



Faith; We live it, love it and learn it.



Friday 7th March



MASS TIMES THIS WEEK AT ST GEORGE AND ST TERESA

9th March — 1st Sunday of Lent

Saturday 5.30pm

Sunday 8.45am (Children's Liturgy—please come along as a family).

10.30am

Dear Parents/Carers,

Lent

The liturgical season of Lent began on Wednesday. EYFS and Year 1 had a service in school to think more about this important time and receive their ashes from Father John. Years 2- 6 went to church and joined in this special occasion with other members of our parish community. The children have been thinking about how they can live the message of Easter prayer, fasting and alms giving.



Science Week 2025

British Science Week 2025 starts today. The children got into the swing of it by producing some brilliant Science projects, based on the theme of *change and adapt*. We had so many and such high quality work, we had a Science Fayre in school on Monday. Everyone was very excited to see and learn about what people had produced.



Best wishes,

Mrs Flanagan and Mr Hainie



This half term, the children are focussing on the virtues of **attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

Our Catholic Social Teaching focus this half-term is for the option for the **poor and vulnerable**.

This reminds us of God's preferential love for the poorest and most vulnerable people. God's love is universal.

The latest Wednesday Word is available at <https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/lent?pid=MTA101634&v=168.5>



We were delighted to welcome Emma from Father Hudson's Caritas who shared with the children their Lenten Good Shepherd Appeal to 'Pledge a Pound'. Every child is asked to make their own container at home, personalise in a style showing love and care for others, and put any change they would like to donate into it.



Father John in School

Year 3 held a special service with Father John last week helping prepare for Lent. There were two services for Ash Wednesday—one at church and one in school.

St Chad's Sanctuary

Some children from Year 5 visited St Chad's Sanctuary in Birmingham with Mrs Flanagan. They learned about some of the challenges facing refugees in our area and also some of the things we can do to help. Watch this space...



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World Book Day

Thursday March 6th was World Book Day. The children dressed up as a character from a favourite book and brought the books in. There were reading-themed activities through the day and real emphasis on the joy of reading.





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2CG24-25 Reads!



In February 2025, students have read...

32 Books
92,480 Words
for **8 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader*

4PM24-25 Reads!



In February 2025, students have read...

56 Books
384,294 Words
for **20 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader*

Year 3 Reads!



In February 2025, students have read...

18 Books
68,732 Words
for **5 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader*

St George and St Teresa Catholic Primary School Reads!



In this school year, students have read...

1,658 Books
11,678,321 Words
for **8 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader*

Year 5 Reads!



In February 2025, students have read...

30 Books
558,326 Words
for **19 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader*

Year 6 Reads!



In February 2025, students have read...

28 Books
851,984 Words
for **27 minutes/day!**
(individual student average)

RENAISSANCE
Accelerated Reader*



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Vocations Day—20th May

We're looking for volunteers! Would you be able to spend some time from your day coming in to talk to the children about your career?

If you can, please contact the office to let us know.

Rare Disease Day

Friday 28th February was Rare Disease Day. The children have been learning about some rare diseases, the impacts they have, and how we can all advocate for the 3.5 million people in the UK who have rare diseases.

Visit from Chief Exec

Peter Davis, Chief Executive of Our Lady and All Saints MAC, came to visit our School Council to discuss what school was like at St G&T—what do we do well and what could we do even better. He was blown away by the children's ideas and questions, especially their desire to make difference.



Science Fayre at Tudor Grange

Following a two-stage democratic process involving classes and School Council, Kasper, Bradley, Matilda and Sam represented our school at a Science Fayre at Tudor Grange sponsored by National Grid. They were able to showcase their projects, see those of other children and have a go at some exhibits. We won an award for the most innovative display. Well done!





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Sports Updates

Huge congratulations to our boys and girls football teams. Last week, the boys went to an event hosted by Birmingham City Football Club and competed against teams from all over Birmingham and Solihull. They played brilliantly, finishing second and qualifying for a finals day at BCFC's training ground in the summer term. **Hot off the press**—today it was the girls team—again, they played brilliantly and actually **won** their group, finishing top against all the opposition.

On league duty, the boys had two fixtures last night. First was a very entertaining 1-1 draw against St Andrew's which was followed by strong 8-0 victory against St James.



PTFA Events and Dates

Thursday 27 March: Lunch with the children

Friday 4 April: Easter Disco 6-7pm
Nursery & Infants, 7-8pm Juniors

Sunday 18 May: Knowle Fun Run

We're looking for runners to get sponsorship to raise funds for PTFA

Friday 11 July School Summer Fayre

St George and St Teresa's time to shine!!!

