



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.

Key Dates

Thurs 15th Jan	Deadline to apply for a place if your child is starting Reception class in Sept 26
Thurs 15th Jan	Themed school lunch-please order on ParentPay by this weekend
Frid 13th Feb	School breaks up for Feb half term
Mon 23rd Feb	Inset day-school closed for pupils
Tues 24th Feb	School open for all

This week, our pupils have returned with remarkable enthusiasm and a positive attitude towards learning, which sets an encouraging tone for the term ahead.

We have concluded the Year of the Jubilee, with the Holy Door closing on Tuesday, marking a significant moment in our school's spiritual journey. To support our pupils' religious education, we have sent home prayer resources that include an Epiphany-themed crown, an Epiphany prayer, and a comprehensive prayer booklet containing the prayers pupils will learn throughout the year.

We are also pleased to announce an exciting opportunity for our school meal participants. On Thursday, 15th January, we will be offering a special school menu with a unique twist. Every child enjoying a school meal will have the chance to win a prize by finding a lucky sticker underneath their plate. Parents interested in this special meal should ensure their child is signed up, and those experiencing any difficulties are encouraged to contact our office team.

RECEPTION starting in September 2026

A reminder that the deadline to apply for an EYFS place for a September start is 15th January 26. Applications must be completed online through the local council to which you pay your council tax. We encourage all parents and carers to submit their application in good time to ensure it is received before the deadline.

Change of contact details

We kindly ask all parents and carers to take a moment to review the contact details we hold for your child. It is important that this information is accurate and that we have a minimum of three emergency contacts listed on our system. This helps us ensure we can reach someone promptly should we ever need to. All updates can be made easily through the MyChildAtSchool app at your convenience. If you experience any difficulties accessing the app or updating your details, please contact the school office, and they will be happy to support you.

This Week's Gospel



Today we hear about how Jesus is baptised by John in the waters of the River Jordan.

Matthew 3:13-17

At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptised by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptised by you,” John said, “and yet you have come to me!”

But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed.

As soon as Jesus was baptised, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and alighting on him. Then a voice came from heaven, “This is my own dear Son, with whom I am pleased.”



This Week's Attendance



Attendance Counts

Year Group	
EYFS	88.5
Year 1	85.0
Year 2	97.5
Year 3	89.0
Year 4	88.0
Year 5	90.0
Year 6	94.0

Our school attendance target is 95%. The overall attendance for last week was 95.1%.

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

Winter Water Safety

Winter can be dangerous because of the temptation to play on ice formed over open water, rivers or canals. It's risky for everyone, but both children and pets are especially at risk, as well as adults who might attempt to rescue them.

How to stay safe in winter: the dangers of frozen or icy cold water

<https://www.wmfs.net/safety/winter-water-safety/>

E- Safety Tip

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

- 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS**
Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and avoid technical terms. Encourage them to ask questions and be honest about what they do online. Keeping them open to help build trust, as children are more likely to come to you when needed.
- 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING**
Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Before sharing their photos, messages or videos, encourage them to think about who they are sharing with. Encourage them to use privacy settings and to be selective about what they share. Remind them that once something is online, it can be hard to delete.
- 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE**
Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged for long periods. These features can make it hard for children to stop. Talk to your child about these systems and help them to set boundaries. Encourage them to take regular breaks and to be aware of the time they spend on their devices.
- 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS**
When children come to you with a concern, respond with respect and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues. It means showing that you care about them. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to tell you about any risks they face in the future.
- 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT**
With emerging technologies like AI, hearing and keeping up-to-date is a challenge. Stay informed by following trusted sources and talking to your child about what they use and for how long. Encourage them to be critical of what they see online and to report any concerns.
- 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING**
Help children learn how to recognise unreliable information or scammers online. Discuss the importance of privacy and security. Encourage them to question what they see online, check sources, and ask questions. There are many ways to help them think, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.
- 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**
Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as no device in bedrooms, no device in the car, and no device in public places. Explain the reasons behind the rules and support them, but be firm when they break them.
- 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what healthy digital habits look like, such as not checking your phone first thing in the morning or not checking your phone last thing at night. Encourage them to be mindful of their screen time and to take regular breaks.
- 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
These children have to use privacy settings on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to check their privacy settings and to be aware of what they are sharing. Encourage them to be selective about what they share and to be aware of the privacy settings on their devices.
- 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP**
Familiarise yourself with local and national helpline services. The National College offers online safety guidance and resources which can be used to support children and young people. Encourage them to report any concerns to you or to the relevant helpline. Encourage them to be selective about what they share and to be aware of the privacy settings on their devices.

Meet Our Expert
Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has made it easier for you to find the resources you need to develop your skills and manage your workload. Our three membership levels offer a range of options to suit your needs, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.01.2025

- **Keep Secrets Secret:** Never tell anyone online your real name, what school you go to, or where you live.
- **The "Forever" Rule:** Remember that once you post a photo or a message, it can stay on the internet forever, even if you delete it.
- **Strangers are Strangers:** People online aren't always who they say they are. Never agree to meet someone you met online in real life.

This Week's Awards



Virtues Award

EYFS - Olly
Year 1 - Arlo F
Year 2 - Aiyza
Year 3 - Qudamah
Year 4 - Nellie
Year 5 - Jack
Year 6 - Ogooluwa



Reader of the Week

EYFS - A'nayah
Year 1 - Cayson
Year 2 - Louie
Year 3 - Isla
Year 4 - Edie-Rose
Year 5 - Herani
Year 6 - Chloe



PE Star of the Week

EYFS - Roman
Year 1 - Lilly
Year 2 - Charlie
Year 3 - Alicja
Year 4 - Hosanna
Year 5 - Delilah
Year 6 - Oliver

Star Pupils

EYFS

Tiarah and Makbel

Year 3

Charlie and Hunter

Year 1

Arthur and Amelia G

Year 4

Anada and Scarlett

Year 2

Erin and Leo-James

Year 5

Jacob and Lacey R

Year 6

Jacob C and Maisie



Virtues this Half Term

Curious and Active



Curious: exploring God's creation and asking questions to find out more.

Active: working to make things better where we can.

Birthday Celebrations

Kai-Kieran (RB)

Olly (EYFS)

Jack & Jarvis (Y3)

Jacob (Y6)



Best Wishes from your Guardian Angels Family

Neurodiversity Survey

Our Bishops' Conference and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into neurodiversity and faith experience. If you are a Catholic neurodivergent adult or a caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic (aged 2+), they would like to hear from you. Project organisers are collecting information through two short (10-20 minute) anonymous online surveys, which are available to complete until 12th January 2026.

You can find links for the survey at:

www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/new-survey-on-neurodiversity-and-the-catholic-faith



God of life, help us to act so that no one goes thirsty and all people around the world have enough water for their needs. Amen.

Have a lovely weekend and God Bless

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

FOOD
FESTIVAL

LUCKY PLATE

Census Day
January 15th 2026

Chicken Nuggets served with Jacket
Wedges.

Vegetable Fingers served with
Jacket wedges.

Peas & Sweetcorn.

Ice-Cream

Jacket Potatoes & Pasta will also be
available

?