

St Martin's Newsletter



SPRING TERM - Friday 28th March

Happy Mothers & Others Day

We would like to wish all of our mums and those special ladies who help shape our children into the wonderful people they are, a lovely **Mother's day** on Sunday.

Attendance

Well done everyone, we are back above 90% this week with an attendance of 91.5% 😊 A huge well done to Reception Class who had **NO LATES** this week! **Year 2** have achieved their whole puzzle reward so on **FRIDAY 4th APRIL** they are able to come in wearing their own clothes and can bring in a toy to play with in the afternoon (no electronics or anything expensive please).

Attendance

PreSchool- 88% 4 Lates
Year R - 88% 0 Lates
 Year 1 - 94% 3 Lates
 Year 2 - 95% 1 Late
 Year 3 - 86% 7 Lates
 Year 4 - 90% 1 Late
 Year 5 - 90% 8 Lates
Year 6 - 97% 4 Lates

Well done to year R, this week's Dojo Champs

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance



Events Calendar

We have a few trips coming up - as well as the messages we send out, you can also see all **school events** on the **School Spider App** and on the school website. Please check these regularly to see what is happening during the upcoming week.

For Parents

Wednesday 2nd April:
Y2 and Y6 Mass 10am
 Wednesday 2nd April:
Parent's evening - Please book on school spider

St Martin's Stars

Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

- NURSERY: Star- Elijah J
 Value- Oliver G
 YEAR R: Star- Everleigh J
 Purple tie- Hunter KN
 Value- Bobby C
 YEAR 1: Star- Kohnan B
 Purple tie- Elexis S
 Value- Theo F
 YEAR 2: Star- WHOLE CLASS
 Purple tie- Gabby C
 Value- Addison H
 YEAR 3: Star- Kasi N
 Purple tie- Freddi MP
 Value- Vlad I
 YEAR 4: Star- Chimmy I
 Purple tie- Mason G
 Value- Cathryn J
 YEAR 5: Star- WHOLE CLASS
 Purple tie- Ewan W
 Value- Ella-Rose C
 YEAR 6: Star- Ethan G
 Purple tie- Ethan G
 Value- Laura R

Easter Events

Here are some of the Easter activities that will take place during the week before the break, to give you advanced notice in case you want to start thinking about this now.
Friday 4th April - Hop for Haven
Wednesday 9th April - Cake sale
Thursday 10th April - Decorate the Egg Competition
Friday 11th April - Easter Egg raffle and Easter Bonnet Parade

Parents Evening

A reminder that school will close at **1.30pm on Wednesday** for parent's evening. After school club is available to book. If you have not already registered please collect a form from the office

Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel's](#) with their families.

Whole School Breakfast Club

We have been chosen to start a **free whole school breakfast provision** from **after Easter**. This will run from 8.10am until 8.40am - children will need to be in school by 8.30am to give them enough time to eat their breakfast.

Wraparound care will still be available from 7.30am but will now be in the hall and there will be a cost of £1.40 per child to cover the childcare element as the breakfast itself will now be free. This will continue to be booked via the app.

More detail will be sent out closer to the time.

Safety Advice

This guide discusses the growing popularity of Bluesky, a public-first microblogging social media platform, and explores what parents and educators can do to ensure children's safety when using the app.

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 BLUESKY SOCIAL APP

AGE RESTRICTION 13+
With an App Store rating of 17+ & Google Play rating Mature

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

NO PRIVATE ACCOUNTS
While most social networks allow accounts to be private, at the time of writing, all Bluesky accounts must be public. The development team has indicated this might change in the future, but the app is built on a public-first protocol. If private accounts are ever introduced, it may only be in a limited way – such as through the implementation of group chats.

INTERACTIONS WITH STRANGERS
Every account being public means that anyone can be contacted by anyone else. While users don't have to respond and can easily block people and move on, it does mean that youngsters are at particular risk of being conned by scammers, messaged by predatory adults or exposed to others with ill intentions. These hazards can be compounded by the fact that Bluesky doesn't require its users to provide their real name.

TROLLING AND BULLYING
While Bluesky currently feels a lot friendlier than X seems to have become, its lack of private accounts means that there's nothing to stop users from trolling and cyberbullying younger people. While accounts can be blocked and reported, a persistent bully could simply create a new profile, potentially making their victims feel unsafe in continuing to use the app.

DANGEROUS MISINFORMATION
Established news organisations have fact-checking and editing processes, but social networks have no such controls and can often serve as breeding grounds for misinformation and disinformation. Bluesky will possibly be no different once it reaches a certain size, and children may not have the critical thinking skills to tell fact from fiction – or to discern an informative, honest user from a malicious one.

ADULT TARGET AUDIENCE
Bluesky isn't designed with children in mind, and there aren't many parental controls on the platform. In an interview with the BBC, Bluesky's CEO originally said that the app would only allow users aged 18 and above to sign up, but a spokesperson later clarified its age restriction as 13+. This could imply the app was originally meant for an adult audience and suggests that making the platform more child-friendly might not currently be a priority.

RAPID GROWTH
At the time of writing, Bluesky seems calm in comparison with other social networks where moderation is lax and the atmosphere toxic – but that's due at least in part to its smaller community. The app has recently been adding as many as a million users per day, and if that continues, there'll be more unpleasant users to handle, and moderators could struggle to maintain the pleasant environment Bluesky is currently known for.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE THE ADULT CONTENT FILTER
Bluesky doesn't have much in the way of parental controls, but there are content filters which can hide sexual and graphic imagery. These are enabled by default for underage accounts but can be manually turned on in the 'Moderation' section of the app's settings. The 'advanced' Bluesky Moderation Service lets you restrict content even further, hiding – for example – self-harm content, extremist rhetoric, and even rude posts.

LOOK OUT FOR FAKES
Impersonation is a problem on all social networks. While the consequences are usually benign, imposters sometimes attempt to scam or groom children by pretending to be a popular influencer or online personality. Bluesky is unique in that it can be connected to official domains, with users' handles linking to other sites; while this isn't widely used right now, it could be a reliable way to verify celebrities and public figures in future.

ENCOURAGE BLOCKING AND REPORTING
Another tool that Bluesky uses to ensure a decent experience is muting and blocking accounts. The former prevents you from seeing a specific user's content, while the latter stops them from seeing yours. If a child is encountering trolls or bullies on the platform, encourage them to use this function, while also reporting the offenders to help make the platform a nicer place for everyone.

KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE
As with all social media platforms, moderation and content filters can only do so much; it's highly likely that a child will eventually face something unsavoury. For that reason, it's important to make sure that young people are aware of the risks and know how to handle the technology if anything they see on the app makes them feel unsafe or uncomfortable.

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, The Guardian and The New Statesman.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/bluesky-app>

[X](#) @wake_up_weds [f](#) /www.thenationalcollege [i](#) @wake.up.wednesday [j](#) @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: 28.03.2025

Talking with your Toddler

Is your child between 18 months and 2.5 years? Do you want to find out how using songs and rhymes can support your child's language development? Why not sign up to one of our online webinars via teams.

This link takes you to sign up for an evening webinar on Tuesday 1st April 2025 @ 6pm-7pm

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/deccc40a-9efc-40db-a80b-93f0843be1b5@145a4c31-6fb2-46ad-9292-92ae3f7968fe>

This link takes you to sign up for a daytime version of the same webinar on Monday 7th April 2025 @ 10am-11am

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/d25404e5-9baa-49d8-b61b-09a6655ac335@145a4c31-6fb2-46ad-9292-92ae3f7968fe>

If you would like any more information contact Sarah via sarah.jarvis@halton.gov.uk