

St. Nicholas News



Thursday 23rd October 2025

A Note from the Headteacher

TOWIT Day

Our half term has finished in style with our very own 'The Only Way is Tudor' day today. Students in all classes were able to experience a round robin of activities from Nine Men's Morris, to Jousting, to Quoits. Queen Elizabeth I paid a visit, accompanied by the Duke of Essex and was pleased to see her subjects enjoying the day of festivities. The Queen was keen to recruit good archers for her army; Master Ethan in Pathfinder and Master Jacob in Voyager were particularly accomplished at the bow and were signed up! Her Majesty also enjoyed watching peasants be hit with sponges in the stocks. The event ended with a Tudor banquet served up by the school cooks. Be sure to see some of our exploits in the photos on pages 7–8 of this newsletter.



Hallowe'en Disco

I would like to extend my very grateful thanks to the members of the parent forum who organised the Hallowe'en Disco on Wednesday. There were 55 students in attendance; our best attended disco yet! The hall looked spooktacular and all students took away a goodie bag of treats. I know that a fabulous time was had by all. Thank you to all of the parents/carers that made this event possible. You can see some photos of this event on pages 5–6 of the newsletter.

Student Reports

As you will know, an important part of life at St. Nick's is the opportunity to go on trips and visits, as our students learn best through experiences. On pages 3–4 of this newsletter, you will find reports from some recent events that have taken place, written by the students themselves. From Tudor house tours to a Globe theatre trip to football fixtures; there are honest reviews for you to enjoy reading.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable half term break,

Mrs L. Fox, Headteacher.

A reminder:

School will be closed tomorrow, Friday 24th October, for staff INSET.

Students return to school on **Monday 3rd November.**



END OF HALF TERM AWARDS



AUTUMN 1 2025

Quest Champions

Quest champions are nominated by the class teacher and are students who have gone 'above and beyond' with their learning during this half term's quest

Adventurer—Callum

Discoverer—Salahuddin

Explorer—Willow

Hunter—Ashton

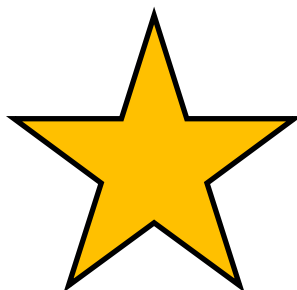
Pathfinder—Michael

Pioneer—George

Researcher—Harvey

Seeker—Jaidan

Voyager—Preston



Monthly Class Attendance Award

Congratulations to

ADVENTURER

for a very impressive

95.21%

attendance for September

Engagement with Reading Awards

'Engagement with Reading' is a new award this year in school. It can be awarded to a student for showing an independent effort to improve their reading engagement by whatever independent means. This could be, for example:

- *reading regularly independently when they perhaps didn't before*
- *reading for pleasure*
- *reading new texts*

Adventurer—Maisie, Mason

Discoverer—Levi, Reece, Xander

Explorer—Ellie, Kaitlyn, Marley

Hunter—Lee

Pathfinder—Frederick, Kaci-Lea

Pioneer—Jake, Jaydon

Researcher—Oliver

Seeker—Josh

Voyager—Ellie

99 or 100% Half Term Attendance Award

Schools are encouraged to promote excellent attendance for all of their pupils and so we issue half termly and termly 99 or 100% attendance awards. This half term, the students listed below are all 100%, there were no 99ers!

Adventurer—Imena, Iniyah, Maisie, Lila, Mason

Discoverer—Charlie C, Ihfaz, Caleb

Explorer—Marley, Harvey, Jasmyn, Violet, Willow,
Jacob H, Ellie, Kaitlyn, Ashley

Hunter—Ashton, Will

Pathfinder—Ryan

Pioneer—Michael, George, Jake

Researcher—Oliver, Valentina, Emily, Charlie M

Seeker—Freddie, Ciaran

Voyager—Holly, Jacob S, Jaidan, Kyrell, Zaki

Pathfinder's Review of Twelfth Night at The Globe Theatre

By Fred, Bethany, Tulisha and Michael

We should go again; we should watch Romeo and Juliet.

