



NEWSLETTER 22 – 20TH MARCH 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

SUNSHINE AND SCARECROWS

After an initial damp start to the school week, it has been delightful to stroll through the village of a morning and evening in the sunshine. It has improved everyone's mood, and allowed our children to spend more time outside getting their vitamin D fix that they all need!

As the weather continues to improve, we are excited about using more of the outdoor environment in our curriculum, including the beach and community field that will be used regularly by all classes in the future.



Later this year, Kewstoke will be holding its scarecrow trail, and we are delighted to share the news that the scarecrow committee have asked the school to design the posters for this year's trail. We will be creating these designs during school time, but if you have any suggestions that you can share with the children about poster design, please do get in touch. We look forward to sharing the winning creations with you in due course, and hopefully the weather will continue to be as good in July!

PARENT PARTNER VACANCY

Would you like to know more about the strategic direction of the school, and support the school's quality of education to ensure the best for our pupils? We currently have a vacancy for a parent partner on our Local Partnership Board (formerly known as governors) and would like to hear from you if you are interested in joining the school's board.

EXTREME READING

This week saw the launch of our Extreme Reading challenge for this year. Last year we had some amazing entries with children reading in the weirdest and most wonderful places around our area and beyond, from dustbins to the roofs of cars! Can you do better this year, and find the most unusual place to read a book, comic or magazine?



EXTREME READING CHALLENGE

Where is the craziest place you can get snapped reading a book?

Email your photographs to the school via office@kewstokeprimary.co.uk by Friday 24th April to be in with a chance of winning

KEY DATES

1st April

Easter in a Box (Badgers Class)

3rd April (Good Friday)

Easter Holidays begin

20th April

School open for pupils

24th April

Class photographs

EASTER COLOURING

Brightest Move estate agents in Worle is running an Easter colouring competition for local primary schools. If you would like your child to take part, please let Mr Champs know as he has copies of the colouring pages.

GUITAR LESSONS

This week saw the start of our peripatetic guitar and ukulele lesson in school, and a first lesson for Badgers class. There were some lovely sounds coming from around the school, particularly considering it was the first time for many of the children. Well done all involved!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Stars of the Week' are...

Hedgehogs - Isla

Badgers - Willow

Foxes - Erika

Our 'Values Ambassadors' this week are...

Hedgehogs - Mr Cruse!

Badgers - Roman

Foxes - Corey

Attendance:

The classes with the best attendance this week was...

Badgers - 97.7%

Our year to Date attendance as a school is...

95.1%

BIG WALK AND WHEEL



Thank you to all those families taking part in the Walk and Wheel campaign this year. So far, the children have achieved nearly 150 active journeys this week! We are currently 4th place regionally and 33rd in the very small schools category nationally, but we can do better! Please support the school and your children by making more active journeys next week.

KING'S FITNESS MILE WALK

Earlier this week, King's Leisure Centre joined us to share the importance of daily walking and the benefits of it. All the pupils took part in a mile walk around the playground, completing 25 laps to cover the distance!



WESSEX PODCAST



In this episode of The Only Way is Wessex, we're joined by Katie Whiting, Executive Head of Lympsham and East Brent, as she shares her journey into the world of education.

From her early inspirations to the pivotal moments that shaped her career, Katie offers an honest and insightful look at what led her into teaching and how her role has evolved over time. We explore the challenges, rewards, and realities of leading schools today, along with her passion for making a difference in young people's lives.



Kewstoke Primary School
Easter Bonnet Parade 2026

Thursday 2nd April



We would like to invite the whole school to join in on
an Easter Bonnet Parade on the last day of term.

There will be a prize per class and a big prize for the
overall winner.

We look forward to seeing your wonderful creations.

St Paul's Easter Craft Fair

St Pauls Church Hall
Kewstoke



Saturday 21st March

11am - 3pm

Easter Treasure Hunt in the Village

Start your adventure by collecting a treasure hunt leaflet from the Church Hall.

Craft Stalls
Teas and Coffees

Cream Teas
Cakes and Treats

Craft Activities
Easter Raffle

🐣 EASTER BONNET COMPETITION 🐣

Come along and join our Easter Bonnet Competition!

👤 Come dressed wearing your Easter Bonnet

🌸 Show off your creativity and colourful designs

Your bonnets will be judged by Reverend Gail Thomas
at 2.30pm.

🌟 All are welcome! 🌟

Everyone at St Paul's Church looks forward to seeing you
at the Easter Fair.

PUPILS ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

As a school, we have a duty of care to you and your children to ensure they attend school every day if possible.

We are noticing some children are regularly arriving late to school. This can not only affect your child's attendance but also their attainment and ability to learn. Being late also disrupts the rest of the class' learning.

If you need support from school to get your child in on time, please do speak to Mr Champs or a member of staff.

Every minute counts



Lateness = lost learning	
<small>(Figures below are calculated over a school year)</small>	
5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

Don't let your child miss out!

What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

Get your child to school on time. If they are late they have a bad start to the day.

If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could affect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

As of September 2013, no school is allowed to grant holiday requests under new legislation.

