



# St. John's RC Primary School

*Inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by the teaching of Jesus*

Love one another, as I have loved you

Newsletter: Issue: 16

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## Head's News... Happy New Year!

It is so wonderful to be back at school, to see our children thriving and striving to be the very best that they can be. It was an absolute privilege to have been away on residential in Kilvrough with our Year Six pupils, to watch them grow, become independent, resilient and to use effective communication to help their team to overcome barriers. Thank you to all of the Year Six children and to Miss Callan.

We have entered into a special period within the church as we are entering into the Year of Jubilee. The Holy door at St Peter's Basilica in Rome was opened on Christmas Eve by Pope Francis to mark the start. The Year of Jubilee will continue throughout 2025 and finish on the 6th January 2026. We will be organising lots of joint activities and celebrations within the school, the parish and across the MAC and we look forward to you joining us on our pilgrimage of hope journey throughout the Jubilee Year. It is a particular year set aside to encourage the faithful to embark on a pilgrimage, to repent their sins and forgive the sins of others, and to renew a focus on the spiritual life. It will be an exciting year ahead for us to share together.



Jesus' baptism was the beginning of his special mission from God. It showed that he was ready to serve as God's chosen helper, even though he had done nothing wrong. By being baptized, Jesus chose to stand with everyone who makes mistakes and needs forgiveness. He is like the Lamb of God, sent to take away the sins of the world.

## Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following people who received awards this week:

Nursery: Mia

Reception: Raul, Kelo, Ammu

Year 1: Kenzo, Sefania, Lucas, Naia

Year 2: Nela, Joseph C, Steven

Year 3: Angela, Irena, Evelyn

Year 4: Jack, Emilia, James M

Year 5: Amelia, Sean, Azrin

Year 6: The Whole Class

House Points

**Earth: 329(3731)**

**Water: 331(3710)**

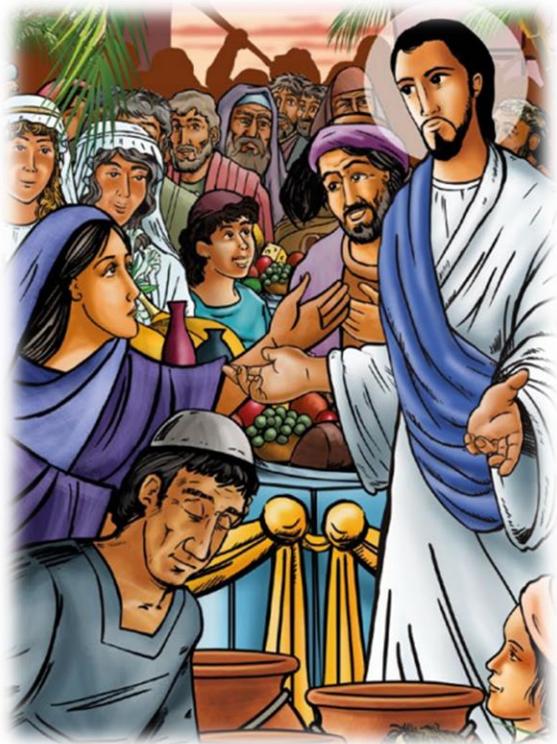
**Air: 384(3765)**

**Fire: 358(3802)**

| MINUTES LATE TO SCHOOL | IMPACT ON YOUR ATTENDANCE IN 1 YEAR |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 5 MINUTES PER DAY =    | 1.4 DAYS MISSED 98.4% ATTENDANCE    |
| 10 MINUTES PER DAY =   | 2.8 DAYS MISSED 97.6% ATTENDANCE    |
| 15 MINUTES PER DAY =   | 4.2 DAYS MISSED 96.8% ATTENDANCE    |
| 20 MINUTES PER DAY =   | 5.6 DAYS MISSED 96.0% ATTENDANCE    |
| 30 MINUTES PER DAY =   | 8.4 DAYS MISSED 94.4% ATTENDANCE    |

## Attendance to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025 (we always report a week behind)

|           |       |              |              |
|-----------|-------|--------------|--------------|
| EYFS      | 97.8% | Year One     | 95.8%        |
| Year Two  | 98.1% | Year Three   | 99.1%        |
| Year Four | 89.5% | Year Five    | 95.6%        |
| Year Six  | 99.2% | Whole School | <b>96.1%</b> |



## Joy

In this Sunday's Gospel below, we read from the Gospel of John. John does not record many of Jesus' miracles, so why is this miracle of changing water into wine given so much importance?

