



ST JOHN'S
A PRIORY ACADEMY

Newsletter

Issue 38—February 2026



Respect **Kindness** **Confidence** **Tolerance** **Self-Discipline**

Key Dates

Monday 23rd February

Start of Term 4

Tuesday 24th February

Year 4—First Aid Workshops

Thursday 26th February

Year 6—VE Day Celebration

Tuesday 3rd March

Young farmers—tractors in school

Wednesday 4th March

Class Photographs

Thursday 5th March

World Book Day

Monday 9th March

Learning Showcase 3.40—4.30pm

Monday 9th—Friday 13th March

British Science Week

Tuesday 10th March

Year 2 Trip—Lincoln Castle

Wednesday 11th March

Year 4 Trip - Pizza Express

Thursday 12th March

Lincoln Music and Drama Festival

Friday 13th March

Year 4 Class Assembly—9.15am

Dear St John's Families,

We've made it to the end of another busy term and we've definitely packed a lot in!

We've had some great trips over the last couple of weeks, including our Year 5s going to the National Space Centre and our Years 3s having a rather soggy walk around Roman Lincoln. Next term promises more great trips.

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week with the theme this year being around belonging - 'This is my place.' In our assemblies, we explored different groups that we belong to and how this supports us to feel included, valued and safe.

On Tuesday, we participated in Safer Internet Day with the children accessing live lessons from the BBC learning about staying safe on the internet. Our older pupils looked at AI and how to ensure that they are being safe and responsible if using chatbots or similar. With AI becoming more and more prevalent, it's really important that we teach the pupils about what is acceptable use and what's not, as well as the environmental impact.

There are some key dates to the side for what will be coming up in Term 4. We hope to see many of you at our learning showcase on 9th March. I hope you have a wonderful break with your families and we look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 23rd February.

Mrs Emma Jefferson

Headteacher

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Email: stjohnsenquiries@prioryacademies.co.uk

Website:

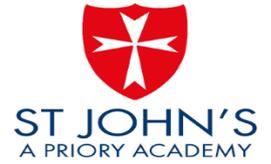
<http://www.stjohnsprimaryacademy.co.uk/>



Championing children; making a difference

Attendance and Safeguarding

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



RJR	94.4%
RAS	99.4%
1T	98.8%
1HC	94.4%
2ST	95.8%
2F	98.8%
30S	94.2%
3B	92.9%
4T	93.5%
4D	95.5%
5N	96.1%
5M	93.1%
6B	95.1%
6C	95.7%

Attendance for the week:



Attendance for the year to date:



Attendance Updates

We have come to the end of another term so will be spinning our wheel for our 100 club winners for this term who will receive their prizes when we come back after half term.

