



St Antony's Newsletter March 2024

Lenten Term



Loving God,
Help us to work together
to share what we have
so that everyone has what they need.
Help us to build a better world
where each of us can become the best person we can be.

Amen

Dear families,

Thank you for all your support with the Lenten fundraising. We truly appreciate your contributions and involvement. It was a joyous occasion when parents came to join us as we celebrated mass in school. Your presence made it even more special.

As we approach Holy Week, we have an exciting event planned for Maundy Thursday. Year's 3 and 4 will be performing a passion play in St Joseph's Church. We invite all of you to attend and witness their fantastic portrayal.

This half term, we have organised numerous trips for our students. Year 5 and 6 have embarked on residential trips to the beautiful regions of Yorkshire and the Lake District. These trips provided valuable learning experiences outside the classroom, enhancing their understanding and appreciation of the world around them.

We would also like to take a moment to celebrate the achievements of Miss Thomas. She has been shortlisted for the prestigious Primary Science Teacher of the Year award. This recognition is a testament to her dedication and passion for teaching. We are incredibly proud of her accomplishments.

Wishing you and your families a joyful and peaceful Easter break. May this time bring you closer together and rejuvenate your spirits. Thank you once again for your continuous support.

Warmest regards,

Mrs H McGowan

Attendance



Children with poor attendance do less well at school.

We have 50 children with attendance below 90%. 82% of these children are working below national expectation.

We have 53 children with attendance above 98%. Only 32% of these children are working below national expectation, this includes some SEND children who come to school every day.

The data speaks for itself.

Our whole school attendance target is 96%. **We have 49 pupils with perfect attendance this term.**

If you are unsure on whether your child can come to school when they are ill please follow the link below: [NHS Guidance](#)

Reception - 91.6%

Year 1 - 91.6%

Year 2 - 94.6%

Year 3 - 93.3%

Year 4 - 93.1%

Year 5 - 93.0%

Year 6 - 95.2%

Our whole school attendance so far this year is 93.5%.

We need to work together to improve this.



Did you know...

- 90% attendance is the equivalent to a pupil missing one half day per week or missing 4 whole weeks over the year - approximately 120 lessons per year missed.

Children who have time off often find it difficult to catch up and do well.

- You can talk to Ms Ali or Mrs Saunders if you are struggling to get your child into school. We are always here to help where we can.

Irish Dancing Workshop



A former pupil of ours, Gabrielle, recently visited our school to conduct an Irish dancing workshop. The children were absolutely delighted by this activity, with one of them even expressing their eagerness to watch Irish dancing tutorials on YouTube. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to experience a new cultural activity and learn about the traditions of this popular dance form. The workshop was a great success, and we are grateful to Gabrielle for sharing her passion and expertise with our pupils.











Residentials

























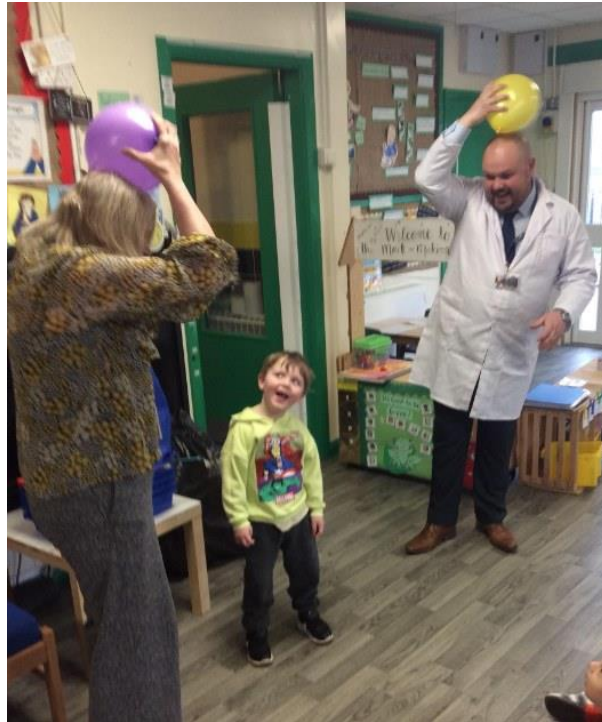


Science Week



The science week focus this year was time. Miss Thomas organised an amazing science week with lots of activities including making timers, science poster competitions and student ambassador workshops. There was a special visit from Scientist Saunders who did a static electricity workshop using the Van de Graaff. The students had the opportunity to learn hands-on and explore the fascinating world of science. It was an engaging and inspiring week that sparked curiosity and enthusiasm among the students.

