

St Francis CE Primary School & Nursery



Friday 6th February 2026

Diary Dates

Thursday 22nd January Rescheduled to 5 th February	FRIENDS movie night
Friday 6th February	Year 4 Viking Workshop
Mon 9th – Fri 13th Feb	Safer Internet Week
Wednesday 11th February	Reception class assembly from 9am- Chinese New Year
Friday 13th February	Chinese new year - themed lunch
Friday 13th February	Values Ambassador Assembly 9:00-9:30 in the hall FRIENDS Friday treats Last day of half term
Monday 16th- Friday 20th February	HALF TERM- closed to pupils
Monday 23rd February	School re-opens to pupils Girl guides, girl scouts and Brownies are invited to wear their uniforms today to mark World Thinking Day on the 22 nd
Thursday 26th February	9.00 – 9.45 am Parent and Child Y4 Multiplication workshops
Friday 27th February	FRIENDS Cake sale after school
Throughout March	Brain Tumour Awareness month
Tuesday 3rd March	Parents PGL Meeting 3.45 – 4.15 pm
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day (dress-up> details tbc)
Thursday 5th March	Yr 6 trip to Pagoda and Church
Monday 9th March	Y1 class assembly from 9am- Lent
Monday 9th- Friday 20th March	Assessment week
Thursday 12th March	STEM Day

Head Teacher update

Dear parents and carers,

It's been a lovely, busy time across school this week. Children enjoyed a cosy **FRIENDS Movie Night**, complete with snacks and drinks kindly purchased by FRIENDS. Everyone snuggled down to enjoy the film *If*, while our children in **Reception and Nursery** were also treated to their own special movie experience, watching *The Smeds and the Smoos*. Smiles, snacks and a very relaxed atmosphere made it a really enjoyable event for all. Thank you as always to FRIENDS and for staff who supervised the event!

In Year 4, pupils took part in an exciting **Viking workshop**, which brought their history learning to life. The children were fully engaged and loved deepening their understanding of this topic through hands-on activities and discussion.

Looking ahead to next week, we will be marking **Safer Internet Day**, celebrating our **Values Ambassadors**, and we are also very much looking forward to a **special lunch to mark Chinese New Year**. It promises to be another positive and enriching week for our children.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

A few reminders for the coming weeks:

- **Reception Class Assembly – Wednesday 11th February** We can't wait to welcome Reception families to celebrate the children's achievements.
- **Pioneering Healthy Habits - Thursday 12th February** An introduction to our study around everyday habits. Join us as we ask questions, reflect on what really supports our children, and build confidence in understanding their emotional world. **For more details see below.**

Wishing you all a restful weekend, and thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Jess Mattocks

Collective worship

Our focus value for this half term is **Honesty**. Throughout our collective worship sessions, we will be exploring what it means to be truthful in our words and actions, and why honesty is such an important part of building trust and strong relationships. Our guiding Bible verse for this value is:

"The Lord delights in those that are truthful." – **Proverbs 12:22**

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

(Matthew 13:44–45)

Jesus told a story about a man who discovered a treasure hidden in a field. When he found it, he was filled with joy because he knew how valuable it was. Instead of secretly taking the

treasure, the man chose to act honestly. He carefully hid it again, then went and sold everything he owned so that he could buy the field properly. In this way, the treasure truly became his.

Jesus explained that God's kingdom is like this hidden treasure. It is so precious that it is worth giving up everything else for. The story teaches us that doing the right thing matters, even when no one else is watching. Honesty helps us make good choices and shows respect for others. When we act honestly, we show that we value what is truly important.

Prayer

Dear God,

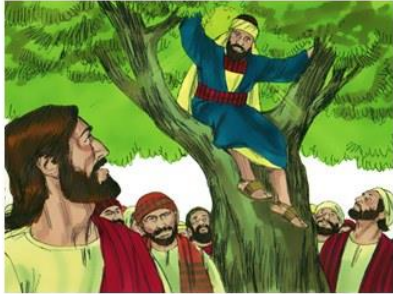
Thank you for teaching us what really matters.

Help us to be honest in our words and actions,
even when it is hard or when no one else can see.

Help us to value goodness, truth and kindness
more than anything else.

Amen.

Honesty



'Zacchaeus the Tax Collector' Luke 19: 1-10

God delights in those
who are truthful.

Proverbs 12:22

Are big feelings showing up more often at home?

