School Office Friday Update

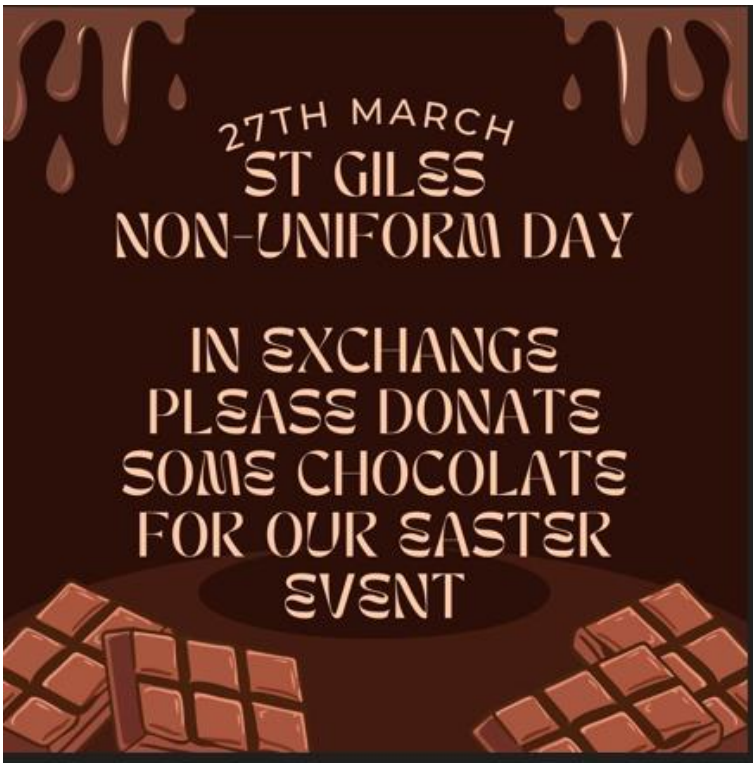
REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 10th March	• KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Archery – Book / pay on ParentPay
Tuesday 11th March	• KS1 Qualtias After School Club – Fundamental Skills – Book / pay on ParentPay • **NO Football Training after school – match on Thursday**
Wednesday 12th March	• KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Athletics – Book / pay on ParentPay
Thursday 13th March	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am • SWIMMING - CLASS 3 • **Football match after school - St Giles V Castle View**. Your child will be informed if they are involved.
Friday 14th March	• **Class 3 Benchball event - Ashbourne Leisure Centre. Children should arrive at school by 8.10am PROVIDE CONSENT on ParentPay**
Monday 17th March	• KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Archery – Book / pay on ParentPay
Tuesday 18th March	• KS1 Qualtias After School Club – Fundamental Skills – Book / pay on ParentPay • Football training after school
Wednesday 19th March	• KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Athletics – Book / pay on ParentPay
Thursday 20th March	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am – 10.30am • Swimming – Class 3
Friday 21st March	• **RED NOSE DAY**

OTHER NEWS

- **ParentPay – Thank you for your support in keeping accounts up to date. Please ensure all accounts are clear of outstanding debts.**

- **Walesby Forest Residential – THE FINAL INSTALMENT IS DUE AT THE END OF MARCH. Thank you if you have already paid. There are still outstanding payments from January and February – please can these be paid as soon as possible.**

PTFA Easter Events





- **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea – Tuesday 25th March**



🌸 **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Invitation!** 🌸

We would love to invite all the wonderful **mothers, nannas, sisters, aunties, or special female figures** to join us for a lovely **Afternoon Tea** in school! 💖

Come and enjoy a delightful afternoon with your child(ren), filled with **tea, coffee, soft drinks, delicious cakes, and fun crafts to create together!** 🎨☕🍰

This is a special opportunity to relax, chat, and celebrate the amazing female figures in our children's lives.

We can't wait to see you there! 💖

  - **BOOK LOOK – Tuesday 25th March – Following the Afternoon Tea there will also be an opportunity to look at your children's books from 3.15pm until 4.00pm**