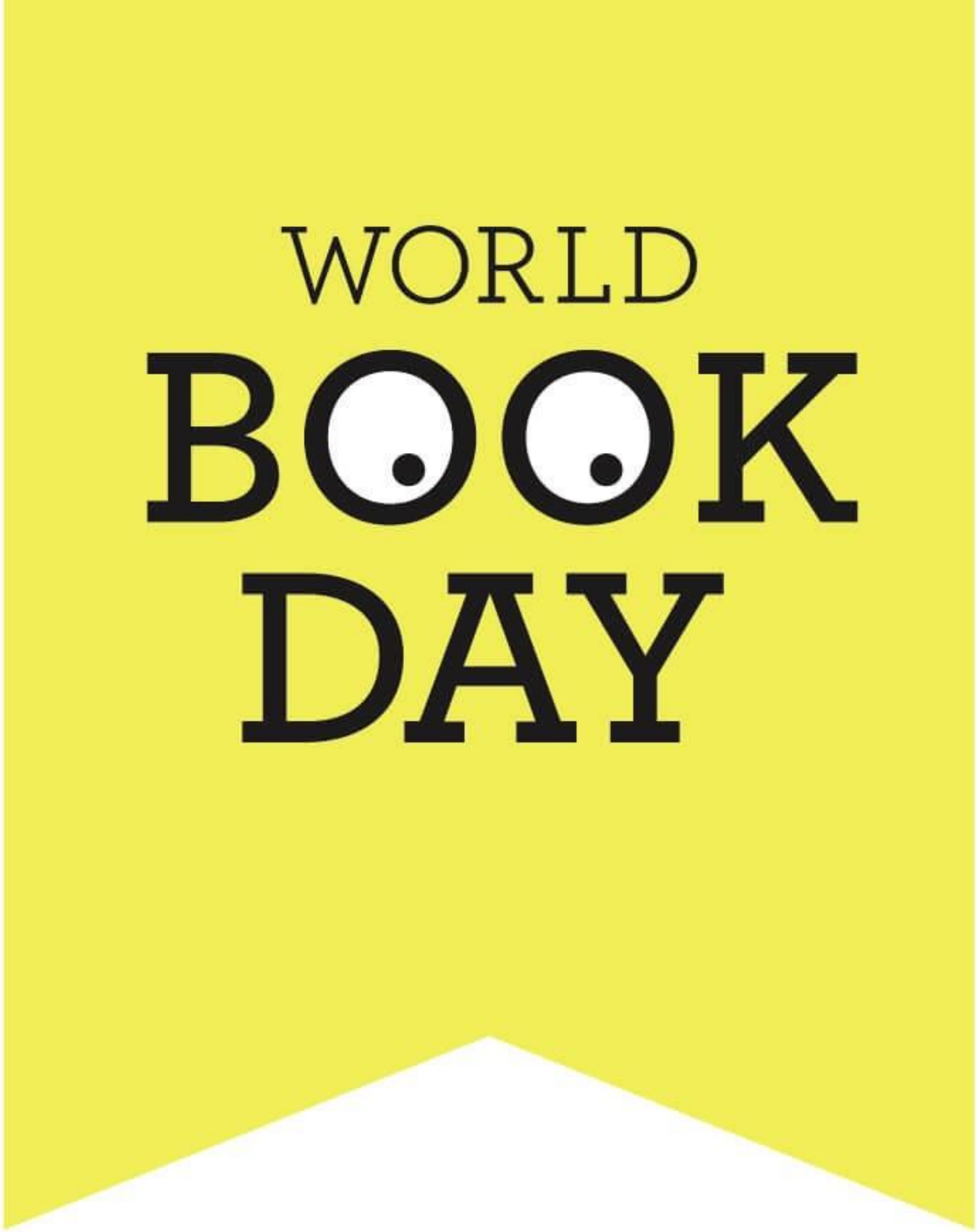










A yellow banner with a pointed bottom, featuring the text 'WORLD BOOK DAY' in a playful font. The word 'BOOK' is stylized with large, white, cartoonish eyes for the letter 'O's.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Mrs Park truly did a fantastic job of organising World Book Day 2024 in our school. The event was a resounding success, filled with excitement and educational activities. One highlight was the return of The Masked Reader, where children eagerly participated in guessing the mystery readers. They also had the chance to immerse themselves in book themes through a VR experience and a thrilling book-themed escape room.

