



Key Dates

Wed 24 th Sept	Mass at 9am - led by Year 6 - all welcome
Wed 24 th Sept	SEND parent coffee morning at 9am
Thurs 25 th Sept	Year 6 - Stay & Pray and residential meeting at 2:30pm in the school hall
Thurs 2 nd Oct	Year 4 - Stay & Pray at 2:30pm - school hall
Tues 7 th Oct	Individual and sibling photos (siblings in school only)
Wed 8 th Oct	Mass at 9am - led by Year 5
Thurs 16 th Oct	Year 3 - Stay & Pray at 2:30pm - school hall
Wed 22 nd Oct	Mass at 9am - led by Year 4
Wed 22 nd -Frid 24 th Oct	Year 6 Residential trip



Guided by the teachings of the Church we pray, work, celebrate, and care for each other and other people using the gifts we have been given by God the Father, Son and Spirit.

Mrs Milligan and Mr Spindlow's Message

This week marked a particularly special milestone as we welcomed our new EYFS pupils, who have begun their half-day sessions with us. Their transition into our school community has been seamless, and it has been wonderful to observe their enthusiasm and curiosity as they embark on their educational journey.

Wednesday brought us together for our first Mass since returning to school, and we were immensely proud of our pupils' reverent and respectful conduct throughout the service. Their behaviour exemplified the values we hold dear as a Catholic educational community.

We have also celebrated the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which holds particular significance as our MAC feast day. The entire school community gathered for a prayer service, followed by cake to commemorate Mary's birthday—a joyful occasion that reinforced our shared faith and fellowship.

Our focus this term centres on the Season of Creation, and we encourage you to engage with your children about their learning in this area. Please ask them about the ways they are living our mission and protecting the world that God has entrusted to us.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that each class has democratically elected two School Council representatives. These pupils will serve as the voice of their constituents, participating in meetings and advocating for their classmates' perspectives.

This Week's Gospel



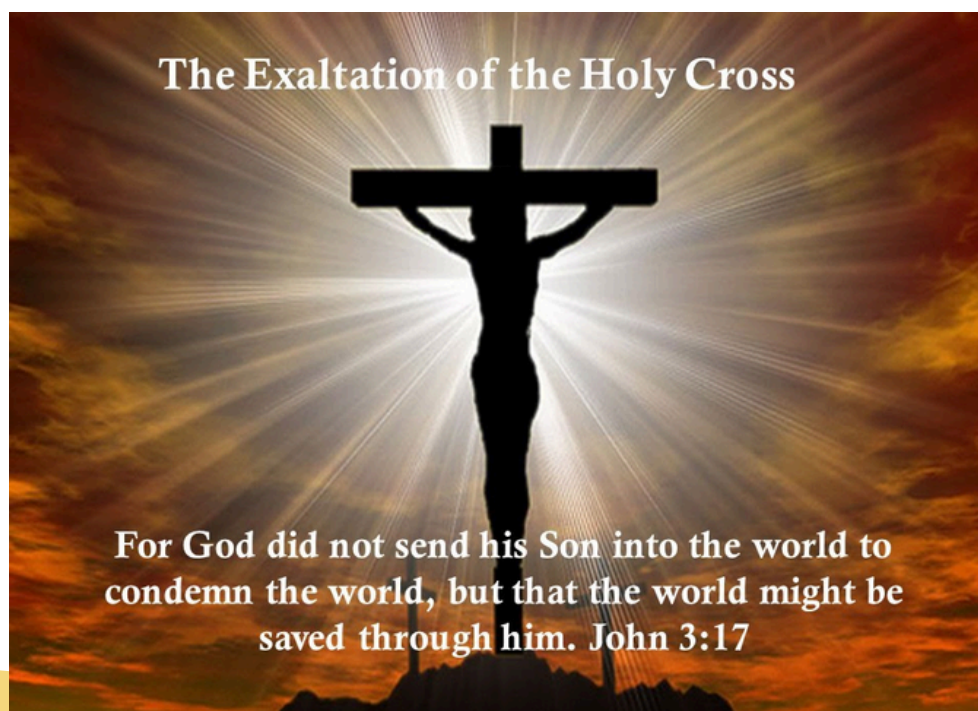
The cross is a very special symbol of our faith because it reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection. Today we celebrate the cross and remember how much God loves the world and all of us.

