



Barty Bugle

23RD JANUARY 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

Dear St Bartholomew's community,

We would like to begin with an apology for the absence of newsletters since November and to thank you sincerely for your patience and understanding.

The first three weeks of the Spring term have absolutely flown by, and it has been wonderful to see how quickly the children have settled back into school life. They have returned with enthusiasm, positivity, and a real eagerness to learn.

Little Acorns have had a lovely start to the term, learning all about the story of The Three Little Pigs and developing their maths skills by practising subitising to 3.

Acorn Class have also been working brilliantly. They have been writing thoughtful questions about their class story, The Comet, as well as exploring how larger shapes can be created from smaller ones in maths. In science, they have been learning about the human body and our senses, and in RE, they have been looking at symbols and artefacts belonging to both the Muslim and Christian faiths.

Oak Class have been learning about mass and volume during maths lessons. The children have enjoyed getting "hands on" when estimating and comparing the capacity of different sized containers, and during their investigations into the mass of various objects found in the classroom. The children have become increasingly confident in reading scales and identifying the intervals in which varying scales may go up in. In English, we have introduced our latest story 'Frindleswylde'. Set in a land that is coated in ice and snow, the children have been exploring a range of descriptive language techniques to describe it, including noun of noun phrases and similes. Oak class have also got into character and created their own dialogue between our two main characters: Cora and the cunning Frindlesylde, ensuring that they use inverted commas to punctuate direct speech.

Our teachers have also been busy, taking part in RE training alongside our sister school, Hollinsclough Academy, which has been a valuable opportunity for shared learning and collaboration.

Team Barty

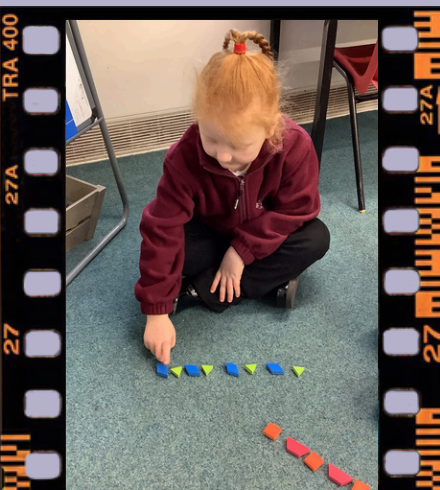
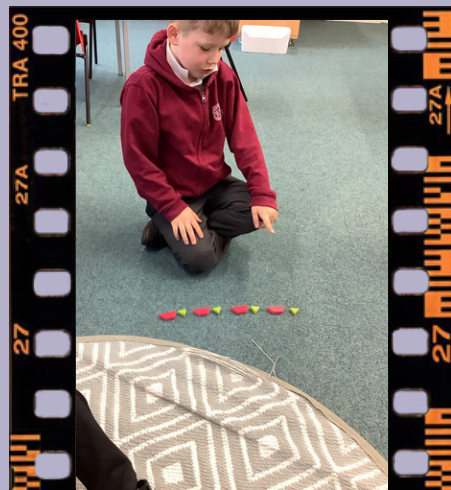
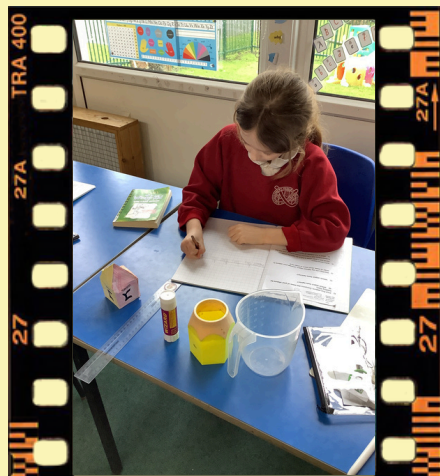
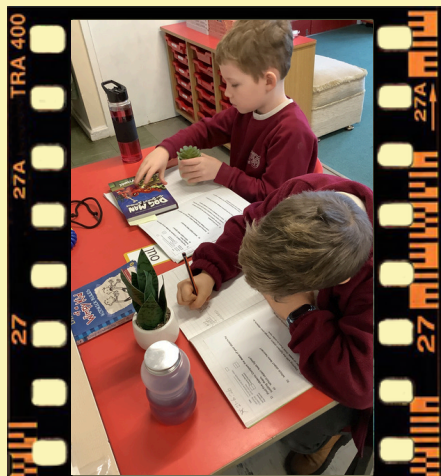
ATTENDANCE

National Target: 95%

School Attendance: 99.34%

School Value for this half term

COURAGE





WEEKLY AWARDS

WELL DONE TO ALL OF THIS WEEK'S AWARD WINNERS!



