who spend more time outside in the sun. Staff are also making sure the



Pictured: A lemur enjoying the warm sun! **Source:** Askham Bryan Wildlife & Conservation Park on Facebook.

animals have plenty of shade and water to help them stay comfortable. Some animals, like tortoises and lemurs, are more used to hot climates and have been enjoying the warmer weather.

What do you do to keep yourself cool?

How much should the weather influence our decisions?



I think about what the weather is going to be like in the morning and then we decide what to do.
Ayofemi

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

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Noisey Now

Joseph McGrail-Bateup has broken the Guinness World Record (GWR) for the loudest shout ever recorded! The town crier, from Canberra and Queanbeyan in Australia, yelled the word 'now' at an ear-splitting 122.4 decibels. Joseph explained that he had help choosing the all-important word: 'my daughter and I worked together to find the best word to



Pictured: Joseph McGrail-Bateup. **Source:** Joseph McGrail-bateup on Facebook.

hit the decibels. The previous word was 'quiet' but that wasn't quite loud enough, and we ended up settling for the word 'now'. 122.4 decibels is very loud! The volume of the shout is comparable to a jet engine taking off, a nearby chainsaw, emergency sirens or fireworks. Joseph wasn't always loud. He said, 'When I was a kid, I didn't really have a loud voice, I was very shy, withholding all that stuff until I left school and I joined the theatre. It was very clear then that I needed to pipe up, make myself loud. So, I trained in the theatre where you didn't use microphones or anything like that and I got loud and as the years went by, louder!'

Do you think that you could break a world record?

What would you like to break the world record for?



Pictured: Joseph McGrail-Bateup with his GWR certificate. **Source:** Joseph McGrail-bateup on Facebook.

Dinosaur in a Drawer



Pictured: A Titanosaur on display at Peterborough Cathedral. **Source:** Peterborough Cathedral on Facebook.

A fossil kept in a drawer for 40 years has been identified as a dinosaur bone! Recent analysis confirmed it to be the first evidence of dinosaurs discovered in Antarctica. The fossil was originally found in 1985 and has been kept in the geology collection of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) in Cambridge. It was labelled 'vertebra of large reptile' and noted that it measured 10cm wide. The specimen was brought to the attention of palaeontologist Prof Paul Barrett from the Natural History Museum. 'Believe it or not, this is the first bit of dinosaur ever discovered in Antarctica,' says Prof Barrett. 'As soon

as I saw it, I knew what we were dealing with... it was a dead cert we were dealing with a Titanosaur! This is a combination of features that's completely unique to these types of dinosaurs.' Titanosaurs are the largest species of dinosaurs to have ever walked the Earth. They are a group of long-necked, long tailed, small-headed, plant-eating sauropods, with four legs!

Do you know any facts about the Titanosaur? Do you enjoy learning about dinosaurs?

How much should the weather influence our decisions?



For me, the weather just influences what I wear - I still like to go ahead and not change my mind about my plans because I don't mind any weather!
Silvie

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