Headteacher's award

Nursery: Cillian

Reception: Arthur A

Year 1: Niamh

Year 2: Teddy-Mae

Year 3: Conor

Year 4: Lily-Rose

Year 5: Isabella

Year 6: Oscar



Catholic Social Teaching award

Nursery: Arthur

Reception: Tommy-Lee

Year 1: Tadhg

Year 2: Ella

Year 3: Aida

Year 4: Georgia

Year 5: Aoife-Bella

Year 6: Louis



St Teresa's Little Way award



Nursery: Annie

Reception: Henry

Year 1: Oliver

Year 2: Harry

Year 3: Luisa

Year 4: Ayla

Year 5: Teddy

Year 6: Leo

Science award



Nursery: Ezra

Reception: Charlie

Year 1: Mason

Year 2: Kasper

Year 3: Verity

Year 4: Matilda

Year 5: Ewan H

Year 6: Sam



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Mobile phones—some information and advice about WhatsApp.

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 WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. The UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging, but for the time being, this controversial feature remains.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' – plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user they want to message. Therefore, if a child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that the child might be added to a group chat or community (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allow news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a 'Forwarded many times' label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK AND SECRET CODES

In 2023, WhatsApp introduced a feature that lets users keep their chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind their phone's passcode, fingerprint or face ID. There is an additional feature – 'Secret Code' – where users set a unique password for locked chats. Unfortunately, this creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of.

VIEW ONCE CONTENT

The ability to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate material or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't reopen them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this disappearing content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing protection of privacy.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's Live Location feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child is safe while out, for example. However, anyone in a user's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except... Additionally, if a child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Check in with the child about how they're using WhatsApp, making sure they know you only have their safety at heart. If you spot a Locked Chats folder, you might want to talk about the sort of content they've stored in there, who they're talking to, and why they want to keep these chats hidden. Also, if children send any View Once content, it could be helpful to ask them why.

DISCUSS GROUP CHATS

Make children aware that there could be members of a group that they don't know well and that words can be misinterpreted. Encourage them to leave a good impression, to avoid joining in if conversations turn towards bullying, and to respond to such situations in an appropriate way. Make sure they know that it's OK to leave a group chat if it makes them uncomfortable – or for any reason, in fact.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content that a user posts to be shared more widely, even publicly on social media. Encourage children to consider how an impulsive message or forwarding might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

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.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp=2025>

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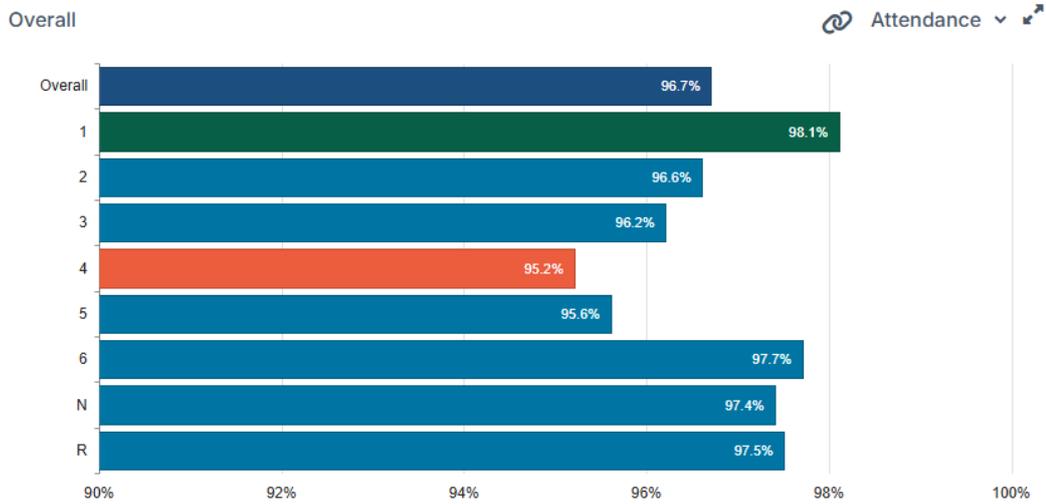


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MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.

Well done, Year 1, pipping Year 6, Reception and Nursery for attendance over the last four weeks.



Parking around school

We ask you to be considerate to our neighbours when parking. Thank you for your continued understanding and co-operation.



Nut free school

Please remember we are a nut free school. Even traces of nuts brought in by one child can have serious implications for other children.



St George & St Teresa Primary School - Dates for the Diary

Masses at Church

March

Sunday 16th Church 8.45 am. Led by Year 5 (Date change)

April

Sunday 6th Church 8.45 am. Led by Year 4

Thursday 10th KS2 Palm Sunday Mass. Church 10.00 am. Led by Year 3.

Spring Term Parent Meetings

Wednesday Thursday 13th March

Other

Thursday 27th March—Mini Vinnie Bake Sale

Week beginning 31st March—Year 5 Bikeability

Maths Workshops

Thursday 3rd April—Year 2 9.15 am

Friday 4th April—Reception 9.15 am

Monday 7th April—Year 5 9.15 am

Monday 7th April—Year 3 2.15 pm

Tuesday 8th April—Year 1 9.15 am

Tuesday 8th April—Year 6 2.15 pm

Wednesday 9th April—Nursery 9.15 am

Wednesday 9th April—Year 4 2.15 pm