



St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

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Newsletter
March 2025

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to our March newsletter! As we move through March, we are delighted to witness the arrival of beautiful spring weather, blossoming spring flowers, and longer days filled with light. This month also marks the Season of Lent, a time of reflection and preparation as we approach the most significant event in the Church's calendar – Easter.

This month we are also thrilled to share the excitement of another successful World Book Day celebration at our school.

We want to emphasise the importance of reading and vocabulary acquisition in your child's learning journey. Research shows that a child's vocabulary at age 5 is a significant predictor of their future success and mental well-being. Children with limited vocabulary are three times more likely to experience mental health issues as adults.

Therefore we urge you to continue reading with your children regularly, as it is one of the most impactful activities you can engage in with them. Let's nurture their love for learning and language together!

As we continue to navigate through the academic year, we are grateful for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's education. Together, we strive to create a nurturing and enriching environment for every student to grow and learn.

On behalf of myself and our wonderful team may we take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful Easter holiday when it arrives

Best Wishes and God Bless Sarah Pascoe

THE CATHOLIC LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL



19th March was St. Joseph's Day. To celebrate our Patron Saint the whole school walked to church in Newton Abbot town centre where we attended a special Mass for our school. We ended the day celebrating in our classes. St. Joseph was the husband of Mary and is known for his love, devotion and steadfast faith in God. He is also the patron saint of fathers among other things.



STARS OF THE WEEK



VALUE GUARDIANS

Rosie Easterbrook Lucy Harris Isaac Heyworth- Maclean Whole Class		Elijah Evans Ellie Rowe Whole Class
Violet		Isaac

STARS OF THE WEEK



VALUE GUARDIANS

Nicolas Amelia Andrii Michael		Bella Ebru Tori Kyleigh
Logan		Maisie Amelia



CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



We had an **amazing** time on *World Book Day*, dressing up as favorite characters or getting cosy in pajamas while sharing stories! 📖✨

In **Forest School**, we made delicious porridge like *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* 🥣, and in **Design & Technology**, the children been using a needle and thread to create beautiful bookmarks. 🧵📖

A month full of creativity and fun!





CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

💖💐💫 We had a **lovely** Mother's Day assembly and Stay & Play morning, celebrating all the amazing ladies in our lives! 💫💐💖





CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

St. Vincent's March Highlights 🌸☀️📖

March has been a busy and exciting month at St. Vincent's! The children have enjoyed extra PE lessons in the beautiful spring sunshine, making the most of the fresh air and outdoor activities. We also had a fantastic **Dogs Trust workshop**, where pupils learned about responsible pet care and the amazing work the charity does. **Forest School** has been full of adventure, with fun outdoor learning sessions helping the children connect with nature. A definite highlight was our **magnificent World Book Day**, where creativity and a love of reading took center stage! From wonderful costumes to engaging storytelling.

Looking forward to more exciting moments as we head into April!





CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

In PE we have been learning how to work together collaboratively as a team, learning the rules of Tag Rugby!



As Scientists, we investigated in order to prove if our predictions were correct. We discussed the importance of a fair test and how Scientists must ensure all conditions are the same, except the one variable: the surface which we changed.

In RE we have been considering the stations of the cross. When we went to mass at St Joseph's church we looked closely at each station represented in beautiful art, discussing the key moments in each of Christ's journey.





CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS



St Oscar's Exciting March Adventures!

March has been a fun-filled month for St Oscar! Our students took part in the '*Becoming a Mathematician*' workshop at Coombeshead, where they learned some clever maths tricks to share with their classmates. They also had a fascinating experience, creating smoke with their fingertips using a special resin!

In addition, we enjoyed an engaging **Dogs Trust** workshop, and got creative in a **paper-making** workshop. It's been a month full of hands-on learning and new experiences!

Breakfast Club

- Available **Monday – Friday** from **8:00 AM**
- Cost: **£4 per session**



Booking Information:

All bookings should be made via **ParentPay** prior to the session. For any last-minute bookings, please call the **school office**.



After School Club

- Available **Monday – Friday**
- Until **5:00 PM** – **£6.75**
- Until **5:30 PM** – **£10.00**
- **Fridays close at 5:00 PM**



After School Activities

- **Tuesday** – Football



Important Notice:


Any accounts with arrears of **£50 or more** will not be permitted to use the **Breakfast Club** or **After School Clubs** until the balance is cleared.