It was really funny. I enjoyed it when the fool got some Monster Munch from the crowd.

I thought it was so funny when Sir Toby Belch drank out of a green leather boot.

I enjoyed the music. I found it really calming.

I loved our high seats, but Mr Laker got vertigo. We were moved at the interval to seats directly opposite the stage.

I loved the audience participation; two people were asked up from the crowd and they had to dance on stage. If I had the confidence, I would have liked to try.

I loved the costumes—Olivia's sparkly dress, Olivia's necklace, and of course Malvolio's yellow tights and what looked like a nappy. Everyone else's costumes were so colourful. It was all so colourful and busy. It was very dramatic to watch.

It was freezing cold in the theatre as it doesn't have a roof. I wish they had heating near the seats. I also wish the cushions were free to hire as the seats were very hard with little leg room.

Sometimes, the actors forgot their lines and they had to make it up; they were very clever at this.

Malvolio slipped on stage and said "I'll take this from here," while lying on the floor. That was funny.

It was easier to follow the story because of all our class work on Twelfth Night.

EXPLORER CLASS REPORTS

Latimer League Football Report

(20th October 2025)

The match was part of a league, where you play one team like in an actual football game you see on TV, but for kids in years 7 to 10.

Marley scored 2 goals. I also saw one of my old best friends.

- Jasmyn

It was a good day even though we lost 7-6. It was a good game and it was in a real stadium from a league below Southend United in Billericay. I've been there before and I was the youngest there; it was two years ago and I have improved myself in football and I'm one step closer to getting a contract for Spurs!

- Jenson

Tudor Tour Report

(21st October 2025)

We went for a drive around Southend to see Tudor-style houses.

The houses had stripy wooden boards and were black and white.

It was very fun.

- Kaitlyn

Girls SESSSA Football Competition

(22nd October 2025)

I scored 7 goals! We won all of our games!

The girls in Adventurer were good defenders and I liked that it was all girls. We came 1st place and won a trophy!

- Violet



***Halloween
Disco***

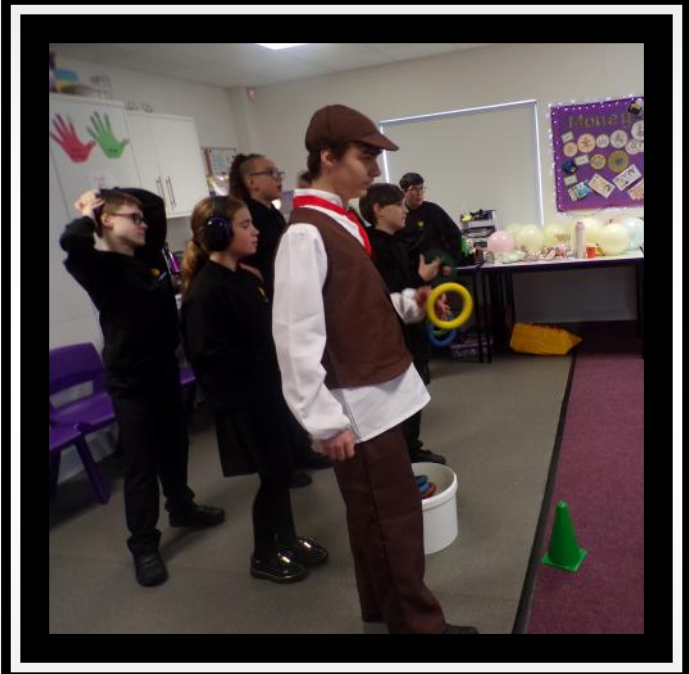






**Thee Only
Way is Tudor**







KS3 HOME ECONOMICS COSTS

As part of our school's curriculum, we offer home economics to all students in KS3 (years 7, 8 & 9). This requires a small fee from parents for ingredients. Students are able to bring home their food, if a contribution is received.

The cost is **£10 per term**.

This can be paid for using our online payments system. Please contact the school office if you need help in getting set up on this system.

