

St Martin's Newsletter






Autumn TERM 2025/2026

Friday 28th November

Attendance




We are finally back above 90% with this week's attendance at **91%**. Remember to visit [Should I keep my child off school](#) for advice when your child is ill.

			
	Attendance	Lateness	Class Dojo
Nursery	81.62%	3	5.4
Reception	97.53%	6	6.4
Year 1	96.07%	1	6.1
Year 2	98.46%	2	8.2
Year 3	92.97%	5	7.4
Year 4	88.36%	10	2.8
Year 5	88.42%	4	9.0
Year 6	85.82%	4	5.5

Year 5 win the bonus break for most average dojos this week.

St Martin's Stars

Well done to all our certificate winners this week!

			
	Shining Star	Purple Tie	Our Values
Nursery	Mason T		Bonnie C
Reception	Bobby T	George P	Reuben L
Year 1	Paxton L	Daisy A	Daisy A
Year 2	Isla S	Alex C	Theo F
Year 3	Kingsley N	Kingsley N	Patrick G
Year 4	Francis M	Kasi N	Rosalie C
Year 5	Tyler R	Amelia F	Lennocks R
Year 6	Jayden F	Oliver P	Sofia L

Divine Saviour Christmas Fair

On Saturday the Parish of Divine Saviour is holding their Christmas Fair. This will be at Our Lady's in Palacefields from 11am to 4pm. There will be a variety of stalls including facepainting for the children. Please stop by if you have the time.

Message from Mrs Ming

On Tuesday we had our termly lockdown drill and all children were amazing as usual as they love playing hide and seek with me 😊.

Unfortunately, no classes had no lates so there will be no additional reward but well done to the huge amount of children who made it in on time every day this week.

All Christmas dates can be found at the bottom of this newsletter, please note we have added an extra performance for KS2 and each date has classes allocated to it to make sure that everyone has the chance to see it.

Have a lovely weekend.

Parent Notice Board

Tuesday 2nd December

Year 2 trip to Frodsham for the Christmas Journey

Wednesday 3rd December

Whole school mass for the start of Advent

Saturday 6th December

Choir singing at the Town Hall open day 11am

Clubs

Clubs will run until week beginning 8th December.

Tuesday:

Y3 and Y4 Christmas Arts and Crafts with Mrs Moseley

Y4 and Y5 Christmas Film club with Mrs Parker

Homework club With Mrs Wilson for all children in KS2

Thursday:

Y5 and Y6 Multisports club with Mr Cullen

Friday:

Choir KS2 with Mr Scott (extra practice on Tuesdays)

Lego Club YR, Y1, Y2 with Mrs Williams

KS2 TTRockstars

Last week we celebrated the hard work that KS2 had done to achieve 1000th place in the national competition but we failed to mention two unsung rockstars in KS1 – Harry S in Y1 and Ellenor in Y2 who both contributed to this amazing

achievement. Well done to you both! 😊



Catholic Life and Reflection

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel](#) with their families.

All parents and families are welcome to join us for Mass on Wednesday 3rd December at 10am to celebrate the start of Advent.

Safety Advice

This guide examines the [TikTok app](#), highlighting risks such as inappropriate content, data misuse, addictive use, and stranger contact.

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](#).

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION 13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's Following Feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.9 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](#) [/wuw.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

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Christmas Dates

- Carol singing at Town hall open day – Choir - Saturday 6th December 11am
- Carol singing at Shopping City – Choir – Wednesday 10th December
- A Christmas Journey - Y2 – Tuesday 2nd December
- EYFS Christmas Nativity – Tuesday 9th December 1.30pm
- KS1 Christmas performance - Thursday 11th December 1.30pm
- KS2 Christmas Performance – Tuesday 16th December 1.30pm Y3&4 parents
- A Christmas Carol – Y3 – Wednesday 17th December
- KS2 Christmas Performance – Thursday 18th December 9.15am Y5&6 parents
- Christmas Dinner Day – Friday 12th December
- Christmas Parties – Friday 19th December (school closes at 1.30pm)