- **STAY AND STUDY!**

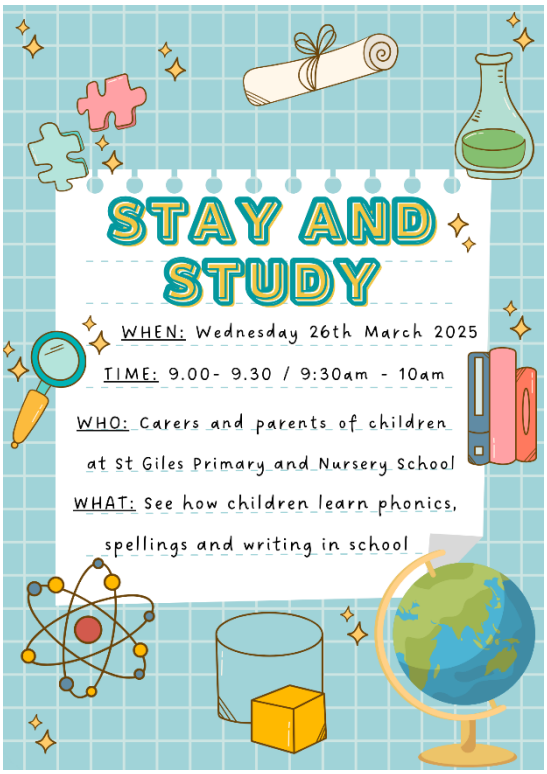
Following feedback from our recent parent survey, we would like to invite parents into school on **Wednesday, 26th March**, to observe how we teach phonics, spellings, and writing.

This is a fantastic opportunity to see our teaching methods in action and gain an insight into the language and vocabulary we use, particularly during phonics and spelling lessons. To ensure the morning runs smoothly without disrupting learning and to accommodate families with children in different classes, we have organised the sessions as follows:

Early Years & Year 1/2 (Nursery, Class 1 and Class 2) Parents: 9:00 - 9:30 AM (Phonics and Spellings lessons)

Key Stage 2 (Class 3 & 4) Parents: 9:30 - 10:00 AM (English lesson)

We look forward to welcoming you into our classrooms!



- **INSET DAYS FOR 2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR**
  The five INSET Days for the next school year have been agreed as follows:
  Thursday 4th September 2025
  Friday 5th September 2025
  Monday 24th November 2025
  Monday 23rd February 2026
  Monday 1st June 2026
  School is closed to pupils on these dates. The first day of the Autumn Term will be Monday 8th September 2025.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email with any questions or queries.

Friday updates can be found in the Newsletters section of our school website.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 24th March	**Class 3 meeting re Activity Day and Sleepover**
Tuesday 25th March	**Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 2.30pm – 3pm** **Book Look for All classes 3:15pm – 4pm**
Wednesday 26th March	**Stay and Study – Please see poster above for more information 9 – 9:30am (Class 1 and 2 parents) 9:30 – 10am (Class 3 and 4 parents).**
Thursday 27th March	Non uniform day in return for donations of chocolate for the PTFA Easter Event Swimming for Class 3
Monday 31st March	PTFA Easter Event after school
Tuesday 1st April	Easter Service 2.00pm in St Giles Church. Everyone is welcome to attend
Thursday 3rd April	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Friday 4th April	**Air Ambulance Awareness Day. Children are invited to wear something yellow and bring in a small donation or, preferably, donations can be made directly to the charity at https://theairambulanceservice.org.uk/donate/** **The Air Ambulance will be coming into school to talk to the children regarding their roles in their jobs.** Last day of the Spring term
Monday 21st April	**Easter Monday**
Tuesday 22nd April	**Back to school – Start of the Summer Term**
Thursday 24th April	Swimming for Class 3
Wednesday 30th April	Class 2 Multi Skills Festival at All Saints Juniors. This Girl Can Year 5 and 6 girls – Whitworth Park 9.30 – 11.30
Thursday 1st May	Swimming for Class 3
Monday 5th May	**MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY**
Thursday 8th May	Swimming for Class 3
Monday 12th May	KS2 SATS – English Grammar Punctuation and Spelling
Tuesday 13th May	KS2 SATS – English Reading Paper

Wednesday 14th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Papers 1 and 2
Thursday 15th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 3
Friday 16th May	Year 6 Celebration at Whitworth Park
Friday 23rd May	Break up for half term
Monday 2nd June	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Tuesday 3rd June	**Back to school**
Thursday 12th June	South Peak Sports – Darley Dale Primary School
Wednesday 18th June	Class 2 Dance and Gymnastics Festival at All Saints Juniors
Thursday 19th June	Class 3 Activity Day and Sleepover – Details to follow Reserve Date for South Peak Sports
Thursday 26th June	Year 6 Primary Athletics at Moorways, Derby
Tuesday 1st July	Highfields Transition Day for Y6 pupils
Wednesday 2nd July	**Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4**
Thursday 3rd July	**Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4** FINAL SWIMMING LESSON FOR CLASS 3
Friday 4th July	**Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4**
Wednesday 9th July	Class 2 Sports Day at All Saints Juniors
Thursday 10th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 17th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 24th July	**Last day of the school year** **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**
Friday 25th July	First Day of the summer holidays
ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026	
Thursday 4th September	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Friday 5th September	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Monday 8th September	**First day back at school**



SAFER Neighbourhood NEWS

March 2025

Matlock and Tansley Safer Neighbourhood

Positive Results for Theft for your Safer Neighbourhood Team...