FRIENDS OF ST JOSEPH




 **Friends of St. Joseph's Easter Treats Raffle!** 

 **Ticket Sales:** Monday 31st March- Wednesday 2nd April

 **Time:** 3:30 - 3:45 PM

 **Location:** School Playground

 **Cost:** £2.00 per strip

The **raffle draw** will take place on **Thursday, 3rd April** – don't miss your chance to win some egg-citing treats! 



10% off birthday parties at iTown & iBounce using code:

StJosephs10







Every Friday – Cookies in the playground after school



Attendance Matters



Attendance Feb/March

	87.08%
	95.32%
	92.53%
	92.80%

Important Notices & Reminders

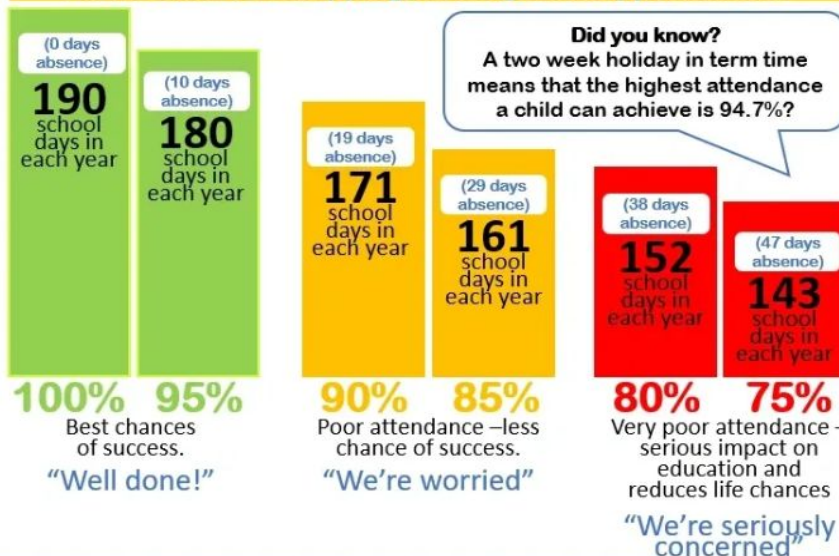
If your child is late for morning registration, arriving late at school after 9am, please ensure you or their accompanying adult reports to the school office to ensure that they are registered.

Good attendance means...
being in school at least 95% of the time or 180 to 190 days

175 days not at school!

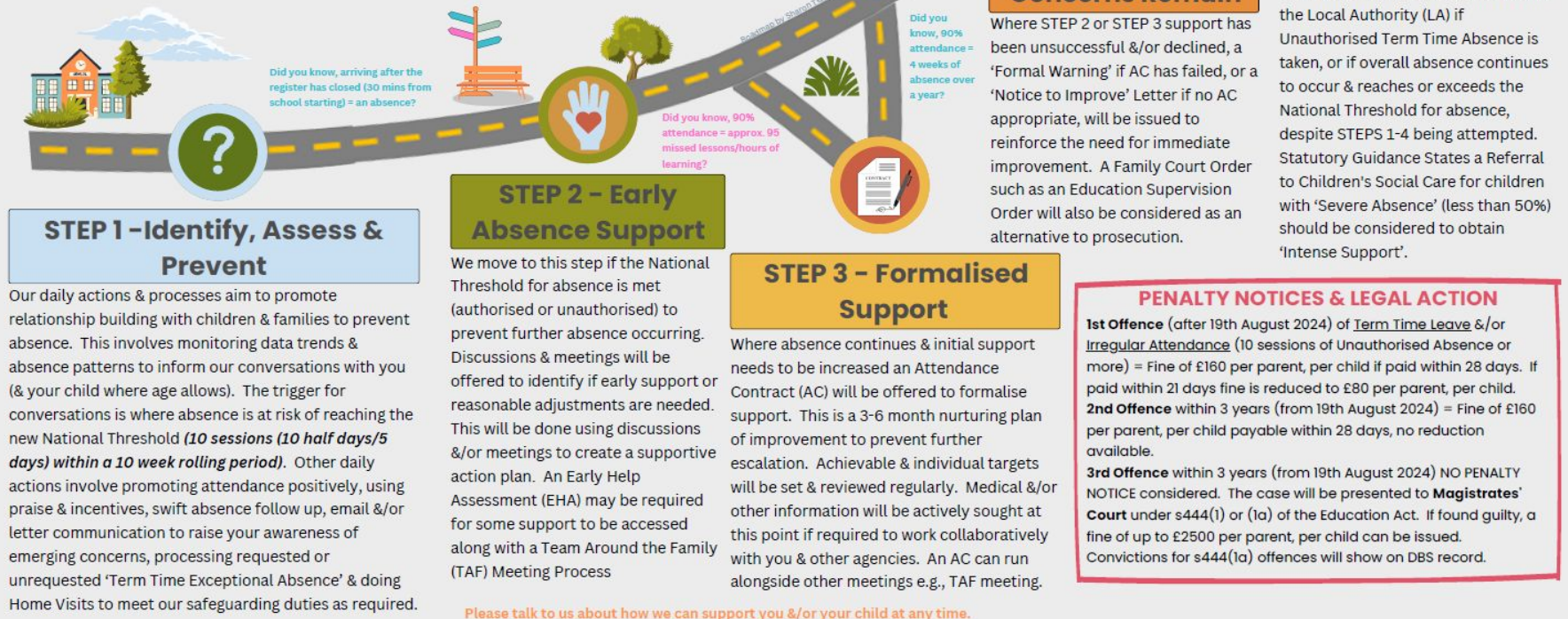
All this time for shopping, holidays and appointments

