



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.

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



















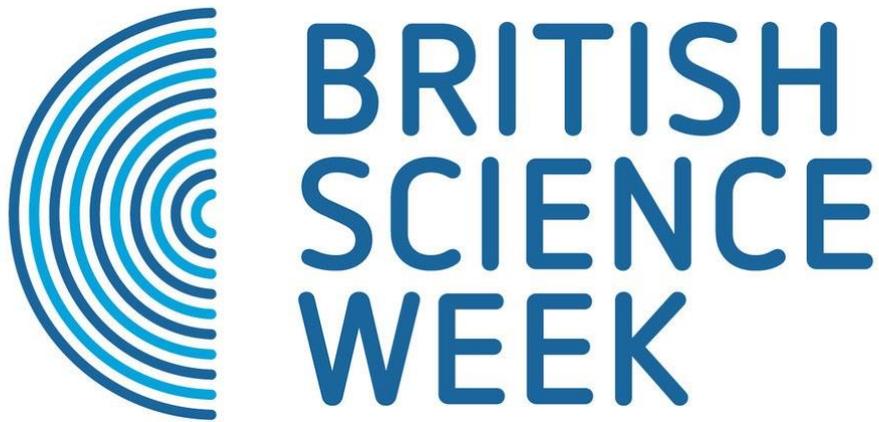






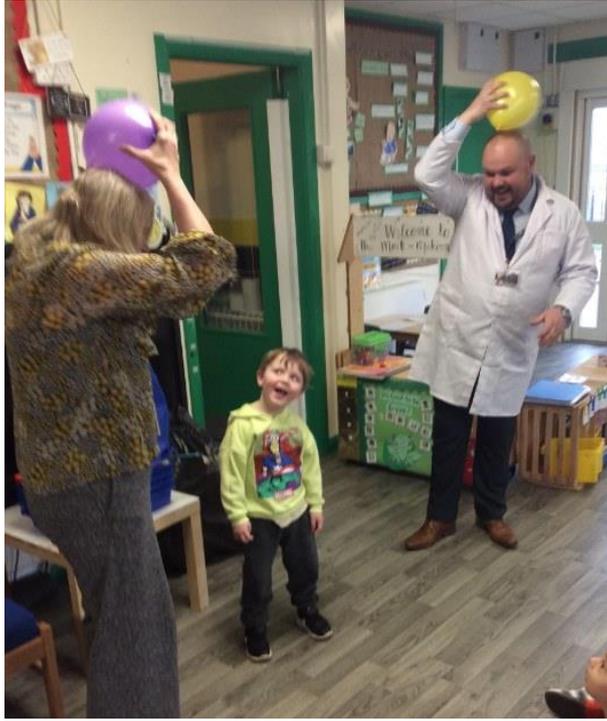


Science Week



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.