Are you noticing big feelings,
tired feelings, or challenging
behaviours at home?

You're not alone.

Join our judgement free study that's
designed to help families reflect on
their habits to shape our children's
wellbeing.

Join here >>>
or contact the office



Whether it's tired tears, tricky mornings, or moments that feel harder than usual, many families are noticing the same things — and you're certainly not alone.

We're inviting parents and carers to take part in a gentle, judgement-free project exploring how everyday habits — like sleep, routines, screens, and family rhythms — may be shaping our children's wellbeing. This isn't about blame, pressure, or taking anything away. It's about being curious together.

Join us as we ask questions, reflect on what really supports our children, and build confidence in understanding their emotional world.

A small bit of curiosity could make a big difference.

12th February 2026

If you'd like to attend—or take part—please complete our short Expression of Interest form:

 <https://forms.office.com/e/73SGKvqLcR¹>

Optional School Fund



We would be hugely grateful for a voluntary contribution of **£15.00 per child, per year**. This can be paid conveniently via **ParentPay**, either as a one-off payment or in **three £5 instalments** spread across the school terms.

Your donations make a real difference. They help us to provide essential consumable resources that the children use every day, such as art materials, stationery, and classroom supplies. School Fund also supports **additional activities, curriculum projects, gardening and outdoor learning**, and **extra equipment** that benefits all pupils throughout the year.

¹<https://forms.office.com/e/73SGKvqLcR>

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us continue offering the best possible experiences for our children. Thank you for your support.

Important Update: ParentPay to Arbor – Final Transition Phase



We are pleased to share that we are now very close to completing the final stage of our transition to Arbor. **However, an unforeseen delay has slowed the process slightly. Heather and Molly are working hard to get everything up and running as quickly as possible, and we kindly ask for your patience while we complete this final step and make sure it looks right.**

As part of this transition, we ask all parents and staff to **stop using ParentPay with immediate effect**. Continuing to make payments or changes within ParentPay at this stage may cause glitches as we transfer balances and payment information into Arbor.

Please be assured that we have already run full reports from ParentPay so that all balances and details will be correct within Arbor. With a little patience, the complete transfer will be finalised as soon as possible.

As you can imagine, this transition involves a significant amount of data for us to read through and interpret. Your support in no longer using ParentPay from this point onwards is greatly appreciated.

What is changing?

Once the transition is complete, the following items will move from ParentPay to Arbor and will no longer be visible in ParentPay:

- School lunches
- Trips and visits
- Music lessons
- Clubs
- Debts and credits (where applicable)

- Nursery fees (where applicable)

From that point forward, all of these will be managed entirely through the **Arbor App**.

A smoother, simpler experience for families

We understand that getting used to a new system may feel a little challenging at first, and you may encounter the occasional hiccup. Please rest assured that the school office is here to support you every step of the way.

The move to Arbor brings several helpful benefits:

- One place for all payments – no more switching between systems.
- A clearer overview of school life – meals, clubs, trips and communication all in one place.
- Easier management on the go – everything available via the Arbor App.
- Fewer log-ins and passwords.
- More accurate, up-to-date information, all within one central system.

This transition will streamline our internal processes, reduce administrative workload, and improve the overall experience for parents, carers, and staff.

Need help?

Thank you for your continued patience and support while we complete this final stage.

If you have any questions or need assistance navigating Arbor, please contact the school office — we are more than happy to help.

Supporting Safe Use of AI



Artificial intelligence is becoming a familiar part of young people’s online experiences, with a myriad of school tools and entertainment platforms in use. This #WakeUpWednesday guide breaks down what AI really is, helping adults explain it clearly and realistically so children don’t overestimate its abilities or trust it unquestioningly. It explores how AI systems work, where they appear online, and why understanding them matters.

The guide also highlights key online safety considerations, including misinformation, data privacy, bias and over-reliance on AI tools. With practical advice on setting boundaries, choosing age-appropriate platforms and encouraging ethical, creative use, it empowers parents and educators to build digital literacy while keeping children safe, curious and critically engaged.

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. Content delivered by National Online Safety. These guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](#).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING SAFE USE OF AI

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is increasingly woven into young people's digital lives. It can offer some educational benefits and day-to-day assistance. However, it also raises concerns about misinformation, privacy, fairness, and safety. This guide provides parents and educators with practical strategies to support young people to navigate AI tools responsibly, and to use them safely and with discernment.