365 days in a calendar year



Attendance Roadmap

In line with the DfE Statutory Guidance (in force from 19th August 2024) we offer a supportive, stepped, attendance approach. We will offer a welcoming ethos with high expectations for all. We will assess data to identify absence trends & use preventative discussions/meetings with families to listen, understand & support to remove barriers. Where needed, we will formalise support to nurture improvement with Attendance Contracts & as a last resort we will consider intensifying support &/or enforce legal sanctions.



IS MY CHILD TOO ILL FOR SCHOOL?



"THIS MORNING, HE
HAD A STOMACH
ACHE... BUT LOOK
AT HIM NOW!"

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

HM Government

Head to the NHS website to find out more.

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek

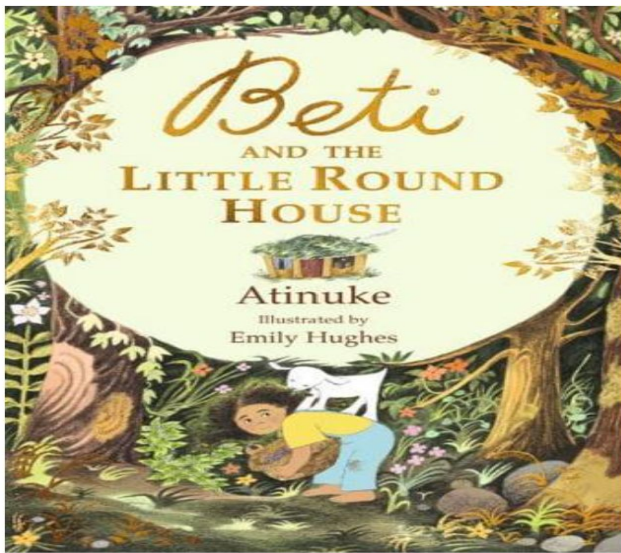


SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minftec>.

30.03.25	Daylight Saving Time begins Mothering Sunday	05.05.25	Early May Bank Holiday - School Closed
31.03.25	Last swimming day for STC	07.05.25	ST TERESA - DAWLISH WARREN TRIP
03.04.25	Easter Draw	12.05.25	Year 6 SATS Week Begins Sun Awareness Week
04.04.25	Holy Week Service - 10:00 am in the school hall - All are welcome. Break up for Easter Holiday	22.05.25	Y5 - Funky Moves - Coombeshead
22.04.25	Summer Term Begins World Earth Day	23.05.25	Break up for Summer Half Term
28.04.25	Swimming begins for Year 2	02.06.25	Non-Pupil Day - School closed
30.04.25	PE Impact Day - Whole School	03.06.25	Children back to school for Summer 2
02.05.25	Y5 - NAC - Sports Festival	17.06.25	Sports Day and Family Pic-Nic



