



One Family in Christ

St John the Baptist RC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs L. Campbell

Newsletter

22nd May 2026

What a fantastic half term it has been at school. I am incredibly proud of all that our children and staff have achieved over the past few weeks. We were delighted to receive the Inclusion Award and to be recognised as a Centre of Excellence for Inclusion, which reflects our continued commitment to ensuring that every child feels valued, supported, and able to thrive within our school community.

I would also like to say a huge well done to our Year 6 pupils, who approached their SATs with maturity, resilience, and determination. They worked extremely hard and truly tried their very best throughout the week, and we are all very proud of the positive attitude they showed.

As we come to the end of another successful half term, I would like to thank all parents and carers for your continued support. We are looking forward to welcoming the children back for the final half term on Monday 8th June at 8.45am, ready for another busy and exciting few weeks ahead.

#onefamilyinchrist

☺ Mrs Campbell

Head-teacher awards	Qualities of the class 'woman of the Bible'	Celebration of Talent spotting
Nursery (Jochabed)	Zahra	Yasir Izyan
Reception (Miriam)	Christabel	Teddy Halima - Noor
Y1 (Elizabeth)		Anaya Ayman
Y2 (Prisca)	Zoe	Cecilia Ilyah
Y3 (Sheba)	Rabia	Waleed Racheal
Y4 (Deborah)	Peace	Maiza Omar
Y5 (Esther)	Subhan	Sophia Shafeeh
Y6 (Lydia)	Amarachi	Rahman Mahad

Class	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance: week beg 18.5.26	96.7	93.3	91.7	95.8	94.4	95.6	93.3

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Catholic Life

Gospel: John 17:1-11

After Jesus finished saying this, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son, so that the Son may give glory to you. For you gave him authority over all humanity, so that he might give eternal life to all those you gave him. And eternal life means knowing you, the only true God, and knowing Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I have shown your glory on earth; I have finished the work you gave me to do. Father! Give me glory in your presence now, the same glory I had with you before the world was made.

"I have made you known to those you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me. They have obeyed your word, and now they know that everything you gave me comes from you. I gave them the message that you gave me, and they received it; they know that it is true that I came from you, and they believe that you sent me.

"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those you gave me, for they belong to you. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine; and my glory is shown through them. And now I am coming to you; I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world. Holy Father! Keep them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one just as you and I are one."

Jesus prayed to his Father, that his friends "may be one just as you and I are one."

Jesus wanted his disciples to love one another, to be united with each other, to be together – just as closely as Jesus and God the Father are together.

Jesus prayed for us too. He wants us to be united, together, loving one another.



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 **93.5%** which is below the National Expectation

Last 5 days (15 May 2026 to 21 May 2026)



Overall attendance %

93.5%

Overall absence %

6.5%

Unauthorised absence %

2.8%

Our attendance this year so far is **96.4%**



Current academic year up to Thursday 21 May 2026

Number of pupils

226

Overall attendance %

96.4%

Overall absence %

3.6%

Unauthorised absence %

1.1%

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Parental support: Minecraft

At The National College, our Minecraft mastery guides empower and engage 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. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit www.thenationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCARY ELEMENTS
While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of virtual LEGO, some game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING
Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately destroying or destroying another player's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by causing hours of their work and turning them to waste. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS
Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be hard to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gamified way of resource gathering and building materials, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and behaviour.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's important that children are up-to-date with the risks of playing through the in-game chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, making encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the risks of social speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices, however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or equipment to enhance their avatar. There is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making uncontrolled or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's a safe game mode for young players, as the game is designed to be fun and creative. However, it's important to be aware that some modes can be more challenging and may not be suitable for all children.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself, hosting a private server. This allows you to control who is allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft, hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows how to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to learn up and construct with buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork, however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 8 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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Year 1 PE showcase

Year 1 had their PE Showcase on Monday afternoon. They performed a dance that they have learnt over the last few weeks from the Lion King. All the children were fantastic, so it was good to see so many family members in attendance.



Sports Day Preparations



Year 6 have been practicing for Sports Day this week. They have been working on their running, jumping and balancing skills in preparation for Friday. Good luck everyone!

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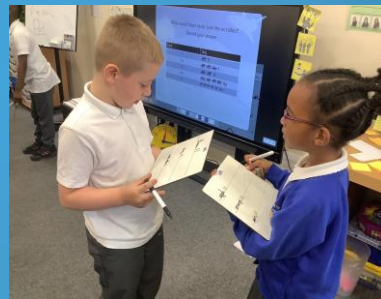
Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1



This week Reception have continued to care for the little chicks we have in class. We have enjoyed having turns to hold them as well as helping to clean and prepare their brooder box. We have written lists of things we need to care for them.

We have enjoyed decorating egg shapes using natural materials in the sensory area outdoors; we cut leaves and petals into different shapes and sizes to make abstract designs.

In maths, Year 2 have been learning how to collect and present data using tally charts. The children asked each other which was their favourite fruit and collected tallies on their whiteboards. Bananas were very popular!



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

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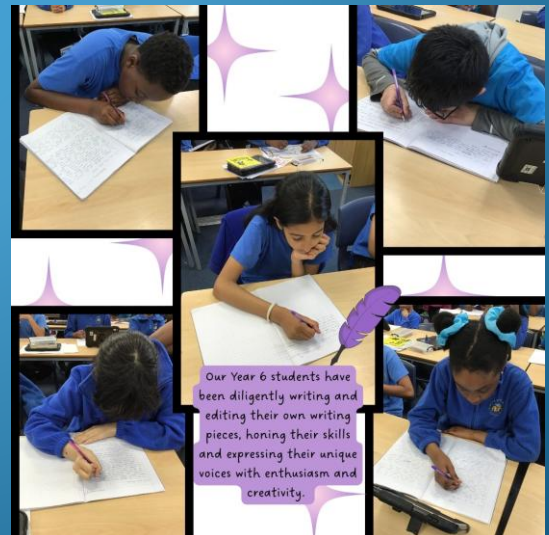
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KS2



Year 4 have been practising and working incredibly hard on their timetables this term. The children have been using both [Times Tables Rock Stars](#) and [Mathsframe](#) regularly to help improve their speed, confidence, and accuracy when recalling multiplication and division facts. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and determination grow each week, with many pupils challenging themselves to beat their previous scores and complete extra practice at home. Their dedication and positive attitude towards learning their times tables is really beginning to show in lessons across the curriculum.

Year 6 have been working hard on editing and improving their writing to make it even more effective and engaging. The children have been carefully reviewing their work to enhance their vocabulary choices, improve punctuation accuracy, and increase the overall impact on the reader. They have shown great maturity in identifying areas for improvement and making thoughtful changes to strengthen their sentences and ideas. It has been fantastic to see the pupils taking pride in their writing and developing greater confidence as independent authors.



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