It is important for us to know that, although divine, Jesus was also human and enjoyed human happiness. In the Gospel, Jesus helps out the unfortunate bridegroom whose wedding celebrations are on the verge of disaster because they're about to run out of wine. Jesus' miracle brings joy to his own mother and gives a joyful celebration to the whole village.

## No Birthdays this week!



### JUNIOR ACTIVE LEADER PROGRAMME PROVIDES TRANSITION SUPPORT FOR YEAR 7 PUPILS



Blessed George Napier Catholic School is a smaller than average sized secondary school in Banbury, Oxfordshire, catering for 880 11-19-year-olds. The school is part of the Pope Francis Multi-Academy Company and has a thriving Physical Education department with excellent engagement from students at both curriculum and extra-curricular clubs. Staff offer team sports involving training for inter-school fixtures and recreational activities. The school regularly takes part in School Games Competitions and has a strong sport leadership programme with students having ample opportunities to lead and officiate at various primary cluster events.

To develop the leadership programme at BGN and support transition, the school decided to run the Junior Active Leader course for twenty, year 7 students., with funding from the Opening School Facilities Programme.

Sessions were practical, centred round creating games and leading sessions for younger pupils, with an emphasis on teamwork and confidence building, with the students becoming responsible and confident role models. As part of the 20-hour course, students learnt about first aid including CPR training and how to lead organised, inclusive, and engaging activities.

Students spent two days off timetable during the summer term 2024 including leading activities for Year 1 children at one of BGN's local primary schools. Students had a further day during the autumn term in Year 8 to complete the course, concluding in running a mini event for Key Stage 1 children.

"BGN's Junior Active Leaders have been super! All the children have been engaged and the activities were well suited to their age group." (Year 1 teacher at St. John's Primary)



"The Junior Active Leader course put me out of my comfort zone and required lots of confidence when leading younger children which I didn't know I had. I recommend this course to anyone that requires a challenge." (Fia)

"I enjoyed seeing all the children involved and happy when I was leading younger children. I've learnt to work well with others and how to give instructions more clearly. I would like to do more leadership." (Liliana)

"I learnt to be more specific with my instructions and be inclusive. I enjoyed the children playing together and having fun." (Bella)

"I enjoyed seeing everyone happy. I worked at adapting games and working as a team." (Sylvia)



"The Junior Active Leader course has been a great addition to our leadership pathway at Blessed George Napier School. 100% of our students felt more self-confident and ready to lead others in healthy, fun activities."



The Junior Active Leader course was run by Rory Mowat, School Sports Co-Ordinator

"They have all developed a positive attitude to volunteering. We plan use our Junior Active Leaders to support various primary events throughout the year."

There is some truly excellent sporting activities taking place this year, and as a school, we are fully embracing this. Our children begin to train as Junior Active Leaders from Year Six and it has been so wonderful to see last year cohort having the opportunity to work with St John's again. Our Year Six cohort this year are already showing their skill set off and were brilliant with our Year One children.

## Safeguarding

If you have concerns that a child may be in immediate danger, call the police on 999 or MASH on 0345 050 7666.

If you have safeguarding concerns about a child or family, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01295 263740 and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team.

Alternatively, you can email our DSL (Maureen Collier) directly:

[familysupport@st-johns-banbury.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:familysupport@st-johns-banbury.oxon.sch.uk)

# Early Years Class News

This week, inspired by a lot of new year haircuts, we have opened the Early Years Hair Salon. It is very well equipped and many treatments are available, the children have thoroughly enjoyed creating lots of creative hairstyles on each other and staff. This lovely area has inspired lots of rich language and conversations and Reception have created pricelists and posters to entice a regular stream of customers.



# Year One Class News



This week, Year 1 explored *The Bear and the Piano*, focusing on identifying verbs, suffixes, and adverbs. To reinforce our learning, we added new lines to our English Rap! In PE, we had a fantastic time with Mr. Mawn, creating and sharing short gymnastics routines during our indoor lessons. Finally, we concluded our Christmas unit in RE, with a highlight being our roleplay of the Annunciation story.