Therefore, any request for term time absence will need to be put in writing, in advance, to the Headteacher. Each case will be considered individually and the absence will only be authorised in specific circumstances.

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority of all unauthorised absences and a penalty notice may be given by the LA.

DID YOU KNOW that if a child is taken away for a two week holiday every year during term time and has an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, then by the time they leave at sixteen they will have missed a year of school?

PARKING

I am very grateful to those parents who choose to park away from the school entrance and off the zig zag yellow lines. We have, however, had a recent issue with one of our neighbours where a parent had parked their car over a neighbour's driveway who needed to get out.

Please consider our neighbours when parking. I have asked North Somerset Council to send an enforcement officer to the school at pick-up times to talk to parents who cannot park respectfully or correctly.

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 TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't 'seek' it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 31% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Viral trends, challenges, or 'wars' that are spread online risk encouraging violence offline, while real-world incidents may also be recorded and promoted online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE**
Social media platforms are designed to keep users engaged, meaning dramatic or extreme content can spread widely and quickly. Algorithms often recommend content that reflects users' past interactions. As a result, young people may see more violent material if they have viewed, commented on, or shared it before. Repeated exposure can make violent content appear frequently in their feeds without them fully understanding why.
- WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK**
Teens exposed to high levels of real-world violence on social media sometimes report feeling an increased need to carry a weapon for 'self-protection'; however, carrying a weapon increases the risk of victimisation (harm and injury by others) for young people. In addition, carrying a weapon is a serious offence that can lead to police arrest and a criminal record.
- SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT**
Encouraging or assisting an offence is a crime in the UK, including via social media, and can lead to arrest. This means sharing, forwarding, or reposting violent content carries a risk for young people too. Showing examples of content to a trusted adult is appropriate, but young people should take care not to further spread violent material by posting it online or sharing it within large messaging groups.
- FEAR, ANXIETY, AND MARGINALISATION**
Research shows young people's emotional wellbeing can be negatively impacted by repeated exposure to violent online content, especially when it depicts 'real-world' violence (as opposed to fictional depictions in games or films). Posts featuring weapons, threats, attacks, and fights – or content that appears to glorify gang activity – can increase feelings of anxiety or fear among young people. Material that encourages violence targeting people because of their identity, such as their nationality or religion, can also create disproportionate harm for children belonging to those groups.
- AVOIDANCE AND ISOLATION**
Real-world violence on social media can increase young people's belief that their local communities – or the 'outside world' – more generally – are unsafe places. This can result in avoidance and 'hiding' behaviours, which may negatively affect their wellbeing. As well as feeling fearful of others, teens also report feeling judged for spending time together in large groups, which may affect their social interactions and leisure time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- STAY INFORMED**
Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. Be cautious about unofficial accounts, fake content, and misinformation, which can spread quickly online or in chat groups. Ensure you get accurate information from trusted sources and encourage young people to do the same. Remind them never to share violent content online and to speak to a trusted adult instead.
- TALK CRIME AND SAFETY**
In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means there can be serious criminal consequences for carrying a weapon, taking part in violence, or filming or sharing violent content. Discuss the law with young people alongside practical safety strategies. Ask questions such as: 'What could you do if you feel unsafe?' Work together on action plans and remind them they can contact a trusted adult or the police if it witnesses or experience violence.
- DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA**
Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effect it can have. This can be an opportunity to discuss topics such as misinformation, AI-generated material, the attention economy, and algorithms, helping them understand how and why extreme content can spread online. Explore tools available to block, report, and remove harmful content, and signpost where to get support and advice, such as reportthefakecontent.com.
- ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION**
Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and within their local communities. Discuss strategies to reduce negative social media effects, such as time limits, unfollowing certain accounts, or taking breaks from apps. Encourage offline activities such as spending time with friends, visiting local places, and taking part in hobbies that bring them joy, purpose, and connection. Remind them they can seek support with any concerns at any time via childline.org.uk.

Meet Our Expert
Dr. Holly Powell-Jones is the founder of Online Media Law UK and a leading UK expert in media law, online safety, and young people. Her PhD investigates youth understandings of criminal and legal risks in a digital context. She works in schools to provide award-winning education on the criminal, legal, and ethical considerations of rapidly advancing technologies.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

See full references on our website

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

ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

Violent clips, online 'wars', and shock-value challenges can spread rapidly across social media feeds – often appearing in front of young people who weren't actively looking for them. This guide explains how algorithms, messaging groups and viral trends can expose children to real-world violence online, sometimes normalising harmful behaviour or encouraging risky offline actions.

It also highlights the emotional, social and legal risks linked to engaging with violent content.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have a concern about any child in our school, then it is your responsibility to say something to us. Remember, 'Safeguarding' is everybody's responsibility! You can speak to any member of staff in school. We also have a team of designated safeguarding leads – Mr Champs (DSL), Mrs Mann (DDSL), Miss Speller (DDSL) and our School Safeguarding governor, Mrs Phippen.



They can be contacted on 01934 623430 or at our dedicated safeguarding email address, safeguarding@kewstokeprimaryschool.co.uk

As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:-

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Care Connect: 01275 888 808