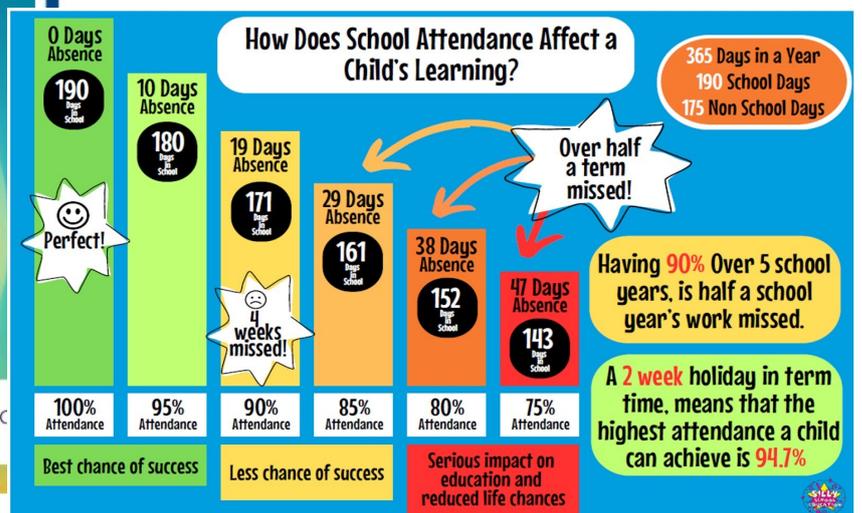
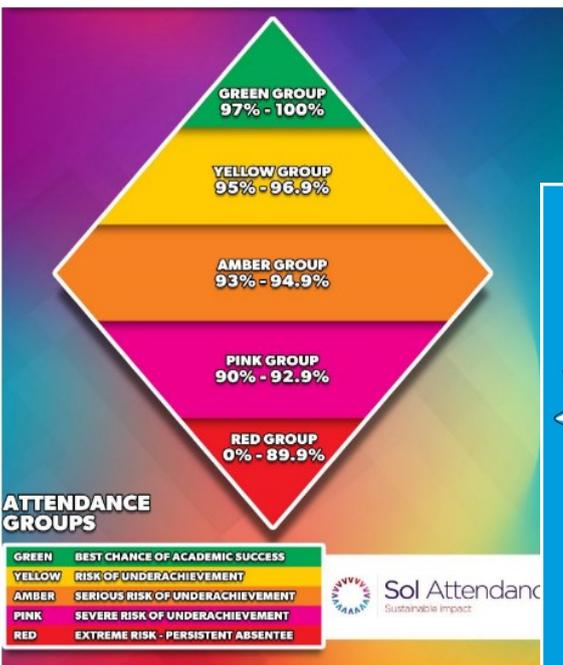
Our class challenge continues to be underway with Mr Dunn and Mrs Saunders' classes currently leading the way!

Safeguarding

There have been some 'close calls' this week with children riding scooters / bikes on the playground and in the car park and nearly colliding with pedestrians and young children. Please can we remind all families that pupils are not allowed to ride their bikes or scooters until they are completely off the school site. We have reminded the children about this in school as well. Please do report to us if you see any pupils not following this rule so that we can discuss with them and their families in order to keep our school environment as safe as possible.



Attendance Ladder



Learning in Class



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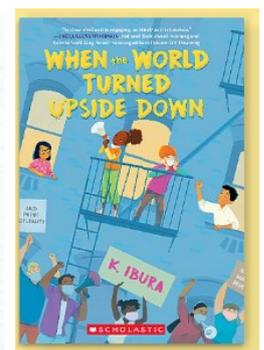
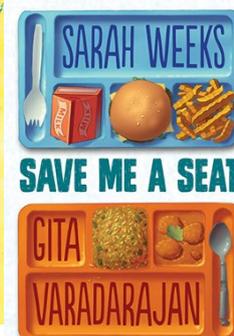
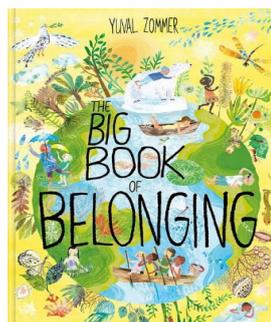
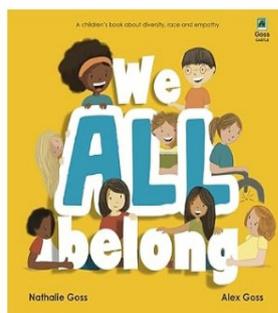
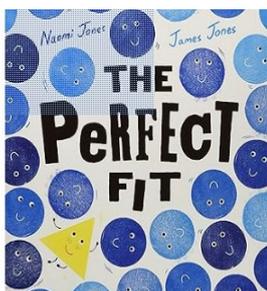
Year 3

Year 3 enjoyed an exciting school trip to Roman Lincoln, where they learned about the history of our local area. They began at the Roman East Gate before walking to see the remains of aqueducts and visiting the forum, which was once the centre of Roman life. The children were fascinated by Newport Arch and enjoyed learning that it is still used today. Our journey finished at the South Gate, helping us understand how the Roman city was laid out. Despite the wet weather, the children loved hearing stories about life in Roman times and discovering that Roman Lincoln was called Lindum Colonia.