Beti and the Little Round House by Atinuke

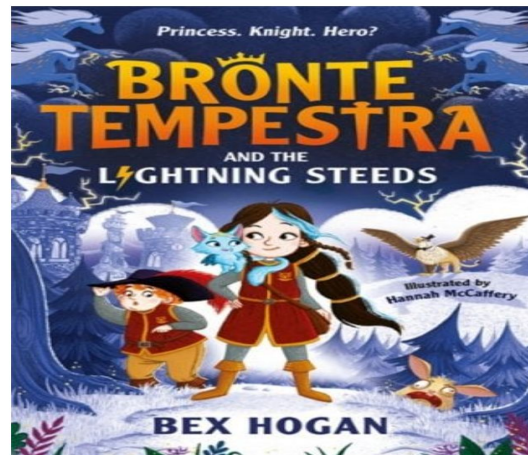
This exquisitely presented hardback collection of diverse short stories celebrates friendship, the wonders of the seasons, and the power of nature. Through Beti's escapades with her family and friends, including her goat, Naughty, young readers will be enchanted by the masterful storytelling and delightful illustrations. Beti and the Little Round House is the perfect short story book for children who are interested in the countryside.

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

**‘ If you don’t like to read,
you haven’t found the right
book. ’ *J.K Rowling***

Bronte Tempestra and the Lightning Steeds by Bex Hogan

In Bex Hogan's enchanting debut we meet Bronte Tempestra, a princess determined to rewrite the rules and become the first princess-knight in the Storm Kingdom. However, knight school isn't the heroic journey she envisioned. When the Lightning Steeds vanish, chaos ensues, and Bronte, accompanied by her gluttonous friend Tonk, must save the kingdom. The narrative, beautifully complemented by Hannah McCaffery's illustrations, combines humour and imagination. A perfect introduction to fantasy adventures for Year 3 children, the story unfolds with a delightful blend of silliness and heroism.





SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding at St. Joseph's is always a priority. Should you have any enquiries or concerns, please contact our Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection: Mrs Day or Mrs Pascoe on 01626 352559. Our named governor for child protection is Tim van Kroonenburg.

WELFARE

Our Family Support Worker is Rachel Ripley. Please let us know if you would like her to contact you for ANY support. Everyone needs a Rachel in their lives!



ATTENDANCE

Hi, my name is Steph, I'm the Attendance and Welfare Officer here at St Joseph's. I monitor attendance regularly to ensure that, where possible, every child is in school on time every day. If you have any concerns around your child's attendance, please leave a message with the office and I will contact you.



CPOMS and Operation encompass

At St. Joseph's we use CPOMS as our system for recording information that we consider to be safeguarding information. Further information about the programme can be found here -

<https://www.cpoms.co.uk/privacy-statement/>

Operation Encompass is the reporting to schools, prior to the start of the next school day, when a child or young person has exposed to, or involved in, any domestic incident.

Operation Encompass will ensure that a member of the school staff, known as a Key Adult, is trained to allow them to liaise with the police and to use the information that has been shared, in confidence, while ensuring that the school is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children, or their families, who have been involved in, or exposed to, a domestic abuse incident.

EASTER SATURDAY

COURTENAY STREET
.....

19TH APRIL, 10AM-2PM

FREE FAMILY EVENT

Crafts with 'Creative Newton Abbot'

Balloon modelling

Face painting

The Hot House Combo

Spectrum Orchestra

Walkabout characters

Easter egg giveaway





PAVILIONS Teignmouth

Children & Families

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES THIS EASTER!




<p>MONDAY 7 APRIL</p> <p>The Amazing Squirrel Circus. 2D stop motion animation workshop. 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM £15.00 (+booking fee). Suitable for ages 5-11 years</p> 	<p>MONDAY 7 APRIL & WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL</p> <p>Dog Man (Film) Cert U / Animation Adventure / 1hr 29mins 2:00 PM Adults £7.00, Children £5.00 (+booking fee)</p> 
<p>WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL & WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL</p> <p>Family Drumming workshop 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM £15.00 for 1 adult & 1 child. £5.00 for each extra child. (+booking fee)</p> 	<p>THURSDAY 10 APRIL</p> <p>Captain America: Brave New World (Film) 2:30pm & 7:30pm Cert 12A / Action Adventure / 1hr 58mins Adults £7.00, Children £5.00 (+booking fee)</p> 
<p>FRIDAY 11 APRIL</p> <p>The Goose & Mrs Frost Live Children's Theatre. 2:00pm £10.00 (+booking fee)</p> 	<p>MONDAY 14 APRIL 2:00PM, WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 2:00PM & THURSDAY 17 APRIL 2:30PM</p> <p>The Sloth Lane (Film) Cert U / Animation Comedy / 1hr 30mins Adults £7.00, Children £5.00 (+booking fee)</p> 