# Year Two Class News

## 🌩️ THE CALMING OF THE STORM 🌩️

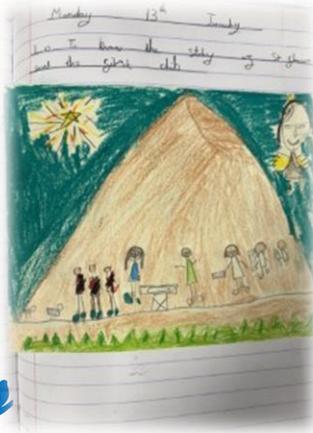
Year 2 have focused on two wonderful miracles of Jesus this week. We have explored the Wedding Feast at Cana and the Calming of the Storm. The children worked fantastically to identify both the words and actions of Jesus within these two miracles and performed some fantastic role play to showcase this. We now understand that Jesus has mighty strength to perform these amazing miracles!



## Year Three Class News

This week in Year 3 we have been looking at the significance and symbolism of the crib.

We looked at how the Saviour was born in cattle shed into poverty and how this shows he was born for all people rich or poor.



## Year Four Class News

**12** In our maths lessons, we have been exploring patterns in our times tables. We've worked super hard on noticing the relationship between multiples of 3 and 6 and this week have introduced patterns in the 9 times tables too! We now know that all of the even multiples of 3 make up our 6 times table and we've learnt to use a digit sum divisibility test to check if a number is divisible by 3, 6 or 9 by adding the digits in the number (ask us all about it because we LOVED learning this!) 🤖 Some seriously impressive understanding this week!!! Well done Year 4 🙌👉

## Year Five Class News

We have welcomed Miss Cladingboel into Year 5 as she continues her second year of Teacher Training with us at St John's. She kicked off our new Geography Topic, "Sow, Grow and Farm," with a great lesson on Land use. The class became town councillors deciding on the best site for allotments by studying the land and facilities of various sites. A vote at the end of the lesson brought the discussion to a close. Art has all gone a bit Picasso as we have been imitating continuous line drawings of creatures. Trying to create an animal with as simple a line as possible, was a fun challenge. Here are some of our attempts.



## Year Six Class News

This week Year 6 enjoyed their first All Stars cricket session. Today we focused on bowling. We completed a number of different activities that helped refine our skills and we even had a go at bowling at the wicket keeper and stumps. It was strange at first having to bowl with our arm straight but with the help of our coach we soon got the hang of it!



## KEY DATES

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> January 2025</b>                     | <b>School begins – School opens at 8:45am</b>         |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                          | Year 3 & 4 Badminton at BGN                           |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025                          | Year 5 & 6 Athletics at BGN                           |
| 27 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                          | Year 6 Junior Citizens trip                           |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                          | Storyteller Event!                                    |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                          | Year Four Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am         |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                          | Year 3 & 4 Athletics at BGN                           |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                         | Year One Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am          |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                         | School finishes for half term at 3:20pm               |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025</b> | <b>FEBRUARY HALF TERM</b>                             |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>                   | <b>INSET DAY – School closed to pupils</b>            |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>                   | <b>School begins – School opens at 8:45am</b>         |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                             | Year Three Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am        |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                             | Author Visit  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                            | EYFS Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am              |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                            | Athletics Finals at BGN                               |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                            | Year Six Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am          |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                            | Year 2 Football at BGN                                |
| 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                            | Reception and Year 6 Vision Screening                 |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                            | Year Two Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am          |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2025                             | Year Five Class Assembly – all invited 9:05am         |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> April 2025</b>                       | <b>School finishes for Easter half term at 1.30pm</b> |
| <b>7<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> April 2025</b>     | <b>EASTER HALF TERM</b>                               |
| <b>TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025</b>              | <b>School begins – School opens at 8:45am</b>         |

Among children – and especially teenagers – TikTok boasts approximately 220 million users, providing a near-endless reel of short clips intended to entertain, educate and more. However, along with its enormous userbase comes a significant number of possible risks: Ofcom have dubbed it the most likely app on which teen users would potentially suffer harm.

With the platform reaching astronomical levels of success among the younger generation, it's vitally important for parents and educators to understand the risks it poses. This free guide lets you know about the most prominent potential dangers associated with TikTok and offers expert advice on how to safeguard youngsters who are navigating the site.

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](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TIKTOK

**13+**  
Content features are restricted to users 13+ only.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, For You is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

### BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

### IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £3.99 to an eye-watering £39, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.3 billion in user spending in 2022. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by under-18s (or young people using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

### MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

### ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 27 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other, healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

### BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

### READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is falling to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College

Source: See the reference list on guide page 6. <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2021>

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St. John's RC Primary School

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February

DJ HAPPY HEARTS MIX

Valentines Disco

Ticket information and more details to follow....

**Parentkind**  
Member Association