John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“And no one has ever gone up to heaven except the Son of Man, who came down from heaven.

As Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the desert, in the same way the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its saviour.”



This Week's Attendance



Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	
Year 1	88.7%
Year 2	97.0%
Year 3	90%
Year 4	87.0%
Year 5	96.0%
Year 6	93.2%

Our school attendance target is 95%. The overall attendance for last year was 92.4%.

It is really important that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school.

Attendance Support

Mrs Tennant and the attendance team are always available to offer advice and support to help ensure your child is able to attend every day and reach their full potential. To book an appointment, please call the office on: 0121 747 2782

SPOTLIGHT ON PERSISTENT ABSENCE

What is persistent absence?

If your child takes too much time off school they will become categorised as PA or persistently absent. (Attendance below 90% = persistent absence).

**Missing school will make your child fall behind in lessons and will impact on their academic progress and achievement.
Don't allow your child to become a PA student.**

This table shows how many days missed each half-term will make your child a PA student:

How many days will make my child a persistent absent student?	
Half-term 1	3 ½ days off school from September until October half-term holiday will make your child a PA student.
Half-term 1-2	7 days off school from September until the Christmas holiday will make your child a PA student.
Half term 1-3	10 days of absence from September until February half-term will make your child a PA student.
Half term 1-4	12 ½ days of absence from September until the Easter holidays will make your child a PA student.
Half-term 1-5	15 ½ days of absence from September until May half-term will make your child a PA student.
Half-term 1-6	19 days of absence for the full academic year (September to end of summer term in July) will make your child a PA student.



Safeguarding Tip of the Week

Operation Encompass

This week our safeguarding focus is on Operation Encompass which is a safeguarding initiative designed to support collaboration between schools and the police to support children who have experienced domestic abuse. Operation Encompass was launched in Birmingham in September 2021 and is the process used to inform schools when the police have attended an incident of domestic violence or abuse in the homes of their pupils. This ensures sensitive and child-focused in-school support to mitigate the impact of domestic abuse on the affected child's learning, wellbeing and development. The purpose of informing schools means that school can help to support and talk to the child if they disclose an incident or if there are changes in their behaviour. For more information visit:

<https://www.operationencompass.org/>



OPERATION ENCOMPASS
In every force. In every school. For every child.

E- Safety Tip

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- UNDERMINING TRUST:** Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust teachers, police, and other trusted figures. This can lead to them being more vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups or other harmful organisations.
- ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS:** Social media algorithms can often recommend content that reinforces beliefs. Once a child engages with a conspiracy theory, the algorithm will recommend more of the same, creating a 'rabbit hole' effect that can be difficult to escape.
- MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT:** Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as false claims of global pandemics, or false claims that children are being targeted, can lead to anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues.
- GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM:** Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies, narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, for global issues like terrorism, violence, or inequality.
- CONFLICT WITH PEERS:** Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to social isolation or conflict. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express their beliefs or are perceived as being 'different'.
- ERODED CRITICAL THINKING:** Young people influenced by conspiracies may have reduced critical thinking skills. They may be more likely to believe false information, or to engage in harmful behaviours.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- I WANT TO BELIEVE:**
 - CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS:** Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create space to explore their beliefs. This helps them feel safe to ask questions and to explore their own beliefs.
 - PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING:** Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: 'Who is telling me that? What evidence is there? What do other trusted sources say? Do all sources have current evidence to explain your claims and research?'.
- MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR:** Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, or BeReal. Use parental controls and monitor their online activity. Encourage them to report any suspicious content to you.
- REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES:** Help children build trustworthiness and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of seeking facts using reliable sources and teach them how to spot misleading content.