In addition, the children got creative by designing their own bookmarks, showcasing their artistic talents and love for reading. The entire day was a celebration of literature and imagination, fostering a lifelong passion for books. Mrs Park's hard work and dedication to promoting literacy made this World Book Day an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.





Lent Walk



The school recently completed the annual Cafod Lent Walk, with pupils and staff eagerly participating. Excitement filled the air as we embarked on a journey to Queens Park, guided by our shared commitment to make a difference in the world. This year's theme revolved around the concept of generosity – an essential quality that holds the power to transform lives.

During the walk, every step we took brought us closer to combatting poverty and making a positive impact. Furthermore, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who generously donated £1 towards this noble cause. Together, we can strive towards eliminating poverty, step by step.







Eco Team Project



Some of our Eco Warriors have been to Tesco today to recycle our bread bag blocks. The children met with the Tesco community champion Lisa, who showed them all the different things they can recycle 🌱 to help our planet.

🙏 God our Father,

We often abuse the planet which you have given us to live in.

May our efforts to recycle and care for our planet be pleasing to you.

Amen.







Uniform



At St Antony's School, we place great importance on the wearing of a school uniform. Uniforms create a sense of unity and pride among the students, fostering a positive and respectful learning environment.

The school ties can be purchased from the school office for £6.

It is also important to note that earrings are not allowed to be worn as part of the uniform.

To maintain consistency and uphold the school's standards, phone calls will be made home if children come to school in incorrect uniform.

In regards to PE, children are required to wear plain black leggings, joggers or shorts without prominent logos. Additionally, they are expected to wear PE hoodies and t-shirts in red, blue, yellow, or green. This allows for easy identification during physical activities and encourages a sense of team spirit.

By adhering to the school uniform policy, St Antony's School aims to instil a strong sense of pride, discipline, and community among its students.

To summarise, after the holiday yellow cards will be issued for uniform breaches. Please adhere to the following:

- No jewellery including no earrings (clear plastic place holders only)
- Ties must be worn with a white shirt (no polo shirts or t-shirts)
- Black school shoes or pumps with uniform
- Trainers are only to be worn with PE kits
- Only black leggings, joggers or shorts with PE kits (No prominent logos)

Safeguarding



Holidays can be tough, and we understand that. At St Antony's, we prioritize the safety and wellbeing of our students above all else. We encourage all parents to reach out if they have any concerns or

need support during this time. Remember, safeguarding our children is a collective effort, and together we can create a safe and secure environment for all.

Below are some helpful links:

[Domestic Violence Helpline](#)

[Wish Centre](#)

[Salvation Army](#)

[Mind](#)

[Kooth - Mental Health Support For Young Children](#)

[Andy's Man Hub - Mental Health support For Men](#)

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, facts and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com).

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ENCOURAGING OPEN CONVERSATIONS AT HOME

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust – making it easier to unpick even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home.



- 1. CREATE A SAFE SPACE**
Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, praise, reassurance and love gives them the confidence to be able to talk about what they are thinking or feeling. These conversations are what children's brains and hearts need to take shape, so it's important to provide a safe, judgement-free environment in which to discuss them – especially if their opinions differ from your own.
- 2. CONSIDER OTHER OUTLETS**
Some children may find it easier to talk when they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, working or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something else to do. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up if that ever occurs.
- 3. NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS**
Encourage mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "how are you feeling today?" rather than the best and worst part of your day. "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"
- 4. LISTEN ACTIVELY**
When children express themselves, make a conscious effort to listen clearly and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their views as childish or "teenage angst" – or to assume that they're angry. Let them know they're feeling. Children don't have your life experience, their evidence is still developing as they learn to push through difficulties and handle problems.
- 5. ASK OPEN QUESTIONS**
Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?" or "Are you happy to go to school?") tend to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"
- 6. RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES**
If a child isn't ready to talk to about something, respect their boundaries. The reassurance that their feelings are important and worthy of consideration, while you're willing to let them know you can always be there for them, is what they need most. It's not for them to feel that they're ready to chat. Give them regular check-ins and sometimes let the best come of progress.
- 7. LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children later adults being overly harsh, critical or judgemental, or see them holding unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.
- 8. HAVE REGULAR CHECK-INS**
Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever is on their mind and parents and carers, being away from the house and other distractions might be productive here you could encourage regular tips to a coffee shop or a walk, or just a weekly walk.
- 9. PROVIDE RESOURCES**
It's often beneficial to let children know about what support that's available to them. It's also helpful to let them know about the support that's available to them. It's also helpful to let them know about the support that's available to them. It's also helpful to let them know about the support that's available to them.
- 10. CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL EXPRESSION**
It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – encouraging them to be open to talk about their emotions and how they feel about them. It's also helpful to let them know about the support that's available to them. It's also helpful to let them know about the support that's available to them.