- 1 DEMYSTIFY WHAT AI REALLY IS**
Children encounter AI in most online places, including games, streaming platforms, and school tools. Explain that AI uses patterns from past data to make decisions, but it doesn't think or feel like humans. Use age-appropriate examples like recommendation systems. Encourage or invite them to build understanding and parents for a bonus about AI being a computer program.
- 2 TALK ABOUT RISKS OF MISINFORMATION**
AI can create convincing fake information including fake news, photos, and videos. Encourage children to think critically about what they see and read. Teach them to double-check information using reliable sources, to check images and videos carefully, and to ask an adult if something doesn't seem right.
- 3 DISCUSS DATA AND PRIVACY**
Explain that AI systems learn by analysing lots of data, sometimes including personal information. Help young people to be mindful of what they share online and why certain websites and apps might be tracking their activity. Use privacy settings together to explore how data is collected by websites like Alexa or Siri.
- 4 ENCOURAGE CREATIVE USE OF AI**
Support children in using AI tools to explore ideas, make art, or write stories. This builds confidence, imagination, and independent thinking. Encourage them to be creative and to try out different prompts. Remind them that AI is a tool, not a replacement for their own ideas and choices.
- 5 USE AGE-APPROPRIATE AI TOOLS**
Not all AI platforms are suitable for children. Choose tools designed for education or creativity with clear safety policies. Review terms of use and privacy settings. Help children use tools in age-appropriate ways. For example, some chatbot tools require a parental ID that should only be used with guidance and boundaries in place.
- 6 USE AI TOGETHER**
Exploring AI tools together can help adults understand how they work and spot potential issues. Try co-writing a story with an AI writing assistant or experimenting with an AI art tool. This encourages curiosity, helps you stay informed about the latest AI tools, and allows you to reinforce safe and respectful use while modelling critical thinking.
- 7 SET BOUNDARIES FOR AI USE**
Establish when, where, and how AI tools can be used. Just as you would with any digital technology, for example, you might agree not to use AI tools to complete school assignments without permission, or to avoid inappropriate use of social media. Consider boundaries like homework checks and review.
- 8 WATCH FOR OVERRELIANCE**
Some AI tools, like homework help apps, might be tempting shortcuts. Encourage children to use AI to support their thinking, not replace it. Consider what you would expect a perfect answer. Realise that mistakes are part of learning and that relying too heavily on AI can limit real understanding.
- 9 TEACH DIGITAL ETHICS AND LITERACY**
Help children explore how AI works, where it might be biased, and why ethical thinking matters. Encourage digital literacy alongside ethical awareness. Encourage children to think about fairness, privacy, and consent. Help young people to recognise and not fall for AI-generated content. Encourage children to be respectful and to give proper credit to the creators of the content. Encourage questions about fairness, representation, and the benefits from certain tools. Talk about algorithms, echo chambers, and the impact of automation on jobs like.
- 10 STAY CURIOUS AND INVOLVED**
AI is developing rapidly, and staying informed helps you support the young people in your care. Follow trusted sources for updates and keep the conversation going. It's also worth trying a new AI tool or tool, take the opportunity to learn about it together. Strengthen trust and strengthen digital resilience.

Meet Our Expert
Welcome to the world's largest CIO library for educators. The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforce and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of engagement.

WakeUp Wednesday **The National College**

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

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Arthur had an amazing weekend at the Trainor Feis!

Last weekend, he travelled to London to compete in an Irish dancing competition, going up against 30 dancers from across the country in his age group. Arthur danced brilliantly, earning **first place in one dance and second place in another**. All his dedication and hard work in training truly paid off—we're so proud of him!



Happy Birthday to those with birthdays this week



Sapphire in Reception

Amarah in Year 2

Harry in Year 3

Chase in Nursery

Felix in Year 4

Olivia in Reception

Star of the Week

Star of the Week

Star of the Week



Nursery - Henry - for being such an enthusiastic learner and always being willing to share his ideas and thoughts. Well done Henry! :)

Reception - Ivy-Mae for always trying her absolute best to do the right thing for her friends and for herself, and not just for gain and reward, but because it is the honest thing to do.

Year 1 - George - for always being open and honest in class discussions and having positive interactions with all.

Year 2 - Beatrice – for demonstrating honesty in her work and always aspiring to do her best in everything she does. Keep it up, Bea — I am so proud of you!