Children's Mental Health Week

This week we have been taking part in Children's Mental Health Week with the theme of "This is my place!" The children have created their own maps thinking about the different groups they belong to e.g. their class, their family, clubs etc. Our assemblies focused on why it's important to feel as though you belong and how this supports our mental health. The children have done a brilliant job in suggesting how they might help others feel as though they belong and are included too! There are some resources on the website for families [here](#) if these would be of interest.



Learning in Class



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Year 2

Year 2 have been very busy this term making their clay dragon eyes. This is always such a favourite topic for them to complete and the results are just excellent! They have learnt how to create different textures within clay and also how to score, slip and blend to join pieces of clay. After exploring the work of Nico Marlet, the design animator on 'How to train your dragon' they were inspired to design their own dragon's eyes. We think they look amazing and the children were so excited to develop their clay skills and knowledge. Once dried the children painted and varnished their eyes.



Early Years

In Early Years this week, the children have been thinking about Chinese New Year. They read a story called the Great Race which tells us how the years got their names. 2026 is the year of the horse. The children have been finding out how people from a different culture celebrate their New Year. They made lanterns using red paper because red is a lucky colour in China and we have learnt a song about a dragon dance.



Year 4

This term, Year 4 have explored different types of torches and how they can be made for different reasons based on their design. They then recycled old plastic bottles into their torches. They used their scientific knowledge to create a simple circuit with a switch. They then had the significant challenge of putting their circuits into their bottles without the circuit disconnecting. In PE, Year 4 have enjoyed taking part in a series of Yoga themed activities. This involved the children exploring a range of yoga poses and how to connect these poses together. The children developed these skills individually and also worked in pairs to develop a repeating yoga flow.



In Other News



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Friends of the School

Friends of the School continue to organise events and opportunities to raise valuable funds for school. Their next AGM will be on **Tuesday 17th March at 6pm** in the School Library. We would love to welcome any new parents who might want to come along and see how they can help. It doesn't need to be a huge commitment but any help offered is so valuable and really supports with the events they wish to organise. Friends of the School will also be organising discos for KS1 and KS2 on Friday 24th April so please look out for further information about these!

FOS

Friends
of
School

St. John's Primary Academy

Priory Ogden Olympics

On Thursday 29th January, ten Year 6 children took part in the Priory Ogden Olympics. This is a competition against other Priory primary schools demonstrating their superb scientific skill and knowledge. The children who attended won their in school heats to take part in the final at Ling Moor. The challenges included making strong bridges, boats which float, the tallest tower to hold a basketball, a working parachute and an air resistant rocket. It was a great day and the children were fantastic.



Winter Olympics

We have unfortunately had a few wet playtimes and lunchtimes over the last couple of weeks but it has given us the opportunity to show the children some of the amazing sports that are taking place during the Winter Olympics. The children have really enjoyed getting behind Team GB and watching sports which they may not have seen that often before! They seem to be particular fans of the curling and the figure skating. We have a curling set in school which some children have used this week in their PE lessons. Who knows? Maybe one day we could be sat watching an ex-pupil take part in a sporting championship!! It has been great to see the children be inspired!



STAR Champion Shop



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This week has been so exciting at St John's with the opening of our STAR Champion Shop for the very first time. As you know, we've really developed our House system this year. We strongly believe that belonging to a team brings huge benefits and teaches many skills and also links perfectly with the theme for Children's Mental Health Week this year.

Our children love being part of their house and spoke very confidently to our school governors Mrs Manders and Mr Drury about what it means to them being part of their house and team.

The STAR Champion shop is part of our rewards and recognition model where the children are able to 'spend' their house points earned. We are also teaching the children that they can spend, or they can choose to save if they wish to wait for something bigger, teaching them some financial literacy skills as well as delayed gratification which can be difficult to learn in modern day society!

It has been so lovely to be 'shopkeeper' for the week and watching the children so excited to choose and being rightly proud of their achievements in gaining their house points! The children will now start earning their house points again ready for the STAR Champion shop to reopen at the start of Term 6!



