

St. Nicholas News



Friday 17th July 2026

St. Nicholas

A Note from the Headteacher

Activity Week

What an eventful end to the week! We are all exhausted after our water activity day today, but it was a happy kind of exhaustion after a full week of the fun activities in school. You can see a selection of pictures from the week at the end of this newsletter. I hope your child enjoyed all that the week had to offer.



Uniform Update

I know that families may be looking to buy new uniform items during the holiday and I therefore ask that when the students return in September, they are dressed in line with our policy. This does include all aspects of appearance, not just clothing, for example jewellery and hairstyles. I attach a copy of our policy to pages 6 & 7 of this newsletter for your reference.

End of Term Awards Assembly

We have the end of term awards assembly on Monday 20th July (the last day of term). We will share a summary of the awards with all parents/carers on Monday.

School Lunch Menu

Please note that our lunch menu has had some changes. The new menu (see page 2 of this newsletter) will be in place from Thursday 3rd September. Our first week back will be week 1 of the new menu.

End of year reports

All end of year reports have now been sent home to parents. Please contact the school office on Monday, if you have not received one.

Summer Fayre

A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone that came along to support our Summer Fair event yesterday. We were blessed with such beautiful weather! I would like to make a special mention of thanks to our parent forum for their fabulous contributions with a range of stalls and super raffle prizes. We are still counting pennies but it looks as though we have made £400 in profit, which is pretty good going for an hour and a half!

As this is my last Headteacher comment for the academic year, I would like to wish you all a fabulous summer break, when it comes. I look forward to welcoming our students back in September. Stay safe, stay well.

Mrs L. Fox, Headteacher

STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON

THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER 2026

SCHOOL MEALS

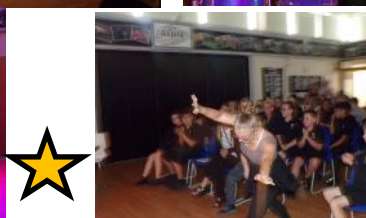
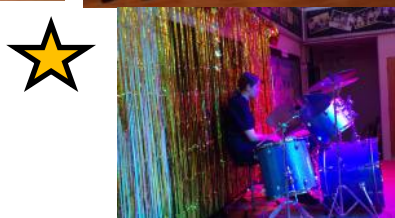
Thursday 3rd September will be week 1 of the below new menu.

WEEK 1		WEEK 2		WEEK 3	
MONDAY		MONDAY		MONDAY	
MAINS	Chicken Pie	MAINS	Sausages	MAINS	Ham and Pineapple Pizza
VEGETARIAN	Cheese and Sweetcorn Omelette	VEGETARIAN	Quorn Sausages	VEGETARIAN	Cheese Pizza
SIDE	New Potatoes - Peas	SIDE	Mash - Carrots - Peas - Gravy	SIDE	Pasta - 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	Fruit Yoghurt	DESSERT	Fruit Yoghurt	DESSERT	Fruit Yoghurt
TUESDAY		TUESDAY		TUESDAY	
MAINS	Spaghetti Bolognese	MAINS	Salmon and Broccoli Pasta	MAINS	Sausages in Tomato Sauce
VEGETARIAN	Vegetarian Spaghetti Bolognese	VEGETARIAN	Mac and Cheese	VEGETARIAN	Vegetarian Sausages in Tomato Sauce
SIDE	Garlic Bread - Mixed Veg - Sweetcorn	SIDE	Peas - Mixed Veg	SIDE	Pasta - 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	Rice Pudding	DESSERT	Apple Crumble and Custard	DESSERT	Banana Cake and Custard
WEDNESDAY		WEDNESDAY		WEDNESDAY	
MAINS	Roast Chicken	MAINS	Roast Chicken	MAINS	Roast Chicken
VEGETARIAN	Cauliflower Cheese	VEGETARIAN	Quorn Fillet	VEGETARIAN	Quorn Fillet
SIDE	Roast Potatoes - Cabbage - Carrots	SIDE	Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Peas - Swede	SIDE	Roast Potatoes - Peas - Carrots
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	Tropical Fruit Pot	DESSERT	Tropical Fruit Pot	DESSERT	Tropical Fruit Pot
THURSDAY		THURSDAY		THURSDAY	
MAINS	Chicken Tikka Masala	MAINS	Chilli Con Carne	MAINS	Shepherds Pie
VEGETARIAN	Chickpea Curry	VEGETARIAN	Stir Fry Noodles	VEGETARIAN	Cheese and Tomato Pasta
SIDE	Rice - Green Beans - Sweetcorn	SIDE	Rice - Peas - Sweetcorn	SIDE	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 Muffin	DESSERT	Iced Sponge	DESSERT	Chocolate Oaty Slice
FRIDAY		FRIDAY		FRIDAY	
MAINS	Cod Fillets	MAINS	Fish Fingers	MAINS	Cod Fillets
VEGETARIAN	Fishless Fingers	VEGETARIAN	Fishless Fingers	VEGETARIAN	Cheese and Onion Puff
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 Yoghurt	DESSERT	Fruit or Yoghurt	DESSERT	Fruit or Yoghurt