Den Crescent, Teignmouth, TQ14 8BG
For more information, contact us on 01626 249049
or visit our website www.pavilionsteignmouth.org.uk



Libraries
Unlimited

BRUNEL'S ATMOSPHERIC RAILWAY: PLAY, LEARN, EXPLORE!

Monday 14th April
10am-11:30

Newton Abbot Library

Working in teams, children will
learn about Brunel's Atmospheric
Railway through games,
challenges, and quizzes.

Featuring the
library's new Wize
Floor technology!



WizeFloor

Libraries Unlimited is a registered charity 1170092.
To donate, please visit librariesunlimited.org.uk

Ticket price
£2
best suited for ages 8-
11 years



Plant to
takeaway

 **Mane Events**

PLANT & PLAY

- ✓ Wednesday 9th April
- ✓ Thursday 10th April
- ✓ 3 x 90 minute sessions per day
- ✓ £7 per child - ages 3-7
- ✓ Mini plant workshop

PP

Ullacombe
Farm Shop

Tickets &
info in link



10am - 1130am
12pm - 130pm
2pm - 330pm



ONLINE SAFETY TIPS

At The National College, our WakeUp Wednesday guides empower 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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators ENCOURAGING CHILDREN TO CHOOSE RESPECT

Sometimes, differences between children can escalate into bullying, potentially impacting their mental health in a way that can persist into adulthood. While it's natural to disagree sometimes, teaching children the importance of respect is essential – especially in difficult situations. This guide provides strategies for encouraging considerate behaviour, even during a dispute, to foster a kinder, more inclusive environment for everyone.

1. LEAD BY EXAMPLE

As adults, we play a crucial role in modelling respectful behaviour for children: they observe and learn from our actions every day. Be mindful of the way you interact with others in front of children. Keep in mind that you should always approach others with an attitude of mutual respect, even if you disagree with them. Demonstrating this behaviour can influence young people to help them to handle their own conflicts in a healthy way.

2. AGREE TO DISAGREE

Make sure children know that it's fine to have differing opinions – and that disagreeing with someone doesn't mean you can't get along or respect each other's point of view. Help them understand that sometimes we can 'agree to disagree', using active listening skills when doing this can also help to build empathy and understanding of others.

3. PROMOTE ACTIVE LISTENING

Teach children about the importance of active listening: that is, making a genuine effort to listen to the other person's perspective without interrupting, before responding in a way that shows you understand their viewpoint, even for perhaps especially if you disagree with it. This enables people feel respected and valued for a better comprehension of their point of view, which in turn can make it easier for you to communicate your own options to them.

4. ENCOURAGE THE USE OF "I" STATEMENTS

If a child finds themselves in a disagreement with someone, it can be useful to encourage them to use "I" statements during the discussion. Framing their thoughts and feelings using statements like "I feel..." or "I think..." can help them avoid an accusatory tone and encourages them to take responsibility for their own emotions.

5. FOCUS ON BEHAVIOUR, NOT CHARACTER

When disagreements happen, encourage children to focus on critiquing and addressing the specific actions or behaviours that caused the upset, rather than attacking the person's character. For example, "I didn't like how you interrupted me" is better than "you're so rude". This can help children avoid hurting someone's feelings, which is likely to influence the situation.

6. STAY CALM AND TAKE BREAKS

It's perfectly normal to feel upset during a disagreement – especially if it's getting heated. But children that if they feel overwhelmed, they should try to take deep breaths or even go for a short break to help them stay composed. A conversation becomes less intense, nervousness is OK, but not continuing it later or in a different setting. This can prevent things getting out of hand, allowing cooler heads to prevail.

7. START CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RESPECT

Take opportunity to children about what respect means – to you and to them. Discuss how they might show respect to each other, to friends, to strangers and even to people we might disagree with. You could use examples of considerate or disrespectful behaviour in books, films or TV to open discussions about the importance of giving others due regard.