S.T.A.R Champion

Sustained over time

Trying our best always

Altruistic

Ready, Respectful, Safe





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 **AI-GENERATED VIDEOS**

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AI-generated videos are increasingly difficult to spot and easy to share. From fake news clips to deepfake abuse, children and young people face new risks every day online. These videos can imitate real people, spread false narratives or even generate harmful content from scratch. Understanding these dangers is crucial for schools and families who want to protect children in a fast-evolving digital world.

DEEPPAKE ABUSE CONTENT

Shockingly, artificial intelligence is now being exploited to create child sexual abuse material (CSAM). These synthetic images and videos are a form of digital abuse, often generated by manipulating real children's photos, including ones shared innocently online. Worryingly, the Internet Watch Foundation (IWF) has identified a sharp rise in this disturbing trend. Whether real or AI-generated, this content causes lasting trauma – and its creation or possession remains a criminal offence under UK law.

BLURRED REALITY

Regular exposure to fake content can erode a child's trust in real-world evidence. If everything can be faked, they may begin to question genuine videos – including actual abuse or injustice. This is known as the 'liar's dividend', where real harm is dismissed as fake news. It can discourage victims from coming forward or speaking up.

USED FOR BULLYING

Deepfake technology is already being used by peers to create embarrassing or explicit clips of classmates. These videos can be edited to appear as though a child said or did something they never did. Once shared, they are almost impossible to delete completely. AI-generated bullying adds a new layer of harm that is deeply personal and difficult to prove.

EMOTIONAL MANIPULATION

AI-generated videos can be used to provoke strong emotions, including fear, anger or guilt. False footage of crying children, injured animals or burning buildings may be created purely for clicks, donations or political influence. Children may feel upset or powerless, unaware that what they are watching has been digitally invented to manipulate their reaction.

DISINFORMATION

AI-generated videos can spread fake news, making it harder for children to separate fact from fiction. False clips may include deepfake interviews, hoax disasters or fabricated health claims. AI is already being used to produce misleading or persuasive material that appears authentic. If they don't develop media literacy, children may accept false content as truth.

IMPERSONATION AND SCAMS

With just a few photos or voice clips, AI tools can imitate someone's appearance or speech. This makes it easier for scammers or bullies to create fake videos of children, teachers or celebrities. These impersonations can be used for fraud, harassment or humiliation – and can spread quickly through social media or group chats, due to the viral potential of video. In particular, on social media.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TEACH HOW IT WORKS

Explain to children that videos can be faked – and show them how. Demonstrating side-by-side examples of real vs AI-generated clips helps to build awareness. Discuss how faces, voices and even movements can be copied by machines. Understanding the technology reduces fear and builds confidence in navigating digital content safely.

TALK ABOUT TRUST

Always keep lines of communication open. If a child sees something upsetting or unbelievable, they should feel safe discussing it without judgement. Create an environment where they know they will not get in trouble for asking questions. This also helps you step in quickly if harmful content has been shared; trust is vital and needs to be nurtured.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL QUESTIONS

Help children question what they watch. Who made this? Why was it made? Is it trying to persuade me? These habits encourage digital thinking, especially when videos seem too shocking or convenient. Reinforce that not everything shared by friends or influencers is true, even if it looks convincing at first, and that the initial approach should always be one of speculation.

STRENGTHEN PRIVACY SETTINGS

Advise children not to share voice notes, selfies or personal videos on public platforms. AI tools often scrape content from social media to create deepfakes. Use privacy controls to limit who can see their content and turn off facial recognition where possible. Fewer public images means fewer opportunities for misuse.

Meet Our Expert

Brendan O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

In the Community



ST JOHN'S
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Chess and Board Games

Come to learn, practice.
play and have fun!



Saturdays
10am till 12noon
Bracebridge Heath
Community Library

31st Jan
28th Feb
28th March
25th April

A free event

COME AND BE A
SCIENTIST!

HOW MUCH WEE CAN A BABY PEE?



BRACEBRIDGE HEATH LIBRARY
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH
10AM TIL 12NOON



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