



Date: **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Issue: **#23**

“Let your light shine before people so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” (Matthew 5:v.16)

## CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to the children who have been chosen to receive our Christian Value award this week.

Reception (Mrs Aspinall) – **Elliott B**

Year 1 (Miss Threlfall) – **Jessica H**

Year 2 (Mrs Coupe)– **Harriet A**

Year 3 (Miss Reeve)– **Alice A**

Year 4 (Mrs Parsons)– **Amelia G**

Year 5 (Mrs Todd)– **Shaun C**

Year 6 (Mrs Knight)– **Savannah A-R**

## WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

(Week beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026)

SCHOOL MINIMUM TARGET: 96.4%

**WHOLE SCHOOL: %**

Reception: 93.7%

Year 1: 96.7%

Year 2: 97.6%

Year 3: 96.2%

Year 4: 99.4%

Year 5: 96%

Year 6: 100%

## PTFA

**Non-Uniform Day - 20th March**

On Friday 20th March, the children are invited to come to school in their own clothes in exchange for the donation of an Easter Egg for Easter Bingo.

18th,  
19th,  
20th  
March



## Diary Dates

### MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

3pm Whole School Worship

10am Year 3&4 Girls' Football

1:30pm Educational Visitor: Zoolab in reception class

### TUESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup>

3pm Hymn Practice

### WEDNESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup>

3pm Key Stage Worship

3:30pm BOOK FAIR

8:45am Education visit- Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra

### THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

3pm Key Stage Worship

3:30pm BOOK FAIR

1-8pm 'Let's Go Sing' concert- year 5

### FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup>

PTFA NON-UNIFORM DAY- Bring an Easter Egg

2:45pm Celebration Assembly

3:30pm BOOK FAIR



# Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community



## WORSHIP this week...

Week 3 Lent 2026  
Acts- Suffering Jesus

We shared the story of Stephen from the book of Acts.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HxvT5TZZQ>

**Bishop Philip explained**

You are never alone in difficult times. Jesus is with you, understands your pain, and has experienced suffering Himself.

Others care for you too. Even when it feels hard to talk, there are adults who love and trust you and want to help.

If you're feeling sad or struggling, tell someone, even in simple words. We don't have to face sadness on our own.

People around you want to support you.

**What does this mean for Christians?**

**Suffering is Not the End**  
Suffering doesn't last forever. Like Stephen, we can look up and remember that Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place where there is no pain or sadness.

**God's love has already won.**  
Because of this, suffering will never be the end of the story. If you're going through a sad time, it will pass. Jesus is with you, and His victory is certain.

**PAUSE AND PRAY...**

Lord Jesus,

We thank you that we know you are our friend and you are always with us, especially at the times we are feeling sad and hurt.  
Amen

40 Days

### What makes a brilliant friend?

We need be great friends to each other.

Our school community can be a wonderful place for everyone if we are kind to each other, humble and good at putting others first and are good at listening and empathising.

Close your eyes and imagine your classroom as a place where you offer a smile to anyone who needs one, remember to thank people who help you, let other people go first and show respect all the time.

If everyone in your classroom was like that you'd all have a really great day, even if the school work was tricky!

God asks us to be like a big kind family. 1 Peter 3:8

God asks us to never be selfish. Romans 12:10

God asks us to show empathy. Romans 12:15

**Let's Pray**

Thank you, God, for the communities I belong to.

Thank you for my home, my school, my church and any clubs I go to.

Help me to make these communities places where everyone feels accepted and valued.

May I be kind and set a good example.  
Amen

## Easter Egg Design Competition

**Get Creative!**

Prizes for everyone that enters and a main prize for winner of each year group!



Let your light shine and celebrate the joy of Easter

Your design should represent the true meaning of Easter, use pens, crayons, paint or collage. Entries will be displayed in St Michael's church for friends and family to see over Easter.

Hand your design into school by the **27<sup>th</sup> of March** (Last day of term) please include your name and year group on the back of your entry.

## Message from our friends at St Michael's Church, Grimsargh

We're excited to launch the Easter Design Competition, inviting all pupils to create artwork that reflects the true meaning of Easter.