Meet Our Expert
With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and training executive head teacher, Anna Bennett has a wealth of understanding of what works in practice, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

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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 diverse sexual identity. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, facts and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TEKKEN 8

Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream installment. A four-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FUTURE SPENDING?
Tekken 8 comes a PEGI 16 rating, with the associated warning for violence, occasional gambling and in-game purchases options. The former issue, however, is a little different to other fighting games from developer Bandai Namco. Many high-profile releases, Tekken 8 is content to offer a free demo version of the game, meaning the exception are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

COPYCAT RISK
With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of acrobatic and martial-arts inspired styles, younger children and impressionable teens may be influenced and urged to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could range from simple mimicry to more serious acts of violence, injury and distress if young gamers start mimicking games.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY
As a fighting game, Tekken 8 is primarily heavily based on punching, kicking and other martial arts inspired moves. While some characters attack occasionally involving weapons (such as the sword), the game is content with the exception of kicking or using, but the fact remains that the action still involves intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT
Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakened', focuses on one of the series' most prominent characters – Katarina and Jin, Katarina and Jin who have been working for evil. The story of the family members' previous fighting match, other may be hard to understand (but difficult to read) and for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY
Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably the Ranked system, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practicing and winning the challenge can be far more intense. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or the energy if they wind up on a losing streak.

ONLINE CONTACT
Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a parent's permission is a viable source of their permission. Real players can, however, a chat and voice messages if they wish. Given the game's intensely competitive nature, there is a risk of online abuse if they appear to be a particularly close loss.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF
As with more popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself to see if you find it content. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available for all platforms, which lets you experience fights with a number of the characters in a useful way of establishing for-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?
With characters utilizing real-world fighting styles such as Jiu-Jitsu, boxing and Muaythai, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Children can look to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing exposure to meeting new friends.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT
While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'gentle' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that encourages violent behavior or gore. Unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise, of course, any fighting game element of the game will include a significant degree of violence – but the level at which the violence in Tekken is played may not be as intense for some children.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS
If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, their parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the ability to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the game's parent controls (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert
Editor in Chief of gaming and experts site *IGN*, Lloyd Coombes has worked at the game's media industry for five years and's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also knows the experience of online gaming. Having played every Tekken title and series, he's written about the franchise on influential sites including *IGN* and *TechnoRadar*.

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Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENT

- Dads and Lads drop in with Mr Shaw and Mr Saunders. A chance for dads and older lads to come together for a chat and feel a part of the school community. Please come and join us for a brew and cake 🍷🍰. Date will be posted on class DOJO.

Parent Governor



Our school is looking for a dedicated and passionate parent governor to join our governing board. This is a fantastic opportunity to make a difference in your child's education and contribute to the overall success of our school.

To be a parent governor you should have:

- A strong commitment to the role and to improving outcomes for children
- Good inter-personal skills, curiosity, and a willingness to learn and develop new skills
- The specific skills required to make sure the governing board delivers effective governance

Follow the link below to complete the form before 28th March. [Parent Governor Form](#)

What's coming up next term?



- 25th March - The start of Holy Week
- 25th March - Turning Disability Into Possibility Workshop
- 26th March - Blackpool zoo for Reception class
- 26th March - Parent's Evening from 3:15pm
- 27th March - Good to be green
- 27th March - Year 1 Music Performance 2:30-3pm
- 27th March - Easter Bingo 3:30-4:30pm
- 28th March - Passion Play at St Joseph's Church - Time TBC
- 28th March 1pm finish.
- 9th April - return to school
- 6th May - Closed for one day only
- 8th May - Crowning of Our Lady
- 13th May - Start of SATs
- 15th May - Wood End Farm for Reception Class
- 20th May - Laudato Si week
- 22nd May - Sports Day (weather Permitting)
- 24th May - Break up for half term

Keep your eyes peeled on class dojo and the school website for more events.