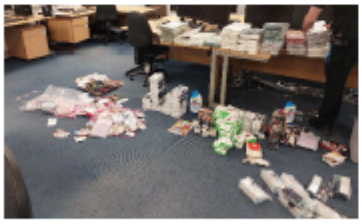
On 11th February 2025 an unknown male was caught in the act of Theft from Sainsbury's, Cawdor Way, Matlock before getting into a vehicle and leaving the area. Little did he know that he had been spotted getting into this vehicle, and that this information was then given to your local team.

So, we began conducting our enquiries and began our investigation. On 13th February, the vehicle was sighted heading in the direction of Matlock by the local Roads Policing Unit. PCSO Hillman & PC Hussain decided to conduct some high-visibility patrols and make their way to alert their local businesses should they be on their way to commit another theft.

Whilst doing so this male was spotted by PCSO Hillman in the act of theft which led to a foot chase and a full area search being conducted. PCSO Hillman and PC Hussain were shortly assisted by their local Roads Policing Unit in search for the offender and the offending vehicle.

Shortly after, the offending vehicle was found in a nearby pub Car Park with no-one inside, however there was a lot of property inside which was believed to be stolen. The vehicle was safely boxed in whilst they tried to locate the offender. Upon entrance to this pub the male offender was located and very quickly detained and arrested, along with a female who happened to be the driver and registered keeper of this vehicle.

Both offenders were then transported to custody. The vehicle was also seized due to being used in the commission of crime and all stolen property also recovered.





Engagements

Thurs 6th – Walk Around Street Meet, Tansley – 09.00am-11.00am

Thurs 6th – Youth Club, Lime Tree Road, Matlock – Police Engagement – 15.00pm-17.00pm

Fri 7th – Highfields School Recruitment Event – 08.30am-09.30am

Tues 11th – Walk Around Street Meet, Cavendish Estate – 12.00pm-16.00pm

Tues 11th – Business Walk Around, Matlock Town Centre – 18.00pm-19.00pm

Weds 12th – EPIC, Steep Turnpike Evangelical Church – Crime Prevention Engagement – 10.00am-12.00pm

Weds 12th – Boys & Girls Brigade – Police Visit – 18.30pm-21.00pm

Thurs 13th – Walk Around Street Meet, Tansley – 12.00pm-15.00pm

Tues 18th – Sainsbury's Street Meet – 10.00am-12.00pm

Sat 29th – Bike Marking & Police Engagement Event – 10.00am-12.00pm

Sun 30th – Marks & Spencer's Street Meet – 10.00am-11.00am

Anti-social behaviour:

We have received several reports for anti-social behaviour throughout this last month, two incidents in particular where we have taken positive action.

One incident involved youths climbing on the roof of the Steep Turnpike Evangelical Church in Matlock. This building has recently re-opened after a full renovation. This behaviour is wholly unacceptable and will not be tolerated. This is a building of religion and worship and is also a place of comfort for some people and deserves to be treated with respect.

These individuals have been positively identified and have been spoken to by Police with parents present and anti-social behaviour warning letters have been issued.

The second incident involved youths attending Sainsbury's, Cawdor Way, Matlock and shouting and swearing around the store disrupting customers doing their shopping. When challenged by a manager and asked to leave, one youth became verbally abusive and made the decision to throw items at the floor towards this manager. This individual has been identified by PCSO Hillman and issued with a warning letter alongside a banning letter from Sainsbury's stores.

We will continue to work closely with our local businesses and partners and support them in addressing anti-social behaviour and challenge it effectively.

Please continue to report anti-social behaviour to us via 101 or via the Derbyshire Constabulary Website so that we can plan our patrols correctly.

Please also report this type of behaviour to your local Community Safety Partnership via: https://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/

Drug related concerns:

We have recently been made aware that young people are regularly smoking Cannabis around the Woodland areas of the Hurst Farm Estate. PC Green has attended the area and found a small group of youths in this area that smelt strongly of Cannabis. Stop searches were conducted and one individual was found in possession of Cannabis. The relevant actions were taking including the Safeguarding of this child.

Safeguarding the young people of our communities is paramount.

We would like to encourage members of our communities to continue to report drug concerns involving young people immediately so that we can intervene and take the appropriate actions as soon as possible to prevent them falling down the paths of criminality.

If you would like to report drug related concerns, and help us to address these issues within our community, you can do so via the below channels:

- Phoning 101.
- Visiting the Derbyshire Constabulary website at https://www.derbyshire.police.uk/
- Via Crime Stoppers by phoning 0800 555 111 or by visiting their website at https://crimestoppers-uk.org/ where you remain 100% anonymous.



CrimeStoppers.
0800 555 111
100% anonymous. Always.

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neurateachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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