



One Family in Christ

St John the Baptist RC Primary School

Headteacher: Mrs L. Campbell

Newsletter

11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,
A very warm welcome back to St John the Baptist RC Primary School for the 2026/27 school year. I hope you and your families have enjoyed a happy and restful summer.

It has been wonderful to welcome our children back through the school gates. Their enthusiasm, smiles and excitement have already brought our school back to life, and it has been lovely to see friendships reunited and new beginnings taking shape.

A particularly warm welcome goes to all of our new children and families who have joined our school community. We are delighted to have you as part of our school family and look forward to getting to know you and supporting your children as they settle into school life.

#onefamilyinchrist

© Mrs Campbell

Head-teacher awards	Qualities of the class 'woman of the Bible'	Celebration of Talent spotting
Nursery (Jochabed)	Orshina	Zoya Bruno
Reception (Miriam)	Jerwin	Dua Arya
Y1 (Elizabeth)	Stella	Therry Lavie
Y2 (Prisca)	Layla	Jacob Arianna
Y3 (Sheba)	George	Ayshan Thelya
Y4 (Deborah)	David	Peniel Marlous
Y5 (Esther)	Amelia	Hassan Azaan
Y6 (Lydia)	Gael	Naomi Joshua

Class	Reception	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6
Attendance: week beg 7/9/26	91.7	96.6	97.7	99.7	100	89.9	100

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Catholic Life

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go to him and show him his fault. But do it privately, just between yourselves. If he listens to you, you have won your brother back. But if he will not listen to you, take one or two other persons with you, so that 'every accusation may be upheld by the testimony of two or more witnesses,' as the scripture says. And if he will not listen to them, then tell the whole thing to the church. Finally, if he will not listen to the church, treat him as though he were a pagan or a tax collector."

"And so I tell all of you: what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."

"And I tell you more: whenever two of you on earth agree about anything you pray for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them."

If Jesus is with us, when we gather together, how can we make sure we listen to him and do what he asks of us?

For where
TWO or THREE
are gathered together
in My name,
THERE AM I
in the midst of them.
MATTHEW 18:20

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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Parental support: back to school

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

- 1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES**
 Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.
- 2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS**
 Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.
- 3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP**
 Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.
- 4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS**
 Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour, such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.
- 5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**
 Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.
- 6 CREATE A CALM MORNING**
 Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.
- 7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES**
 Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school - seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is engaging "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.
- 8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL**
 If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.
- 9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER**
 Involve children in preparing for school - buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.
- 10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT**
 Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert
 This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.

WakeUp Wednesday
 The National College

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Platinum Award

We are proud to announce that once again we have been awarded the Your School Games Platinum Award for PE and Sports. We have held this grading since 2016!



KS2 PE



One of the topics in PE this half term is gymnastics with the focus being on balance, core strength and teamwork. We had some very imaginative ideas this week as to how to combine all three areas together.

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Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1



This week in Reception, we have been working on our fine motor skills, we have used tweezers to move some colourful pom-poms, we really had focus on using a strong grip to do this!

Year 2 have had lots of fun becoming route explorers in computing! The children have been busy using direction keys to guide characters around a map, carefully planning their routes and putting their computing skills into action. They have really enjoyed the challenge!



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

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KS2

Year 4 showed fantastic determination as they challenged themselves on the climbing equipment. It was great to see them encouraging one another and persevering when things became tricky!



This week, our musicians enjoyed their very first brass lesson. They explored a range of brass instruments, learnt how they work and discovered how they produce sound. It was a fun first step into the world of brass music!

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