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NEWSLETTER 1st May 2025

Dear Parents,
We've had a busy start to the term – read on to see what we have been up to...

OFSTED INSPECTION

Our report is in and will be sent alongside this letter. I am delighted with the many positive attributes of our school that were noted by the inspection team. It confirms my opinion of how staff and pupils of all ages reflect the school's high expectations of themselves and each other in all areas. Our values and ethos were clearly seen to be woven through every aspect of school life – just as we would want!



LANDSCOVE LEARNERS

CLASS 1 Have been celebrating Mrs Baron's success at the London marathon last weekend. I think she loved the class decorations when she arrived this morning! She wanted to say a massive thank you to everyone for their words of encouragement and sponsors and is very pleased to have raised £1410. Well done Mrs B!



CLASS 2 have enjoyed their practical maths this week as we've been learning all about money. They had to choose their coins carefully in order to make the right amount. Year 1s took this further and created a role play area in the shop, they had to choose their items and pay with the exact money. Next time we'll be learning about 'change'.

CLASS 3 In DT, Class 3 designed and made their own car. First, they constructed the chassis for the car and then added the body of the car using a variety of nets.

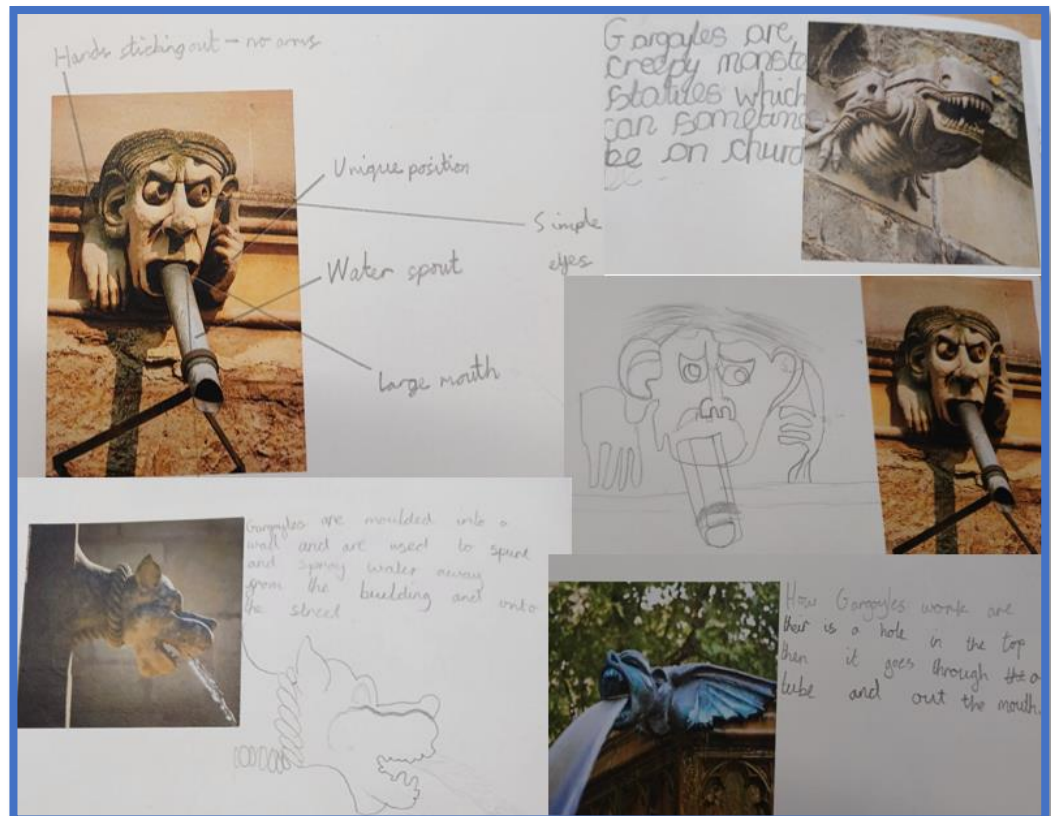




CLASS 4

Class 4 have begun learning about the history of gargoyles whilst studying sculpture. The aim of this unit will be to design and learn about the techniques for making their own clay gargoyle.

I can't wait to see the final pieces!



ETHOS VISION AND VALUES: GLOBAL NEIGHBOURS

We are delighted to announce that we have gained the Silver Award from Christian Aid's Global Neighbours Scheme for our global citizenship work. This was a demanding process, where children gain a deeper understanding of global issues and how everyone can play a part in making the world a fairer place and be advocates of change. Huge congratulations must go not only to the children but to Mrs Neville who has driven this project, supported staff, made global links and generally been the biggest advocate for global citizenship we could have wished for. Well done Mrs Neville!



