St Nicolas' CE Combined School Newsletter

Living and learning together with God

Friday 20th November 2026



Anti-bullying -Odd socks day

Starting anti-bullying week with Odd Socks Day was a fun way celebrate how unique we all are!

Our school value of respect has been at the heart of St Nic's anti-bullying week. How do we show we care at St Nics with our words and actions, and how they affect other people, ourselves and the things around us? How do we show that everyone and everything matters? Knowing that, and having respect, makes bullying less likely to happen.



This weeks Open the Book assembly with a special guest - Wayne Dixon.

House Points

Jaguars	Pumas	Lions	Tigers
179	304	283	227

Well done Pumas!

Despite being awarded an extra 50 points for the colour raffle Lions were unable to claim the win this week!





Children in Need

Thank you to all that contributed, we raised £266.56 for Children in Need

RE in the spotlight

This term so far, year 4 have been learning about Sikhism and answering the question: 'How do Sikhs understand who God is?'

To start the topic, we discussed some different religious symbols and what they might mean for the people who follow that religion.

After this, we discussed who Guru Nanak was. Bobby said "Guru Nanak taught the values of equality and sharing." Tilly discovered that the word 'Sikh' can mean 'disciple' or 'follower.' Finally, Grace found out that the 'Langar' is a place where people gather to share and eat a free meal.

Year 4 have been thoroughly enjoying learning about Sikhism and have further questions to answer.

Young Climate Warriors

There are over 2 billion children in the world – time to celebrate them this World Children's Day – 20th November!!

Around the world climate change is already seriously affecting children's access to health, food, water, clean air and education.

Climate change targets will require almost all of us to move away from burning fossil fuels for our home heating – more than 23 million homes in the UK currently rely on gas boilers.

Only 1 in 3 households had central heating in 1970, and the average internal temperature of a home in winter in the UK was nearer 12°C.



'Climate change is the most far-reaching crisis facing children and future generations.' (UNICEF, 2022)
Take action on World Children's Day!

www.youngclimatewarriors.org

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ in the UK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, that allows users to send messages, share multimedia, make calls, and participate in group chats. In September 2026, WhatsApp announced new optional parental controls for teenagers, including privacy settings, group notifications, and restrictions on AI content, which parents and educators should be aware of.

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats help young people stay connected, but they can also leave them feeling excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and frequent notifications can create a sense of needing to be constantly available. WhatsApp's new parental controls notify parents when teenagers join or leave groups, or when a group grows significantly in size.

HARMFUL CONTENT ON CHANNELS

WhatsApp Channels allow users to receive updates from public figures, organisations, and content creators; however, some Channels may expose young people to misinformation, harmful ideologies, or age-inappropriate material. New optional parental controls allow adults to restrict which Channels teenagers access, including limiting them to approved Channels.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers may use WhatsApp to trick young people into sharing personal information, sending money, or sharing security codes. They may impersonate friends or family members, using convincing stories about emergencies or urgent requests for help. New parental controls can help manage who contacts teenagers; however, they cannot prevent all scams or fraudulent messages.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp allows users to share their live location, profile information, and Status updates. Without appropriate privacy settings, this information could expose young people to unwanted attention or reveal their whereabouts. New parental controls enable adults to manage certain privacy settings, including who can view account details and add teenagers to groups.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp features such as disappearing messages and Chat Lock can make conversations harder for adults to identify. Although these tools are designed to protect privacy, they may also make it harder for adults to recognise inappropriate exchanges or harmful behaviour. WhatsApp's new parental controls do not give adults access to teenagers' private messages or calls.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp includes advertising in parts of its Updates section and offers Meta AI, an integrated AI assistant. Young people may encounter sponsored content, misleading AI responses, or information which is unsuitable for their age. New parental controls offer a stricter 'Limited Content' setting for Meta AI; however, this cannot guarantee that every response will be accurate or appropriate.

ONLINE

SECRET CODE

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLORE NEW PARENTAL CONTROLS

WhatsApp's new optional parental controls are being rolled out gradually, giving families more ways to manage teenagers' privacy and interactions. Teenagers will need parental approval using a parent-set PIN to relax any protected settings. Keep the conversation open and set up the controls together, remembering that parents can adjust or switch them off at any time.

MANAGE CHANNELS AND AI

Explore the new settings for Channels, Status updates, and Meta AI. Parents can restrict Channels to approved selections or prevent teenagers from viewing them. They can also choose Meta AI's stricter 'Limited Content' option, which restricts certain topics. Remind young people that AI can produce inaccurate information and encourage them to question responses rather than accepting them at face value.

MONITOR GROUP ACTIVITY SAFELY

New parental controls notify adults when teenagers join or leave groups, or when a group grows significantly in size. These alerts can help identify potentially concerning interactions without revealing private messages. Encourage young people to discuss unfamiliar groups, uncomfortable conversations, or pressure from other members and that they can leave, mute, or report if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

PRIORITISE TRUST AND COMMUNICATION

Parental controls should support conversations about online safety, not replace them. Explain that WhatsApp's new features do not give adults access to private messages or calls, helping teenagers understand that their privacy remains protected. Reassure young people that they can speak openly about upsetting content, unwanted contact, or pressure from other group members.

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.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

@wake_up_weds /wuw.thenationalcollege @wake.up.wednesday @wake.up.weds

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Headteacher's Awards

Well done to everyone who received an award in celebration assembly today!



Chestnut: **Kartar** for showing enthusiasm and fabulous singing of our new songs. **Phoebe** for following our class agreements and always listening carefully.

Elm: **Milo** for enthusiasm for making a wheel mechanism in DT; **Emily** for some fabulous blending when reading.

Ash: **Sienna S** for settling in really well to St Nicolas and coming into school each day with a smile. **Amar** for listening to feedback in maths and improving how to set his number line out.

Oak: **Megan** for amazing effort in class and brilliantly explaining her mathematical thinking and reasoning. **Immy** for writing a fantastic set of instructions for making a Neolithic Stone Age axe and for her positive enthusiasm for learning.

Pine: **Ava** for excellent singing in music this week. **Hakeem** for focussing well and following all school values with all adults.

Willow: **Sam** for astonishing natural musicality! Picking up a trumpet for the very first time and immediately playing to a high standard. **Violet** for writing clear and concise instructions on how to play their Greek mythology game showing fairness and fun.

Fir: **Amos** for articulately teaching the class the process for a maths reasoning problem. **Hazel M** for applying her talent for creativity to her thoughtful, descriptive spelling sentences

And finally...

Happy bag reminder for Monday please and still time to get your raffle tickets on www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/st-nicolas-school-pta-christmas-raffle--2026. See you at the Fair tomorrow!

Ms Holmes and the staff

PTA and community news





🎟️ Buy your tickets here: https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/st-nicolas-school-pta-christmas-raffle--2026


happy school bag
Friendly Reminder
Hoppy wants to remind you, your school's clothing collection is soon! Get your bags ready. Bring as much as you can, even use extra bags if needed. More donations mean more funds for the school's reinvestment! Let's make it count!
Hoppy
SCHOOL
Your Collection Date is:
Monday 23rd November