Thank you for your contributions.

INSET DAYS 2025-2026

24th October,
23rd January, 29th June

TERM DATES 2025-2026:

Autumn half term: 27th—31st Oct
Autumn term ends: Fri 19th Dec
Spring term starts: Mon 5th Jan
Spring half term: 16th—20th Feb
Spring term ends: Fri 27th March
Summer term starts: Mon 13th April
Summer half term: 26th—29th May
Summer term ends: Mon 20th July

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

November

3rd	ALL DAY	Students Return to School
	11:15am-1:15pm	DofE Walk in Hockley Woods (Researcher Y9s)
5th	9:30am-1:00pm	Y9-10 Football Competition
6th	ALL DAY	Year 11 GCSE Art Students Trip to Tate Modern
10th	11:15am-1:15pm	DofE Litter Picking (Researcher Y9s)
11th	2:00-3:00pm	Seeker Visit to Co-op
	3:30-7:30pm	KS3 Parents Evening
12th	9:30am-1:30pm	KS4 USP Familiarisation Visit
13th	3:30-7:30pm	KS4 Parents' Evenings
14th	8:00am-4:00pm	Discoverer Jack Petchey Go Ape (New Date)
17th	11:15am-1:15pm	DofE Walk in Hockley Woods (Researcher Y9s)
19th	9:30am-2:00pm	Latimer League Football (Y8-10) at Marketfield School
20th	5:00-7:00pm	Post-16 Evening
25th	2:00-3:00pm	Seeker Visit to Co-op
26th	ALL DAY	The Nutcracker Ballet

December

2nd	9:00am-3:45pm	President's Sporting Lunch
3rd	TBC	Christmas Fayre
5th	9:30am-1:00pm	SESSSA Swimming Gala
9th	2:00-3:00pm	Seeker Visit to Co-op

DATES IN **RED** ARE ADDITIONS OR EDITS SINCE LAST WEEK'S NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL MEALS

Monday 3rd November will be week 3 of the menu.

WEEK 1		WEEK 2		WEEK 3	
MONDAY		MONDAY		MONDAY	
MAINS	Beef Burger in a Bun	MAINS	Shepherds Pie	MAINS	Lasagne
VEGETARIAN	Vegan Burger in a Bun	VEGETARIAN	Tomato Pasta	VEGETARIAN	Vegetarian Lasagne
SIDE	Diced Potato - Peas	SIDE	Baked Beans - Peas	SIDE	Garlic Bread - Broccoli
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Chocolate Sponge and Custard	DESSERT	Carrot Cake	DESSERT	Flapjack
TUESDAY		TUESDAY		TUESDAY	
MAINS	Sausages	MAINS	Chicken Nuggets	MAINS	Sausages in Tomato Sauce
VEGETARIAN	Quorn Sausages	VEGETARIAN	Quorn Nuggets	VEGETARIAN	Vegetarian Sausages
SIDE	Mash - Carrots - Gravy	SIDE	Pasta - Sweetcorn - Peas	SIDE	Pasta - Sweetcorn - Peas
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt	DESSERT	Plain Sponge and Custard	DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt
WEDNESDAY		WEDNESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
MAINS	Garmon	MAINS	Roast Chicken	MAINS	Garmon
VEGETARIAN	Quorn Fillet	VEGETARIAN	Cauliflower Cheese	VEGETARIAN	Quorn Fillet
SIDE	Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Peas	SIDE	Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Cabbage	SIDE	Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Cabbage
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Iced Sponge	DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt	DESSERT	Jelly
THURSDAY		THURSDAY		THURSDAY	
MAINS	Chicken Tikka Massala	MAINS	Spaghetti Bolognese	MAINS	Cheese & Tomato Pasta
VEGETARIAN	Stir Fry Noodles	VEGETARIAN	Tomato Pasta	VEGETARIAN	Tomato Pasta
SIDE	Rice - Peas - Sweetcorn	SIDE	Garlic Bread - Peas - Sweetcorn	SIDE	Peas - Sweetcorn
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Ice Cream	DESSERT	Angel Delight	DESSERT	Muffin
FRIDAY		FRIDAY		FRIDAY	
MAINS	Fish Fingers	MAINS	Pepperoni Pizza	MAINS	Cod Fillets
VEGETARIAN	Fishless Fingers	VEGETARIAN	Cheese Pizza	VEGETARIAN	Fishless Fingers
SIDE	Chips - Baked Beans - Peas	SIDE	Chips - Baked Beans - Peas	SIDE	Chips - Baked Beans - Peas
JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo	JACKET	Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo
SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras	SANDWICH	Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras
DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt	DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt	DESSERT	Fruit or Yogurt