FOLS – a message from Michelle

We have a few fun events coming up so please make a note of the dates in your diaries!

Thursday 15th May – Bags2school collection. Bags and leaflets should be coming out soon. Bags onto the field by 9am please. FOLS can arrange storage beforehand if needed.



I will shortly be putting together a rota for ice lolly sales on a Friday afternoons, (in the hope that the warm weather continues!) Please let me know if you are willing to go on the rota. It means buying some ice lollies from a supermarket and bringing them to school in a cool box at the end of the day to sell for £1 each. It isn't a big job, but the children love it. Hopefully, if we get enough volunteers, you will only be asked to do it once. Unfortunately, this year we are going to have to impose a cash only on the day for ice lollies, due to a significant number of people who failed to pay last year.

There will be a letter coming out soon about this year's sponsored **Colour Run** which will be on Friday 20th June after Sports Day on the school field. We will need quite a few volunteers for setting up and throwing the colour, so please let us know if you are able and willing.

We have a good selection of used uniform, so if you are thinking about buying anything please check with us before buying new. Susy (Darcy's Mum) has kindly been putting bespoke bags together for anybody that asks so please email fols@outlook.com bags donations welcome but not necessary.

We still have numbers available for the 100 club so please sign up if you can, it's such an easy way to make money for FOLS plus being in with the chance to win yourself. It is only £4 per month, with £2 going to FOLS and £2 going into the monthly prize fund. Contact Danielle Merchant - dscamp@hotmail.co.uk to get your number.

Lastly the date for the **Summer Fair will be – Friday 4th July** again any ideas or offers of help are extremely welcome. We would like to extend an invite again to any external stall holders, please let any friends or family know £15 per table, places are limited.

THANK YOU! Please keep supporting FOLS~ they really do make a huge difference!

Many thanks, Michelle.

SAFEGUARDING & ATTENDANCE

Attendance: (Our school target is 96.8%)	
Whole school	97.1%
Class 1	95.0%
Class 2	99.1%
Class 3	97.1%
Class 4	96.9%
Well done Class 2!	

If you are concerned about a child's wellbeing, please contact the school or in non-school hours contact MASH on 0345 155 1071.

Our designated safeguarding officer is Mrs. Ryder and the deputy safeguarding officer is Mr. Ansermoz.

As technology becomes increasingly embedded in young people's lives, it's common for them to form friendships entirely online. These connections can provide companionship and community — but they also bring potential dangers that parents and educators need to be aware of. From online grooming and privacy breaches to exposure to upsetting content, meeting people on the internet isn't without risk. This guide explains the possible hazards of online friendships and gives parents and educators essential advice on helping children build safe, positive relationships online.

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, notes and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com. **Trigger Warning:** This guide contains mention of suicide, which may be distressing for some readers.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ONLINE GROOMING THREATS**
Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly escalate into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2020, UK police recorded nearly 24,000 online grooming offences – an 85% increase in just five years.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts – especially via TikTok, Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 45% of children aged 9 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or upset.
- COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY**
Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in serious danger. From abduction to coercion, the consequences can be devastating. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.
- PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS**
Online harm – such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content – can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Stalkerbot' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.
- LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS**
Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 16-year-old passed on a gift on Snapchat to her friend, who then manipulated her into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress. One 17-year-old tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.
- PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS**
Children and young people often overshare personal details – such as where they live or go to school – without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they'd only spoken to online.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS**
Help children understand how to use privacy settings, protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning, like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share – and who they're talking to.
- ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS**
Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.
- KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN**
Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.
- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**
Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert
Debbie Brown is a safeguarding consultant with over 30 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings – both in the UK (including at Parliamentary level) and internationally.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5 th May	May bank Holiday
7 th May	Class 1 to Stover Country Park
9 th May	May Day Event 2:15 in the school playground
12-15 th May	KS2 (Y6) SATS week
26 th May	Break up for half term

Looking further ahead...	
2 nd June	Bank Holiday
3 rd June	Summer term begins
9 th June	School photographer in – Class photos and Leavers
16 th -19 th June	Y6 Bikeability – bikes need to be in school.
20 th June	Sports day – am field events, 1:15 parents invited to join our traditional races event followed by FOLS colour run
24 th June	Class 2 Trip to Riverford
26 th -27 th June	Class 3 Wild Wise Camping Trip
4 th July	FOLS Summer Fair
7 th - 9 th July	Class 4 Residential to Bristol
22 nd July	Leavers service @ St Matthew's 10am Break up for summer.

That's all the news for now. Enjoy the bank holiday weekend!

Jill Ryder.