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

FRESH FRUIT, YOGURTS AND WHOLEMEAL BREAD ARE AVAILABLE DAILY.

★ ★ ST NICK'S GOT TALENT ★ ★



★ ★ SPORTS DAY ★ ★

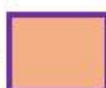


SCHOOL TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES - ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

September 2026							October 2026							November 2026							December 2026						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1		1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
														30													
January 2027							February 2027							March 2027							April 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31								29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
May 2027							June 2027							July 2027							August 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4							1
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30	31					



= School Days



= School Holidays



= Bank Holidays



= Non Pupil Days

Autumn Term :	Thursday 3rd September 2025 - Friday 18th December 2026	74 days
	<i>Non Pupil Day : 1st & 2nd September 2026 & 2nd November 2026</i>	
	<i>Half Term 26th to 30th Oct 2026 & Xmas 21st Dec 2026 to 31st December 2026</i>	
Spring Term :	Monday 4th January 2027 - Friday 25th March 2027	54 days
	<i>Non Pupil Day 22nd January & 12th February 2027</i>	
	<i>Half Term 15th Feb to 19th Feb 2027 Easter 30th Mar to 9th Apr 2027</i>	
Summer Term :	Monday 12th April 2027 - Wednesday 21st July 2027	67 days
	<i>Non Pupil Day 28th June 2027</i>	
	<i>Half Term 1st June 2027 - 4th June 2027</i>	

195 Days

School Uniform Guidance

(September 2026)



Uniform

Trousers/Skirts or Shorts: Plain Black not tight fitting

leggings can only be worn under a skirt

skirts and shorts must reach the knee

Shirt: Black, plain or badged Polo Shirt (no t-shirts)

Sweatshirt: Black, plain or badged. Hoodies are not permitted unless used as an additional layer, like a coat, and must be removed in school.

Blazer (optional): Black, plain or badged

Fleece (optional): Black, plain or badged

Shoes: Flat black shoes or trainers without coloured markings. No other footwear is permitted.

Socks: Plain white, grey or black

PE Kit

Shirt: White, plain or badged Polo Shirt.

Shorts: Black

Tracksuit: Black

Shoes: Non-marking trainers (white sole)

Swimming

Black Swimming Costume/Shorts

Towel

*Swimming hats are provided



All our uniform can be obtained from Crawler's School Uniforms, Hamstel Road with our logo printed on the front.

Crawler's School Uniforms

361 Hamstel Road

Southend-on-Sea

Essex

SS2 4LE

01702 601274

Jewellery, Hair and Make-up

As a school we do have rules about jewellery make-up and hair. Allowances can be made on cultural or religious grounds to the following:

Jewellery

No jewellery of any kind should be worn except for:

- a watch

- 1 pair of plain gold or silver studs in the lobe of the ear

No facial or other piercings allowed.

All jewellery is required to be removed for PE and swimming and cannot be taped over. New ear piercings should be timed for the start of the summer holidays to allow time to heal.

Hair

Bright, non-natural colours should be avoided.

Extreme hairstyles are not permitted.

Make-up

Make-up should be kept to a minimum e.g. no heavy eye make-up, lipstick or nail varnish.

False eyelashes and nails are not permitted.

