



# St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School



Thursday, 2nd April 2026



### This week's Gospel

***"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."***

John 3: 14-21

### A message from Mrs. Rawlinson

Our Spring term and Lenten journey have come to a close with a very special, reflective and moving Easter Service in church, led by the children.

In song and reading, the children told the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. The readings delivered by the Year 6 children were clear and confident and the singing by the whole school was impeccable.

Well done to you all for making it such a significant and memorable occasion for our school family.

As always, thank you to the adults who gave up their time to help escort the children safely to and from church. Your help is always greatly appreciated. Thankyou.

It certainly has been an eventful Spring term with so much going on in school; from Lenten walks, Young Voices concert and Rock Steady concerts, World Book Day fun, fundraising activities and lots of sports competitions to name but a few of the wonderful and fun activities that go on in school to enhance the children's experiences and education. Many thanks to the staff who work so hard in making sure the children have the best experiences in school.

I would like to wish our school family a happy, holy and restful Easter break.

### Parental Questionnaire

Many thanks to all the parents who have taken the time to complete the questionnaire sent out electronically. Your feedback is greatly valued and truly appreciated.

We have received some very thoughtful and insightful comments, along with excellent suggestions for school improvement—thank you for sharing these with us.

I will take time to carefully consider all responses, and we will look to address key themes at the next parents' forum meeting.

**The next parents forum meeting will be on Monday, 18th May at 4.30pm.**

Growing Together in God's Love

**Easter Bingo**

Thank you to all the families who attended the bingo last Thursday evening.  
Special thank you to the parents who volunteered their time to help organise and run the event.  
We raised £320!

**School Milk - Reception Over 5's, Year 1 & Year 2**

From 13th April, children over five will no longer receive daily milk through the school's subsidised scheme. A letter with details on how to order school milk for your child going forward was sent home this week.

We will continue to supply milk free of charge for children under five.

**PTFA Lottery**

The March & April draws took place during assembly on Friday. Well done to the lucky winners:

**March**

- 1st prize £40 No 39 Rachel Jones
- 2nd prize £15 No 6 Denise Caterall

**April**

- 1st prize £40 No 10 Collette & Ian Davies Kerwin
- April 2nd prize £15 No 51 Nicola Colquitt

**Fundraising help**

Throughout the year, fundraising events such as the Christmas fayre, Easter Bingo, Christmas Card designs etc are organised by parents volunteering their time. The aim is to host fun events for the children/families to enjoy while trying to raise money which can be spent on the children to enhance their enjoyment and learning at school.

Anyone is welcome to help out or have a go at organising an event and all help is really appreciated as many hands make light work. If you are able to help in any way, no matter how small, please let us know.

**Reminder—End of Term**

Today is our last day of the spring term.

School will close at 1.30pm today. School reopens for the summer term on Monday, 13th April. The children will be allowed to wear their summer uniform when they return.

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 ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 81% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE

Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning dramatic or extreme content can spread widely and quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that reflects users' past interactions. As a result, young people may see more violent material if they have viewed, commented on, or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.

### WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK

Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection'; however, carrying a weapon increases the risk of victimisation (harm and injury by others) for young people. In addition, carrying a weapon is a serious offence that can lead to police arrest and a criminal record.

### SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT

Encouraging or assisting an offence is a crime in the UK, including via social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding, or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Showing examples of content to a trusted adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further spread violent material by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.

### FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION

Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it depicts 'real-world' violence (as opposed to fictional depictions in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, threats, attacks, and fights – or content that appears to glamorise gang activity – can increase feelings of anxiety or fear among young people. Material that encourages violence targeting people because of their identity, such as their nationality or religion, can also create disproportionate harm for children belonging to these groups.

### AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION

Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their local communities – or the 'outside world' more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoidant and isolating behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling judged for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and leisure time.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### STAY INFORMED

Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly online or in chat groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Remind them never to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.

### DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA

Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, AI-generated material, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explore tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as [reportharmfulcontent.com](https://reportharmfulcontent.com).

### TALK CRIME AND SAFETY

In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be serious criminal consequences for carrying a weapon, taking part in violence, or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as: "What could you do if you feel unsafe?" Work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if they witness or experience violence.

### ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION

Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their local communities. Discuss strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns at any time via [childline.org.uk](https://childline.org.uk).

### Meet Our Expert

Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in a digital context. She works in schools to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of rapidly advancing technologies.



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# Growing Together in God's Love

## Important Dates for your Diary

### April

- 2nd - **End of Spring Term: break for Easter holiday at 1.30pm**
- 7th - First day of Easter Sports Camp (Healthy Active Lifestyles)
- 8th - Second day of Easter Sports Camp (Healthy Active Lifestyles)
- 13th - Return to school start of Summer Term 1
- 14th - Acorn Farm visiting school for Nursery & Reception
- 24th - PTFA Quiz Night - LSH Rugby Club
- 28th - Year 3 visit to World Museum Liverpool
- 28th - Personal Awareness Session for Year 6 delivered by Carl Finney (Judo Education)

### May

- 1st - Year 5 visiting Tatton Park
- 4th - May Day Bank Holiday - school closed
- 16th - Year 4 First Holy Communion
- 22nd - May Procession (11am)
- 22nd - Break for Whit Half-term (3.20pm)

### June

- 8th - Return to school start of Summer Term 2
- 12th - Year 5 & 6 visit to Edge Hill University
- 12th - Year 4 start weekly swimming lessons at Queens Park (5 sessions)
- 15th - Reception Vision Screening
- 15th - School Nurse Drop in Session—2.45-3.45pm
- 16th - Academy Photography in for Leavers Photo's
- 19th - 1st Non-uniform day for Summer Fayre donations
- 26th - 2nd Non-uniform day for Summer Fayre donations
- 29th - Start of De La Salle transition week for Year 6 (Monday –Thursday)

### July

- 3rd - PTFA Summer Fayre—3.30pm
- 10th - Year 6 Leavers Mass - 11am in Church
- 10th - Last swim session for Year 4
- 10th - Year 6 Leavers Party—6pm LSH
- 19th - **End of Summer Term : break for Summer holiday at 1.30pm**

### **Attendance**

Good attendance at school is not just valuable —  
it is essential.



For week ending Thursday, 2nd April 2026 the whole school attendance is 94.7%

Reception = 98.9%  
Year 1 = 96.1%  
Year 2 = 97.1%  
Year 3 = 96.1%  
Year 4 = 88.5%  
Year 5 = 93.1%  
Year 6 = 93.5%