Meet Our Expert: Brandon O'Neill is a headteacher and digital education specialist with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, internet, and parental care.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full report at <https://www.operationencompass.org/>

Follow us on: @wake_up_weds, www.thenationalcollege, @wake.up.wednesday, @wake.up.weds

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- **Foster Critical Thinking:**
 - Ask "How do you know?": Encourage questioning sources and evidence.
 - Teach Source Evaluation: Help them identify reliable vs. unreliable information.
 - Discuss Bias: Explain that everyone has perspectives that shape information.
- **Create Open Dialogue:**
 - Listen, Don't Judge: Create a safe space for them to share theories without fear.
 - Validate Feelings: Acknowledge anxieties that might draw them to simple explanations.
- **Model Good Habits:**
 - Show Diverse Sources: Demonstrate healthy media consumption.
 - Question Information: Let them see you evaluating news critically.
- **Explain Concepts Simply:**
 - Confirmation Bias: How people seek info that confirms what they already believe.
 - Trust & Evidence: Reaffirm the value of experts and scientific consensus.
- **Be Patient: Changing beliefs takes time and consistent conversation.**

This Week's Awards



Virtues Award

EYFS - N/A

Year 1 - Joshua

Year 2 - Millie

Year 3 - Chimamanda

Year 4 - Anada

Year 5 - Phoebe

Year 6 - Ogooluwa



Reader of the Week

EYFS - N/A

Year 1 - Lily-Mae

Year 2 - Aiyza

Year 3 - Billy

Year 4 - Sophie

Year 5 - Saoirse

Year 6 - Mylah



PE Star of the Week

EYFS - N/A

Year 1 - Jack

Year 2 - Noah

Year 3 - Lilly-Paige

Year 4 - Oscar

Year 5 - Ronny

Year 6 - Toby

Star Pupils

EYFS

N/A

Year 3

Aminah and Emily

Year 1

Amelia G and Michael

Year 4

Elsie and Ella

Year 2

Lidya and Muhammad

Year 5

Chae and Summer

Year 6

Elijah and Niamh



Virtues this Half Term

Eloquent and Truthful



Eloquent: the ability to speak or write fluently, persuasively and appropriately. We are eloquent when we use language to express our ideas or opinions clearly and with conviction. When we choose our words, we should do so carefully so they are kind and compassionate, and don't hurt others. Eloquence isn't limited to speaking and writing. We can express ourselves in other ways like music, drama, painting or dance. We should use our creative gifts to say things in a way that is interesting, truthful, memorable and faithful.

Truthful: God wants us to be truthful in all we do. Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth and the life', so being honest and truthful means we are following in his footsteps and living life the way God wants us to. Being truthful is being faithful to ourselves and to Jesus. We should stand up for the truth.

Birthday Celebrations

Lexie (Year 1)

George & Layla-Mai (Year 2)

Nadia & Maisie (Year 5)

Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family



Loving God, we thank you once more for the sign of your great love for us, that is Jesus Christ on the cross. Help us to share your love with others and to support one another to build a better world. Amen

Have a lovely break and God Bless

Mrs Helen Milligan, Mr Spindlow and
all the staff at Guardian Angels



John Henry Newman Catholic College Open Day

JHNCC hosts its annual open evening in two weeks on Thursday 18th September, from 4pm to 7pm. Prospective parents can hear from Mrs Clarke, Principal at 4.15, 5.15 and 6.15 and visit all parts of the College to see all about the compelling education vision and opportunities awaiting their children here at JHNCC.



John Henry Newman Catholic College
2025 Open Evening

THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

4pm to 7pm

office@jhncc.org | 0121 770 5331

Heart Speaks to Heart



*Mass for children and young people
with special needs and disabilities*

Saturday 4th October

11am

St Thomas More Church,
130 Horse Shoes Lane,
Sheldon,
Birmingham
B26 3HU



All are welcome to our special
mass - from all parishes

All volunteers are
DBS checked

Wheelchair
accessible



Please join us after mass in the
parish centre for refreshments



SEND Parent Coffee morning



Meet our school specialist agencies

Wednesday 24th September at 9am
Come along for a hot drink. Meet other
parents and seek advice from our team.