Additional items

We do not encourage students to bring in items from home. The school cannot accept responsibility for items lost, damaged or even stolen. Items, such as the ones listed below, can create unnecessary social conflict amongst students:

- Animal tails

- Any toy – from soft toys to figures etc.

- Collectors cards

- Sunglasses

- iPad

Dress Down Friday

It is a privilege, not a right, for students to attend school on Fridays in non-uniform. Please see the guides below:

Items that are not permitted:

- Crop tops and short t-shirts that reveal the student's bare skin around the stomach

- Very tight clothing such as gym wear

- Animal tails attached to clothing

- Pyjamas and nightwear

- Backless, open-toe shoes

- Thin strapped tops/t-shirts

Please note:

- Any language and images on clothing must be appropriate for 11 year olds

- All footwear should be flat

- Failure to dress appropriately could result in the removal of the 'Dress Down Friday' privilege.

Exceptions

Due to a student's individual needs, there may be times when exceptions need to be made to our uniform policy. This will be done in conjunction with the Headteacher/SMT and the parents/carers.

A guide to skin betting in games, explaining how virtual items can be gambled and the risks this poses for young 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 SKIN BETTING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

'Skin betting' is the term used when players gamble using virtual in-game items, such as weapon 'skins' or character cosmetics. Although these items appear purely decorative, some can hold significant real-world value. Research suggests that children as young as 13 have engaged in this type of betting, often on sites with limited age checks or safeguards, blurring the line between gaming and gambling.

UNREGULATED PLATFORMS

Skin gambling typically takes place on third-party websites that are not licensed or regulated. These platforms often lack age verification, making them easily accessible to children. By linking their gaming accounts, users can deposit skins, place bets, and withdraw winnings as cash or higher-value items – often without adults being aware these activities are happening.

REAL-WORLD VALUE

Skins may look like simple cosmetic upgrades to in-game items and characters, but some are worth hundreds or even thousands of pounds. They can be traded or sold on online marketplaces, meaning they function much like real money. When young people bet with skins, they are risking items of genuine financial value, even if no physical cash is exchanged directly.

INFLUENCER PROMOTION

Some gaming influencers and streamers have promoted skin betting sites in their content. This can make the behaviour appear normal or even desirable, potentially encouraging younger audiences to engage in these activities without fully understanding the risks involved.

SOCIAL STATUS PRESSURE

In games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive (CS:GO) and Fortnite, rare skins can act as status symbols. Young players may feel the pressure to own high-value items to fit in with peers. This can lead them to take risks – such as using gambling sites – to obtain desirable skins, similar to how branded goods can influence behaviour offline.

LIMITED OVERSIGHT

Skin betting can take place both in-game and on external websites that parents and educators may not be familiar with. Because skin betting does not always resemble traditional gambling, it can go unnoticed until significant losses have occurred, in both items or money.

GATEWAY BEHAVIOURS

Skin betting mirrors many aspects of traditional gambling, including chance-based outcomes, reward systems and excitement. Early exposure to these mechanics can normalise betting behaviours before children and young people even reach legal gambling age. Research indicates that this may increase the likelihood of developing unhealthy habits later, particularly if early wins create a false sense of control or skill.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UNDERSTAND IN-GAME ITEMS

Familiarise yourself with the games young people are playing and learn whether they include tradable or sellable items. Titles like CS:GO and Rust are known for skin marketplaces, but similar systems are increasingly common across games.

DISCUSS VALUE AND RISK

Help children and young people understand that cosmetic items like skins can carry real-world value. Explain that losing them through betting is comparable to losing money, therefore reinforcing the connection between in-game actions and real financial consequences.

LOOK FOR WARNING SIGNS

Be alert to changes in behaviour, such as secrecy around gaming, a strong focus on acquiring specific skins, or a sudden loss of in-game items. These could indicate involvement in skin gambling and provide an opportunity to start a conversation about it.

USE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS

Make use of parental controls and platform settings to restrict trading, purchases, and access to external websites. Where possible, disable marketplace features on games and monitor young people's account activity to reduce the risk of unauthorised transactions.

Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is Head of Foundation and Programme Lead for Esports Coaching at the University Campus of Esports.

Bubba Gaeddert is a Senior Lecturer and Head of Events at the University Campus of Esports, as well as President and Co-Founder of the Videogames and Esports Foundation.

See full reference list on our website

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The National College