

January 2026

Newsletter

Eager to Learn, Proud to Achieve

www.josephturnerprimary.co.uk
Tel: 0121 557 8733



A Message from the Head Teacher

It has been wonderful welcoming the children back to school this January. They have returned full of enthusiasm, ready to learn, and eager to take part in all aspects of school life.

This month has already been filled with exciting opportunities and enriching experiences. Pupils from Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 represented our school brilliantly at *Young Voices*. Their energy and commitment made us incredibly proud, and it was fantastic to see them take part in such a memorable event.

Year 5 immersed themselves in history through a fascinating Ancient Greek workshop, bringing myths, daily life, and ancient traditions to life in the classroom. Our Year 3 children also enjoyed stepping back in time during their Egyptian workshop, exploring the wonders of one of the world's earliest civilisations with curiosity and excitement.

A highlight for the whole school was the visit from the pantomime, which filled the hall with laughter, participation, and plenty of festive fun. Moments like these remind us how special it is to learn and enjoy experiences together as a community.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to a positive, productive term ahead and many more enriching experiences for our children.

PE KIT

Just a reminder that PE Kit is to be worn on PE days, as follows:

- Shirt/t-shirt to match house colours (Red – Tawny, Sky Blue – Barn, Snowy – White, Eagle – Yellow)
 - black shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings
 - black pumps or trainers

We thank you for following the above policy and will be making contact when the above is not adhered to.



Whole School Dress Up Day

Earlier in the month, our attendance event where children came wearing an outfit of an occupation they would like to do was a HUGE success and further raised the profile of aspirations. Here are just a few of the amazing costumes! Some staff even joined in with the fun!



Whole School Pantomime

This half term, the whole school had a wonderful time taking part in a special pantomime performance. The children were full of excitement as they joined in with the lively storytelling, colourful characters and there was plenty of laughter.



The pantomime was a fantastic opportunity for the children to enjoy live performance, join in with the fun and make memories together. It was clear from all the smiles and enthusiasm that they had a lot of fun!

Year 3 Ancient Egyptian day and Year 5 Ancient Greek day with Professor Black

Both Years 3 and 5 had fantastic Ancient Egyptian and Greek Days with the expert Historian Damian leading the way. Damian brought these Ancient civilizations to life with his amazing stories and endless insight. Both year groups explored some interesting artefacts, from the replicas of the different types of vases and mummification tools, to the weapons used in battle. Both year groups loved playing Ancient Egyptian and Greek games of speed and knowledge to test their understanding. Pupils particularly enjoyed learning about the mummification process, legends, myths and gods. By the end of the days, they all felt like mini experts themselves!



Dates for the diary - February

Tuesday 3 rd Feb	Y4 Bishop's Wood visit
Wednesday 4 th Feb	Y5 library visits
Monday 9 th Feb	EYFS Pop up play village - Nursery and Reception
Monday 9 th Feb	Y6 library visits
Tuesday 10 th Feb	Y6 Aspiration Career workshop with West Midlands Fire Service, inc. road safety & e-scooter work
Friday 13 th Feb	Children break up at 3:20
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th Feb	School Holidays
Monday 23 rd Feb	Children return to school
Tuesday 24 th Feb	Y4 MTC (multiplication check) meeting 3:20-3:50
Monday 2 nd March	Y3 library visits

Skills Builder



Our Skills Builder journey has got off to a positive start since it was introduced back in November. As a school, we have now completed the Listening, Speaking and Problem Solving units and are currently working through the Creativity skill. This programme teaches the children 8 essential skills designed to improve employability and social-emotional wellbeing. Each class receives a 20 minute lesson each week, building on their skills to better themselves as learners and the icons are used throughout a vast range of lessons to embed these skills across the curriculum.

Aspirations visit from a Pro-Wrestler



Building on our aspiration-themed dress-up day, we have continued delivering Aspiration Career sessions where our children have face-to-face visits from various parents and people within the locality to talk about their careers to inspire the next generation. Most recently, we had a visit from a Pro-Wrestler, from Top Turnbuckle Wrestling (TTW), who inspired our Year 4 children that acting and drama can lead to many different careers.





National Online Safety

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 DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

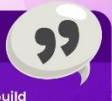
SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.



ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.



MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.



PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.



Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



@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: 14.01.2026