



**One Family in Christ**

# St John the Baptist RC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs L. Campbell

## Newsletter

16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

It has been a great week at school, with our children showing real commitment and enthusiasm in everything they do. I have been impressed by the focus, resilience, and hard work across all classes, both in lessons and around the school. Thank you to our staff, children, and families for your continued support—it truly makes a difference and helps our school community thrive.

#onefamilyinchrist  
 ☺ Mrs Campbell



| Head-teacher awards | Qualities of the class 'woman of the Bible' | Celebration of Talent spotting |
|---------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| Nursery (Jochabed)  | Izyan                                       | Hana Dua                       |
| Reception (Miriam)  | Christabel                                  | Lucas Ismaeel                  |
| Y1 (Elizabeth)      | Solomon-Blessing                            | Adam Rumaisa                   |
| Y2 (Prisca)         | Amanda                                      | Iylah Saim                     |
| Y3 (Sheba)          | Hussain                                     | Dinaath Yasmin                 |
| Y4 (Deborah)        | Amelia                                      | Sophia Leandro                 |
| Y5 (Esther)         | Anaiya                                      | Joshua Luana                   |
| Y6 (Lydia)          | Amarachi                                    | Rugeeth Kose                   |

| Class                        | Reception | Y1   | Y2   | Y3   | Y4   | Y5   | Y6   |
|------------------------------|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Attendance: week beg 12.1.26 | 99.7      | 87.9 | 95.7 | 95.2 | 98.9 | 96.9 | 95.6 |

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## Catholic Life

Gospel: 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."



Water is very important in baptism. It is used to show that we are starting a new life with God. When Catholics are baptised, the priest puts holy water on their heads and welcomes them into God's family. As we think about new life and fresh starts, what can we do this week:

-  **Obey God** even when it feels strange or hard, like Jesus did.
-  **Remember God loves you** just like He loves Jesus.
-  **Ask God to help you** do what is right every day.
-  **Be humble** and listen to wise people who teach about God.

Love of learning and playing together. One community, aiming high, helping each other and praying together. On our journey with Christ.

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## The Importance of Attendance

Our attendance this week is 96.1% - this is fantastic!

Please ensure extended family visits abroad are not in term time – your children are required to be in school every day so they don't fall behind.



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## Parental support: Making friends online

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. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com). **Trigger Warning:** This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

### What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

#### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### ONLINE GROOMING THREATS

Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2023, UK police recorded nearly 34,000 online grooming offences – an 82% increase in just five years.

#### EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 85% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.

#### PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS

Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 16-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

#### COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY

Meeting an online "friend" in real life risks placing a child in serious danger, from abduction to coercion. The consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.

#### PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS

Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. Sexist trolls, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.

#### LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS

Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 16-year-old posed as a girl on Snapchat to befriend children aged 10 to 15, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 17-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

### Advice for Parents & Educators

#### TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS

Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and whom they're talking to.

#### KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.

#### ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS

Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.

#### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

#### Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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## Intra Dodgeball

The first group from Year 5 enjoyed the Intra handball event they participated in on Wednesday night. The children organised themselves throughout the competition, showing excellent per leadership.



## KS2 Fitness



Upper KS2 are developing their own fitness routines in PE this half term. We are learning about reps and sets as well as different parts of the body and the recovery time needed between each efforts. Lots of fun was had by all!

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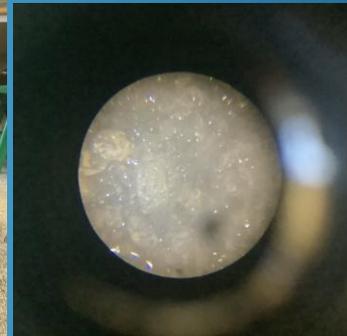
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## Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1



Reception have been using egg boxes to create 3D trains linked to our topic 'Journeys and transport'. We worked really hard to cut, paint and add details to own team train models.

During our Forest school session, we explored the winter environment by listening to the quiet sounds of outdoors. We also collected snow samples to examine them closely under a microscope.



“Love one another as I have loved you.” John 15:12

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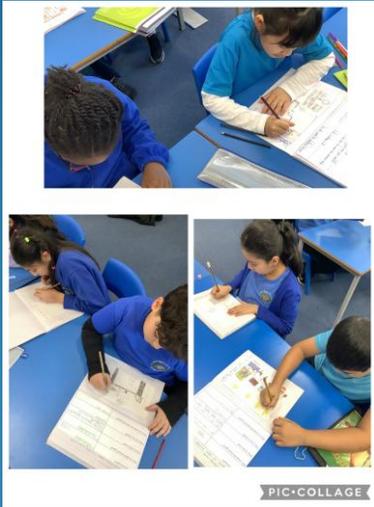


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## LKS2



This week in Year 4, we have been creatively designing our own study room in literacy, ready for our writing in our next lesson!

## UKS2

As part of their Geography and Literacy learning on Antarctica and Shackleton's journey, the children created six-pointed snowflake drawings during Forest School. They discussed why Antarctica is a frozen continent and explored the impact of climate change on its ice and wildlife.



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