Year 3 - Willow - for settling into Year 3 brilliantly and being a great asset to the class. You have been working very hard and work well with others. Well done Willow!

Year 4 - Connie- for being open, honest and kind in her interactions with her peers and in her learning.

Year 5 - Lily- for always showing honesty and being kind and respectful to others

Year 6 - Clara - for always showing consideration within and out of the classroom with the entire school community.

Star Writer



Nursery - Jacob

Reception - Lizzy

Year 1 - Jacob

Year 2 - George

Year 3 - Lily

Year 4 - Daniel

Year 5 - Willow

Year 6 - Persephone

Attendance Champions



Attendance Champions

- **Overall Winners (98.8% Attendance):** ✓ Year 5
- **Over 96% Attendance:** ✓ Year 4 ✓ Year 6 ✓ Year 1 ✓ Nursery

Whole School Attendance:

96.7% for the academic year so far – fantastic effort!

Dojo



Dojo Winners This Week

1. Year 5
2. Year 6
3. Year 4

Attendance Matters

We know that winter brings its share of sniffles, colds, and sometimes challenging **adverse weather**, but being in school every day is still vital for your child's learning and progress. Most minor illnesses don't need to keep children at home, and attending school helps them stay on track.

If your child is genuinely too unwell to attend, please let us know by phoning the school office **0121 459 5548** or emailing **parents.stf@fioretti.co.uk**.

Not sure if they're well enough for school? The NHS provides clear guidance on common illnesses and when children should stay home:

👉 Is my child too ill for school? – NHS²

For further details on attendance expectations, illness guidance, and what to do during bad weather, **please take a look at the posters below**.

Thank you for supporting excellent attendance – every day counts!

²<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Every Day Counts – Let's Make Attendance a Priority!

Together, we can achieve great attendance.



Why it matters:

Even being late by 15 minutes each day adds up to nearly two weeks of lost learning!



Top tips for parents:

- Keep bedtime and morning routines consistent.
- Book appointments outside school hours whenever possible.
- Encourage your child to enjoy school and celebrate their progress.
- Join in school events and support homework – it really helps!



Holidays:

Please remember, term-time holidays aren't allowed. Unauthorised absences can lead to fines or legal action.



Need support? We're here to help. If you're struggling with attendance, talk to us. Helpful links:

www.birmingham.gov.uk/saap • www.birmingham.ivlove



UK Health
Security
Agency



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/minfec>.



Struggling to get your
child to school?

Talk to us

-we are here to help!



Things to do locally



Little Monkeyz
February Holiday Club

A fun-filled holiday club packed with activities to keep children active, creative, and engaged through the February half term.

Arts & Crafts **Multi Sports** **Fun Games** **Food Activities** **& Much More!**

Key Information

Dates: 16th – 20th February
Time: 9:00am – 3:00pm
Ages: 4–11 years
Price: £18 per day

Location:
Tiverton Academy
Selly Oak
B29 6BW

Contact Us

For more information or to enquire about bookings, please contact us:
✉ enquiries@littlemonkeyz.co.uk
☎ 07563 876094

Ofsted Registered

Bournville & Selly Oak

Little League

Netball for School Years 3 to 6

Try-out sessions in a Sports Hall with qualified beginners' instruction

Saturday 28th February 2026
Saturday 14th March 2026
From 9:15am to 10:30am

Come to one session on each day if you can!
Cost £5.00 per session, allowable against the season playing fee.
Places are limited.
We may have to operate waiting lists.

at University of Birmingham School
Weoley Park Road, Birmingham B29 6QU

Saturday morning League matches from 18th April to the end of term
All abilities welcome, no experience is necessary.
Qualified and safe coaching (DBS checked)
Season playing fee: £25.00.



Contact details:

Mrs Dianne Barber (League Organiser)
0121 472 0114 or 07771 851903

To reserve your place, download and return our application form!



<http://www.birminghamcitynetballclub.org.uk/BSOLL/BSOLL.html>



Girls

Player Development Centres Expression of Interest forms

Age groups for U8s, u10s,
u12s, u14s and u16s.

Direct pathway into our ETC and Academy

You may have to log in via an email
address to complete the form.



Awards



2025 – 2027



**Rights
Respecting
Schools**

UNITED KINGDOM



**Bronze
Rights Committed**