



NEWSLETTER 25 5TH MAY 2026



SCHOOL NEWS

DIDN'T THEY DO WELL!

This week has seen our pupils take part in a variety of competitions with other local schools. It has been the perfect opportunity for our children to show off their abilities and talents, both academic and sporting, whilst building those vital team skills children will need as they grow up. From Maths to athletics, times tables to relays, our Year 3 and 4 children have shown their competitive side this week, with other year groups joining in with different competitions over the coming weeks.

MAKATON TRAINING

We were delighted to welcome Ali Pennington from The Makaton Charity this week for some whole staff training. To support our current and future pupils, we learnt some basic signs and symbols that we can use in school, and each week, we will be sharing a Makaton sign with the children so they can learn it as well. I even showed off my skills in assembly by saying 'Good morning everyone' using Makaton.



WESSEX MATHS WARS!

To support our Year 4 pupils with their preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check next month, we have decided to work with one of the other Wessex schools in Croscombe to have a maths war every week! This week saw the introductory session, where the teams met each other online, and battle commenced.



RUN FOR FUN WITH THE NSSPEA

As part of our membership of the North Somerset Schools PE Association (NSSPEA) we are invited to local sporting events where we can compete against other schools.

On Wednesday, we took a group of our Year 3 and 4 pupils to St. Katherine's School in Pill for a 'Run for Fun' event with six other local schools from Weston-Super-Mare and North Somerset. The children took part in a range of running races and relay events, supporting each other brilliantly when not running. It was a great morning of athleticism, camaraderie and enjoyment for all involved.



ATTENDANCE

A child's attendance can have a huge impact on their progress, both in terms of personal development and academic progress. If a child misses just two weeks of school across the year, they are missing 65 hours of learning and it can be very difficult to catch up. Arriving late to school can also result in valuable hours of learning lost.

We believe children should be in school and enjoying their precious time and childhood, learning and playing together. This is why we try to make our curriculum as rich and diverse as possible, as well as ambitious, so that your children love coming to school.

I fully understand that there has been some illness and bugs going around this week, which has affected our attendance. However, lateness is also a contributing factor, so please ensure your children arrive on time before the gate closes at 9am.

This Week:

Hedgehogs – 92.9%

Badgers – 96.4 %

Foxes – 94.2%

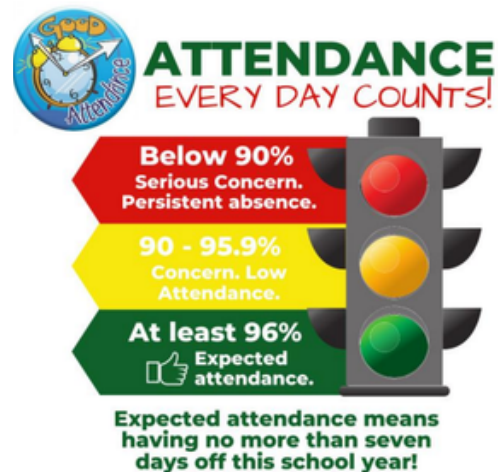
So far this academic year:

Hedgehogs – 96.1%

Badgers – 94.8%

Foxes – 93.4%

Whole School – 94.8%



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.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Stars of the Week' are...

Hedgehogs - Rosie

Badgers - Ray

Foxes - Daniel

Our 'Values Ambassadors' this week are...

Hedgehogs - Joy

Badgers - William

Foxes - Feriha

KEY DATES

Monday 4th May

Bank Holiday (school closed)

Friday 8th May

VE Day celebrations

w/c 11th May

KS2 SATS week

Tuesday 19th May

Years 2-6 UCW

Outreach sessions

Friday 22nd May

PTFA disco and end of term

23rd May - 31st May

Half Term Holidays

Monday 1st June

School opens

Wednesday 3rd June

Foxes Activity Day

Friday 12th June

Sports Day

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 YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
 YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES
 Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT
 The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS
 YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

SUGGESTED CONTENT
 YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT
 YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS
 YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS
 If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS
 Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

WATCH TOGETHER
 Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like DownTime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

Meet Our Expert
 Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

The National College

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wakeupweds.com) www.thenationalcollege.com [@wakeup.wednesday](https://www.wakeupweds.com) [@wakeup.weds](https://www.wakeupweds.com)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 22.04.2025

YOUTUBE

YouTube continues to be a go-to platform for entertainment, learning and creativity, but its vast and largely unregulated content library presents ongoing challenges. This guide outlines how features like recommendations, Shorts and social interaction can shape young people's viewing habits, sometimes exposing them to inappropriate or extreme material.

It also explores key concerns, such as stranger interaction, risky trends and the limits of automated moderation. There is also practical advice on tools such as YouTube Kids, supervised accounts and parental controls.

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: 0800 800 5000

Care Connect: 01275 888 808

**RESTLESS
DEVELOPMENT**
POWERED BY YOUNG PEOPLE

You are invited to

THE SCHOOLS TRIATHLON



King's College Taunton

Sunday 28th June 2026

Registration Deadline

Friday 12th June 2026

Registering

1. Create a team of four children, then choose your team name!
2. Select one parent to register your team's interest in the event via the link above (you will need all participant names and their parent/guardian's email)
3. You will receive an email to confirm if your team has or hasn't been successful 3 weeks after the deadline date given above
4. If your team is given a place, we will email all parents within the team to invite them to register their child for the event

Register Here



Fundraising &

**RESTLESS
DEVELOPMENT**

Each participant must fundraise a minimum of £60, with a target of £100.
You can set up an [online JustGiving page](#) or download a [sponsorship form](#).

Your fundraising supports Restless Development: a global charity who champions the collective power of young people to create a better world.

Watch [this video](#) to learn more!

**Head to our FAQs for more info
and to find out what's included!**



Year Group	Swim	Cycle	Run
Year 3 & 4	50m	1000m	750m
Year 5 & 6	50m	1000m	750m
Year 7 & 8	50m	2000m	750m

As a relay, each participant completes these distances.

email us: schoolstriathlon@restlessdevelopment.org



@schoolstriathlon



There is still time to sign up to this event, we have one team entered already, but even more teams would be great for our school and the charity it supports.



JUNIOR AQUATHLON

SATURDAY 9TH MAY

*Spaces are limited!
Book your space now
online or via Reception!*



COLLECT A
FINISHERS MEDAL
AND THE ROBIN
SHINY!!



£5 MEMBERS
£7 NON-MEMBERS



SCAN
HERE
FOR
MORE
INFO:



Kings
Fitness & Leisure
Believe in Success