MENU

Autumn / Winter 2025-26			
	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
MONDAY	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Chocolate & Vanilla Swirl Cookie (ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Vanilla Snap (ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Lemon Biscuit (ve)
TUESDAY	Classic Mac & Cheese Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Apple Cake (v)	Italian Sausage Pasta Bake Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Jaffa Cake Sponge (v)	Sausage with Mash & Gravy Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Oaty Apple & Rhubarb Crumble with custard (v)
WEDNESDAY	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Fruit Jelly (ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Fruit Jelly (ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Fruit Jelly (ve)
THURSDAY	Homestyle Sausage Roll with Mash & Gravy Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Flapjack (ve)	Cottage Pie Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Flapjack (ve)	Penne with Beef Bolognese Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Choco Krispie Bite(Ve)
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Banana Custard Ice Cream (v) 01/09/25, 22/09/25, 13/10/25, 03/11/25, 24/11/25, 15/12/25, 05/01/26, 26/01/26	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Banana Custard Ice Cream (v) 06/09/25, 29/09/25, 20/10/25, 10/11/25, 01/12/25, 12/01/26	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Alt: Choice of Filled Jackets or Sandwiches Veg of the Day Banana Custard Ice Cream (v) 15/09/25, 06/10/25, 17/11/25, 08/12/25, 19/01/26, 09/02/26

Freshly baked bread, salad, and fresh drinking water available daily

V – Vegetarian Ve – Vegan

Week commencing 26th January we will be on week one of the menu

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

These are the dates that we have planned in at the moment - please keep an eye out each week for new dates and any changes. Items in **bold** have been added since the last news letter.

- 16th to 20th February - Half term break
- 23rd February - Change to Spring/Summer menu (see below)
- 5th March - World Book Day
- 30th March to 10th April - Easter break
- 4th May - Early May Bank holiday
- 25th May to 29th May - Half term break
- 1st June - Inset day (school closed to children)



SPRING/SUMMER MENU (From 23rd February)

Spring / Summer 2025-26			
WEEK ONE		WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
MONDAY	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Chocolate & Vanilla Swirl Cookie (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Vanilla Snap (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Lemon Biscuit (Ve)
TUESDAY	Classic Mac & Cheese (V) Veg of the Day Cinnamon Apple Cake (V)	Spring Turkey Bow Tie Pasta Veg of the Day Flapjack (Ve)	Sausage with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Choco Krispie Bite (Ve)
WEDNESDAY	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)
THURSDAY	Homestyle Sausage Roll with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Banana-Topped Strawberry Mousse (V)	Chicken Stir-Fry Rice Veg of the Day Banana-Topped Strawberry Mousse (V)	Penne with Beef Bolognese Veg of the Day Banana-Topped Strawberry Mousse (V)
FRIDAY	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Chocolate Brownie (Ve)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Chocolate Brownie (Ve)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Chocolate Brownie (Ve)
23/2/26, 16/3/26, 6/4/26, 27/4/26, 18/5/26, 8/6/26, 29/6/26		2/3/26, 23/3/26, 13/4/26, 4/5/26, 25/5/26, 15/6/26, 6/7/26	9/3/26, 30/3/26, 20/4/26, 11/5/26, 1/6/26, 22/6/26, 13/7/26
<p>Choice of Filled Jacket Potatoes and Sandwiches (including V/Ve options) are also available daily along with freshly baked bread, salad, fresh fruit, jelly (Ve), yoghurts (V) and fresh drinking water.</p>			

V - Vegetarian
Ve - Vegan

SAFEGUARDING

#WakeUpWednesday from The National College aims to equip every trusted adult with the knowledge and skills they need to keep up with the latest information, implement best practice and heighten their awareness of issues around three core topics; online safety, mental health & wellbeing; and climate change & sustainability.

This week's topic is focused on Roblox

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 ROBLOX

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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