



Barty Bugle

15TH MAY 2026

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

Dear St Bartholomew's community,

We cannot quite believe that the Summer 1 half term draws to a close next week—it has gone incredibly quickly!

A reminder that a letter was sent out on 8th May regarding staffing arrangements for the second half of the summer term. If you have not seen this, please could you check your junk or spam folders, as we are aware that some email accounts filter messages from Arbor as “junk.”

We also have some upcoming non-uniform days in exchange for tombola prizes. Please check the **“Dates for Your Diary”** section to make sure you don't miss these.

♥ Mental Health Awareness Week

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, the children have spent time learning about their feelings and how to manage them. We have discussed different emotions and when we might experience them, helping the children to recognise and talk about how they feel. The children have also explored simple activities to help them self-regulate, such as taking deep breaths, having quiet reflection time, and using calming strategies they can return to when needed. It has been wonderful to see them developing their confidence in expressing their feelings and supporting one another.

🌿 Little Acorn Class

We have really enjoyed beginning to learn about how to keep our minds healthy. The children have taken part in mindful activities such as Relaxation Rainbow, Melting Man, and circle time discussions about feelings.

We have also been impressing Miss Williams, Miss Malkin and Mrs Haslam with our counting skills—especially when adding one more!

Our focus story has been One More Try, and we have used its message across our learning. Whether building towers and then improving them, or creating models with play dough and having “one more try” to make them even better, the children have shown fantastic perseverance.

🌿 Acorn Class

This week in Maths, we have been learning about doubling and halving, building on our understanding of number. In English, the children have been writing their own version of Lost and Found, using adjectives and connectives to make their ideas more detailed and engaging. In PE, we continued developing our ball skills, focusing on throwing, catching and tracking the ball with increasing control. As part of our Science topic on scientists and inventors, we learnt about Mae Jemison, a scientist and astronaut, and the children enjoyed thinking of thoughtful questions they would ask if they met her. In DT, we explored how to create a lever and pivot mechanism and used this knowledge to design and make a moving Jack and the Beanstalk picture.

🌿 Oak Class

In Oak Class this week, the children have come to the end of our topic on multiplication in maths, with a focus on divisibility rules for multiples of 4 and 8, as well as looking at what happens when a number is scaled by a multiple of 10. Meanwhile, we have continued to read the BFG in guided reading and the children have been using their comprehension skills to answer questions about the text. In English, Oak have been including their dialogue within a short narrative, using verbs and adverbs to describe the actions of the characters. The children have enjoyed learning about animal teeth in Science and what these can tell us about their diets and place in the food chain, while in Computing Oak used their creativity to design their own magazine cover.

Finally, thank you for your continued support of our fabulous little school - it is always greatly appreciated.

Team Barty

ATTENDANCE

National Target: 95%
School Attendance: 100%

NOTICES

Non-Uniform Days

We will be holding non-uniform days on Friday 22nd May and Friday 5th June in exchange for tombola prizes for our upcoming summer fair. Please can we ask that sensible shoes continue to be worn for non-uniform days.

Raffle Prizes

Our PTA have been in touch with companies to enquire if they would be willing to donate a raffle prize for our summer fair. If you know someone who would be willing to donate a raffle prize - please ask them to get in touch.

Staffing for Summer 2 half term

If you have not seen the letter about staffing for when Mrs Pantev starts her maternity leave, please check your junk mail; a letter was emailed out on 8th May.

Staffing for 2026/27 Academic Year

We understand that waiting to hear about staffing arrangements for the new academic year may feel unsettling but please rest assured that it is not unusual for this information to be shared with families during the second half of the summer term.

Please be reassured that as soon as decisions are finalised and confirmed, we will share this information with families promptly and clearly.

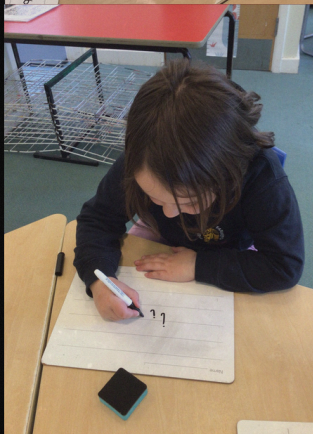
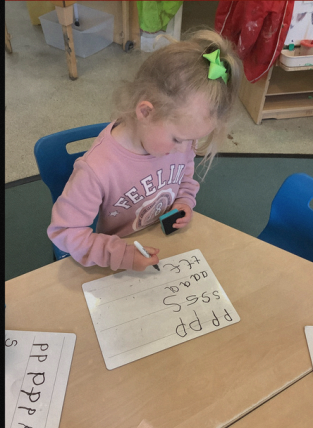
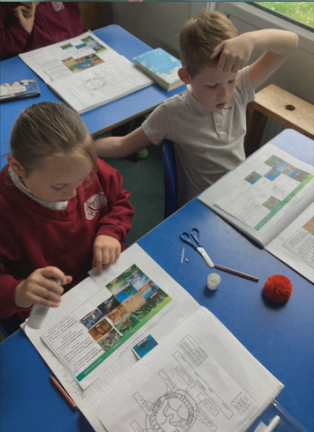
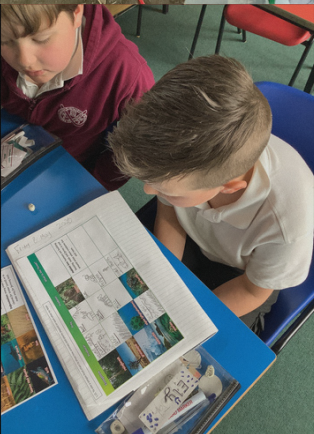
In the meantime, we would like to reassure you that St Bartholomew's remains fully committed to providing a rich, fulfilling, and nurturing curriculum, delivered by a dedicated and highly skilled team of staff who place our pupils at the heart of everything they do.

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.

- 20th May - PTA AGM (3:30pm) - Everyone welcome!
- **22nd May - Non-uniform day in exchange for tombola prizes**
- 25th May to 29th May - Half term break
- 1st June - Inset day (school closed to children)
- 2nd June - School re-opens to pupils
- 2nd June - Y4/5 pupils to Inspire event at Lichfield Cathedral
- **5th June - Non-uniform day in exchange for tombola prizes**
- 14th June - Summer Fair & Longnor Open
- 24th to 26th June - Oak Class residential
- 17th July - School finishes for summer holidays





COMMUNITY



PTA AGM

20th May 2026

3:30pm

Everyone welcome!

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 the very scary but very real topic of Online Grooming

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

ONLINE GROOMING

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.



See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.03.2026

WEEKLY AWARDS

WELL DONE TO THIS WEEK'S AWARD WINNERS!



MENU

	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)	Italian Sausage Pasta Bake 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

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.

Next week we will be on week one of the menu