***Extras - Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomatoes, Peppers or Savoury Snack**

FRESH FRUIT, YOGURTS AND WHOLEMEAL BREAD ARE AVAILABLE DAILY.

MOST DISHES ARE MADE DAILY AND ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

This online safety guide explores Fortnite's newest updates, outlining potential concerns, including spending pressure, screen time increases, and unfiltered voice chat with other players.

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 FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

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This guide offers advice on how to establish suitable, effective rules around the use of digital devices in your household.

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 CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screen time. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

- 1 WORK TOGETHER**
Involve your child when setting rules on devices to encourage them to take ownership.
- 2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES**
Set screen time limits. This could be 2 hours max a day. Agree times when devices must be put away and stick to it.
- 3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY**
Encourage your child to come to you if they are upset about something they've done, so you can resolve it together.
- 4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE**
To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices are kept in a common space (e.g. your bedroom or a charging box).
- 5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY**
Take time to regularly review the rules as a family; what's working, and what isn't. Get them to sign the rules you agree on.
- 6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO**
Discuss with your child about protecting their personal information. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers.
- 7 BE RESPECTFUL**
Talk to them about being respectful when using technology. Explain that if they are being unkind, they will need to stay away from their devices for a while.
- 8 "NO TECH" ZONES**
Have spaces where technology isn't allowed (e.g. bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table).
- 9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES**
Agree with your child on some fair consequences if any of these rules are broken and follow them through.
- 10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS**
Parents should have access to all passwords. Make it clear that you will check their devices regularly.

Meet Our Expert
Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at iCybercare. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

For more tips, hints and guides, go to nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices

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WHERE IS IT?

St Nicholas School,
Whittingham Avenue Entrance,
Southend-on-Sea,
SS2 4RL.



*Look for a single red gate opposite
Bournes Green Park playing fields.

WHAT DAY IS IT ON?

FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER (HALLOWEEN)
(10.00AM - 3.00PM)

*Due to our strong SEN links we purposely keep numbers
for each camp relatively low, compared to other similar
companies. Therefore, spaces will be limited for each day.
Book early to avoid disappointment!

On mobile? Sign up [here](#).



WHAT WILL WE DO THERE?

- FOOTBALL
- DODGEBALL
- BASKETBALL
- TABLE TENNIS
- SOFT ARCHERY
- BADMINTON
- VOLLEYBALL
- HOCKEY
- CRICKET
- BOCCIA
- CIRCUS SKILLS
- GYM



MEET NEW
PEOPLE!

STAY ACTIVE!

HAVE FUN!



WHAT WILL I NEED TO BRING?



- APPROPRIATE CLOTHING & FOOTWEAR FOR
SPORT IN ALL WEATHER CONDITIONS
- A DRINK OF WATER (NO FIZZY OR ENERGY
DRINKS PLEASE INC PRIME)
- A PACKED LUNCH (NO NUT PRODUCTS PLEASE)
- ANY MEDICATION REQUIRED (PLEASE INCLUDE
THIS DURING SIGNUP ON THE CLASS4KIDS APP)

HOW DO I BOOK ON & HOW MUCH IS IT?



SCAN THE QR CODE AND SIGNUP
FOR A CLASS4KIDS ACCOUNT. ALL
DETAILS AND PRICES ABOUT THE
CAMPS WE OFFER ARE ON THERE.



If you have any other questions please contact us
using any of the platforms below.



PE Extra



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