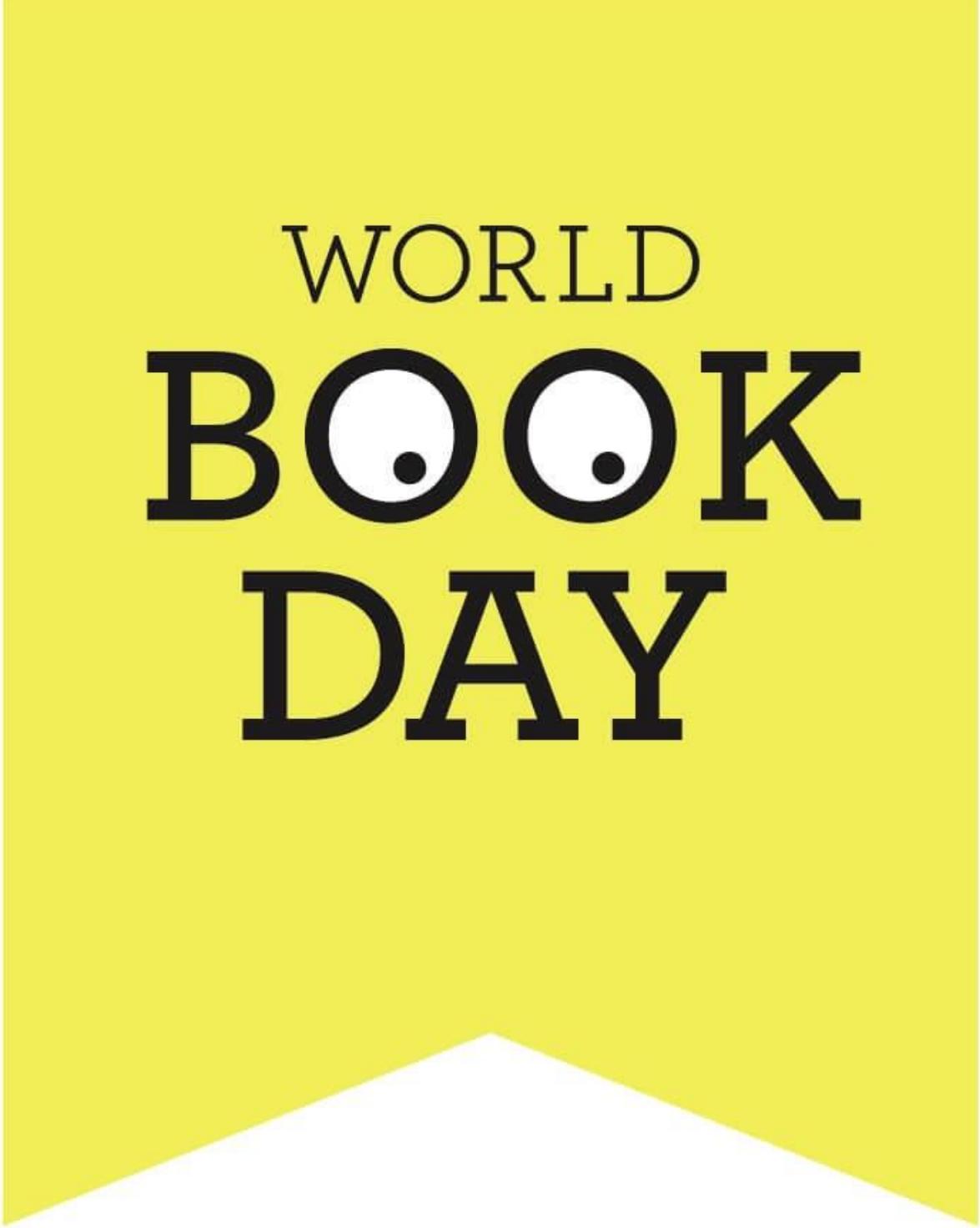








World Book Day 2024

A yellow banner with a white pointed bottom edge. The text 'WORLD BOOK DAY' is centered on the banner. 'WORLD' is in a simple, black, sans-serif font. 'BOOK' is in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font, with the two 'O's stylized as eyes with black pupils. 'DAY' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, similar to 'BOOK' but smaller.

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 BIG 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

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 change. Formally reviewed by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, facts and tips, please visit [thenationalcollege.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 mainline console instalment. A non-stop 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.

AN ESRB RATED
PEGI 16

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

FUTURE SPENDING?
Tekken 8 comes as PEGI is rating, with the prospect of in-game purchases, cosmetic items and in-game currency. The latter two, however, are a little different to what we may expect from traditional game releases. Many high-profile releases, Tekken 8 is content with purchasable content spreading the cost over time. The exceptions 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 acrobatics and supernatural abilities, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves inspired to copy their favourite characters or act out their epic fights in real life. This could range from minor incidents, injury and distress if young gamers start copying fighting moves.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY
As a fighting game, Tekken 8 is primarily focused on punching, kicking and throwing. However, there are several 'special' or 'super' attacks occasionally involving supernatural elements. These can be particularly concerning in the execution and timing of moves, but the fact remains that the action is entirely devoid of sexual content and inflicting damage on one opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT
Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Ambition', focuses on one of the series' most important characters – Heihachi and his son, Kazuya – who have been working for rivals. The sight of two family members pursuing fighting skills, other than the usual 'father-son' dynamic, could cause confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt each other.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY
Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' system, where players compete for a position on the basis of competitive matches. Many players will find this significant amount of time to practicing and with the challenge can be fun for older teens. Matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with spending the hours 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 needed to activate it. If a player is permitted to voice chat, they can be contacted by other players (including those who are not ranked) in a private room, through a chat or via messages if they wish. Given the game is a highly competitive arena, there are concerns that players could be at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a competitive player.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF
As with most popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself to see if you're comfortable. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo available to play for 30 days. While you explore the game, it's important to note that the characters are useful way of establishing in-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT
While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'epic' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that encourages violent behaviour in real life. In fact, the game is rated for ages 16 and over. Of course, any fighting game always in the hands of a player may not be as safe for some children.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?
With characters utilising 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. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for meeting new friends.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS
If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from friends, their parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the ability to be messaged by other players (although the game's controls are not as complex as those of other games) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the online's parent controls (if played on PC).

Meet Our Expert
Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site [iGiteacon](#), Lloyd Coombes has worked in the gaming industry for three years and played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also watches his son's performance in online games. Writing mainly about text-based games, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

The National College
[WakeUpWednesday](#)

[@wake_up_weds](#) [/www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@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: 06.03.2024

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.