Entries will be displayed in St Michael's Church for families to enjoy over the Easter break.

Please see the attached documents for full details, including the design proforma and submission information.

# Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community



## GYMNASTICS

On Tuesday, Mrs Todd took 13 budding gymnasts to the y3/4 gymnastics competition. All the children put in a huge amount of effort to learn a floor routine (without help) and a vault. We came a fantastic 5th place.

A huge well done to Hattie L, Felicity G, Charley T-C, Cerys P, Oliver M, Sam H, Eliza K, Lucy G, Elissa B, Beth Mc, Niamh M, Charlotte H and George C.



## NATIONAL SCIENCE COMPETITION

A huge well done to our Science Team, Oscar H, Luca B, Shaun C and Eilee S, who came 31st out of 170 schools in their heat in the National Science Championships on Tuesday morning. The children wowed Miss Reeve and Mrs Lock with their knowledge, team work and perseverance throughout – we are very proud of them!



## *MATHLETICS*

Scores for: 2.3.26—8.3.26

Children scoring 1000+ points:

1 <sup>st</sup> place: year 5	18 children
2 <sup>nd</sup> place: year 3	12 children
2 <sup>nd</sup> place: year 6	12 children
3 <sup>rd</sup> place: year 1	9 children
4 <sup>th</sup> place: year 4	7 children
5 <sup>th</sup> place: year 2	6 children
6 <sup>th</sup> place: reception	4 children

## British Science Week 2026

We have had a fabulous time celebrating in school with lots of exciting activities throughout the week.

On Monday our Science ambassadors kick started the week with a whole school assembly; on Tuesday we entered a team into the Science championships and came 31st out of 170 schools; on Wednesday each class were joined by visitors who work in different fields of Science and on Thursday Oakhill Veterinary Centre delivered a whole school assembly which included dressing the children up as vets and a close look at a range of animal x-rays 🐶

Thank you so much to all of our visitors and a big well done to all of our children for their enthusiasm and engagement!



# Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian community



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](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

**AGE RESTRICTION 13+**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- GROUP CHAT PRESSURES**  
Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.
- SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS**  
Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or tricking users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.
- DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES**  
WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.
- EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS**  
'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.
- UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING**  
WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.
- COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT**  
WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updates' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

### Advice for Parents & Educators

- REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**  
Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Silence Unknown Callers' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.
- TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS**  
Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.
- BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS**  
Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.
- TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI**  
Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

See full reference list on our website

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This guide explores WhatsApp, outlining key features and the main online safety risks parents and educators should be aware of.

With its end-to-end encryption and huge popularity, WhatsApp is often seen as a private and secure way to stay in touch; however, that same privacy can make it harder for trusted adults to see when things go wrong. This guide explains how features like group chats, disappearing messages, 'Channels' and location sharing can expose young users to pressure, unwanted contact and inappropriate content.

It also looks at emerging concerns such as scams, advertising and the in-app AI assistant, helping adults understand how these elements may affect children and young people. Alongside the risks, the guide offers practical advice to support meaningful conversations, encourage safer settings and build young users' confidence in navigating WhatsApp responsibly.

## PIANO LESSONS

The school is contemplating the idea of hosting 1-1 piano lessons, provided by the Tapiola Piano School. We are currently gauging interest levels and hope to commence lessons as soon as possible. Please have a read through the details below and if you would like to sign your child up, (year one and above) please email the school's director, Rudi Eastwood via the following address: [rudi.tapiola@gmail.com](mailto:rudi.tapiola@gmail.com)

The weekly lessons are 30 minutes in duration and take place during the school day. The cost is £22 per session and payments are usually requested in advance every half-term. In addition to lessons, students are encouraged to participate in concerts, music examinations and festivals, whilst benefiting from creative tutorials on our exciting YouTube channel. We also host an annual Christmas concert at a prestigious venue, where every student is invited to perform.

Music is a true gift and new research has claimed that learning to play a musical instrument increases intelligence by a whopping 10 percent! (study coordinated by DIYS.com)

Further information, including recommendations and tutorials can be found on our website: [www.tapiolapianoschool.com](https://www.tapiolapianoschool.com)

We look forward to welcoming new students!