8. SEEK COMMON GROUND

When a disagreement has occurred between children, they may find it hard to move past it. You can support them in finding a more positive way forward by helping identify areas of agreement or common ground with the other party. This can help to build bridges between differing opinions and foster a more cooperative atmosphere, as well as preventing those involved from demonising each other.

9. AVOID MAKING THINGS PERSONAL

It's important that we make it clear to children that they must avoid name-calling, swearing or derogatory language in a disagreement with others. Respectful language sets a positive tone and helps keep the conversation productive. Reminding children to stay calm and take breaks – as mentioned previously – can help them avoid getting too emotional and saying or doing something hurtful.

10. REFLECT AND LEARN

After an incident has happened, encourage them to reflect on the experience and think about what they can learn from it. What they may have well have might help improve their communication skills to handle conflicts more effectively in the future. You could use role play, writing and drawing pictures, or hypothetical scenarios to further develop their skills in resolving conflict during a disagreement.

Meet Our Expert

The Anti-Bullying Alliance (ABA) co-ordinates Anti-Bullying Week each year. ABA is a unique coalition of organisations and individuals, working together to achieve their vision to stop bullying and create safe environments in which children and young people can live, grow, play and learn. They welcome membership from any organisation or individual that supports this vision and support a free network of thousands of schools and colleges.



Source: See full reference list on guide page 20

At The National College, our WakeUp Wednesday guides empower 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 SCAMS AND FAKE NEWS

"Fake news" refers to falsified or misleading material presented as a legitimate account of events. It's often used by malicious actors online to push an agenda, or even by criminals as a way of making scams more persuasive. Scammers can trick us into handing over personal information, security details and even our hard-earned cash.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

"CLICKBAIT" PHISHING SCAMS
A message arrives saying "Here you've seen this video of yourself!" or you might be sent an attractive graphic with a link to a celebrity that's been shared on social media. This kind of "clickbait" is produced by scammers to draw us to click on an unsafe link, where malware could be downloaded to our devices. These scams rely on our curiosity and our "need to know" instinct.

SALES, DEALS & DISCOUNTS

Some scammers appear as adverts, offering a chance to buy something – such as designer products, expensive goods or even tickets to a popular show – at a reduced price. Such plays often include a time limit or countdown, urging us to hurry as we don't miss out on the deal. This pressure encourages us to input personal details or payment information before pausing to check if it's legitimate.

YOU'RE A WINNER!

This kind of scam involves fake giveaways, opportunities or prizes. It could be a message saying we've won a prize draw or competition. Or it could be a gift, free trial, bonus credit, and so on. It might claim that a package or refund is waiting. All these techniques are used to prompt us to share our personal information, thinking that there's something to be gained by doing so.

HAPPENS NOW

Stay up to date with the latest information and best practice on cyber security. See what scam alerts are reported in the news and make note of what tactics were used. Keep up to young people's digital lives: talk about what they're doing online and use properly understood resources to learn what risks certain sites and apps pose to young users. Adults are encouraged just as often, if not more.

ENCOURAGE HEALTHY SCEPTICISM

Most scams rely on emotional or psychological manipulation, tapping into our human instincts – whether that's to keep ourselves safe, help others, find answers, make friends, avoid losing out or to secure something we really want. Encourage children to recognise that pressure to act and to think about what an adult, especially if it's an offer sounds too good to be true.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading expert in digital safety, media law and young people. Her PhD researches children's understanding of risk online. She works with media businesses and universities to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal and ethical considerations for the digital age. Visit OnlineMediaLaw.co.uk for more.

TALK TOGETHER

Chat often and openly with young people about fake news, online scams and how they both work. Encourage them to talk to you before they're unsure of what's worried about online. If a child claims to have been scammed, don't panic! Judgement. Blaming the victim may deter young people from asking you for help. Remember: adults are encouraged just as often, if not more.

BE PROACTIVE

Children increasingly use digital devices for education, socialising, shopping and play. Don't wait for a problem to arise before you discuss the risk of scam, fake news, information and fake news. Highlight what to look out for and clearly communicate under what circumstances the child might be asked to reveal to an adult. Finally, ensure that they're aware of the support services that are available to them (such as Childline).

Source: See full reference list on guide page 20 nationalcollege.com/guides/fake-news-and-scams