Week 7 Autumn 2026

Friday 16th October



Many are invited

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 2 led a beautiful collective worship on Wednesday for their families and the rest of the school. They helped us to reflect on the fact that we are all made wonderfully by God and our responsibility to be stewards of God's creation. We were all challenged to think about the steps we could make e.g. turning off lights, not wasting water, picking up rubbish etc. We were reminded that our individual acts may seem small but they have a big impact when we all take part.

Our Faith Council members, along with Mrs Newland, Mrs Hua and one of our parents created beautiful hampers with your generous donations this week.

Thank you to the parents who attend our RSHE curriculum parent information session. Our RSHE consultation closes today. Following your feedback, our RSHE policy will be finalised and made available for you.

We look forward to seeing you in school next week for parent consultation meetings.

Have a lovely weekend.
God Bless,
Mrs O'Donovan

This week's Gospel

Matthew 22: 1-14

Jesus tells a story about a king who prepares a wonderful wedding feast and invites many people to come. Some people ignore the invitation, so the king opens the celebration to others, welcoming people from everywhere.
Jesus tells us that God invites everyone to be part of His Kingdom. Not everyone accepts this invitation. We can say "yes" to His invitation by showing love, kindness and welcome to others.

Ukraine Shoebox Appeal

Ukraine Shoebox Appeal
Following the overwhelming generosity shown through our Harvest collections, we would like to invite families to support our annual Ukraine Shoebox Appeal in a slightly different way this year.
Rather than asking families to prepare a complete shoebox at home, we are hoping to create our gift parcels together as a whole school community. We would like each child to donate one new item linked to their year group, along with £1 towards postage costs. The children will then help to sort the donations, wrap the gifts, and write Christmas messages, creating special parcels that will bring joy and hope to children in Ukraine this Christmas.

All donations need to be in school by 6th November and should be taken into class.



Suggested donations by year group:
Year R: New toothbrush and toothpaste
Year 1: Soap and a flannel
Year 2: Toy for a girl
Year 3: Toy for a boy
Year 4: Arts and crafts materials
Year 5: A book
Year 6: A warm pair of gloves or hat



Once all items have been collected, the children will work together in school to create and wrap the gift parcels before they are collected and distributed in the usual way.
We would also be very grateful for donations of empty shoeboxes and Christmas wrapping paper to help us prepare the parcels.
Thank you, as always, for your kindness and generosity. We know that, together, our school community can make a real difference and help bring some Christmas cheer to children and families facing difficult circumstances.

Family Reflection: Everyone Is Invited

In this Sunday's Gospel (Matthew 22:1–14), Jesus tells the story of a king who prepares a wonderful wedding feast. Some of the people who are invited choose not to come, so the king invites others instead and welcomes people from everywhere.

Jesus reminds us that God invites everyone to be part of His Kingdom. We can say "yes" to God's invitation by following Jesus and showing love, kindness and welcome to others. [Past Chat…his Sunday | Chat]

Talk Together

1. *How would you feel if you were invited to a special celebration?*
2. *Why do you think some people ignored the king's invitation?*
3. *How can we help other people know that they are welcome and they belong?*

Family Challenge

Choose one way to share God's welcome as a family this week:

- *Invite someone to join in with something you are doing.*
- *Look out for someone who might be feeling left out.*
- *Do an unexpected act of kindness.*
- *Make time for someone who might be lonely.*
- *Welcome someone with a smile and kind words.*

Prayer

Loving God,
thank you for inviting us to be part of your family.
Help us to say "yes" to you by following Jesus each day.
Teach us to be kind and welcoming, and to make sure everyone knows that they belong.
Help us to share your love with everyone we meet.
Amen.



Sharing information with school

Working in partnership with families is incredibly important to us. If your child or family is experiencing a significant event or change, we would encourage you, wherever possible, to let us know. This is certainly not about being intrusive. It simply helps us to understand what may be happening in your child's life so that we can be prepared, offer appropriate support and make sure they feel safe, understood and cared for in school.



Choir with Mrs Gale

If your child is interested in joining the KS2 choir on a Tuesday after school from 3.15 - 4.00pm, there are places available. Please contact info@stcuthbert-mayne.surrey.sch.uk to sign up.



Attendance

Celebrating Attendance

A huge thank you to all our children and families for their efforts in making attendance a priority. Every day in school matters, and your commitment is helping us move closer to our goal of achieving 96%+ attendance across the school this year.

Our attendance so far for this term:

- Year R - 98.5%
- Year 1 - 97.8%
- Year 2 - 98%
- Year 3 - 95.9%
- Year 4 - 98.8%
- Year 5 - 97.8%
- Year 6 - 98.9%



Thank you for your continued support in helping us maximise learning time by avoiding term-time holidays and ensuring that your child arrives at school punctually each day.

If you have concerns about your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Hua as early as possible so that we can work together to help you.

Accelerated Reader

Celebrating Reading

Reading is one of the most important skills your child will develop, opening the door to success across all areas of the curriculum. We encourage every child to read regularly at home and to talk about what they have read with an adult. Developing a love of reading helps to build vocabulary, improve comprehension, and foster imagination and confidence.

As part of our homework expectations, children should complete an Accelerated Reader quiz whenever they finish reading a book. These quizzes help us monitor understanding, celebrate progress, and ensure that children are choosing books that are appropriate for their reading level. Thank you for your support in encouraging your child to read regularly and complete their Accelerated Reader quizzes promptly after finishing each book.

To access Accelerated Reader, please use our school's dedicated login link:

- https://login.renaissance.com/12d2c7db-c53c-4bda-a370-768ec2f18093?state=1730ca87-0d91-4000-a01f-213146693dbe

Please click on ***I'm a Student*** to enable your child to login to the platform. All children in ***Year 3 to Year 6*** have been provided with their login details.

To date, pupils have read ***2,539,363 words*** as part of their homework, with an ***average weekly engagement of 117 minutes.***



Faith Council in Action

A huge thank you to the children and their families as you have all been incredibly generous in supporting our Harvest collection this year. We have received a fantastic amount of food and other donations.

We will be sharing some of these donations with the Cranleigh Food Bank and to support families within our school and parish community.

The Faith Council played a key role in making this project a success. Children from Reception through to Year 6 worked together to organise and assemble the harvest hampers, demonstrating our school values of kindness, service and compassion. The children carefully sorted the donated items and ensured that each hamper was thoughtfully prepared.

They have demonstrated how even small acts of generosity can make a significant difference. Their efforts reflected the Gospel call to care for others and inspired the whole school community to live out their faith through action.

Faith
Hope
Love





ST. CUTHBERT MAYNE

The Friends Autumn Term Events

OCT 5
DROP OFF
Uniform Donations Drop Off

OCT 14
PICK UP
Preloved Uniform sale

OCT 16
3:15 PM
Yr 6 Class Tuck Shop

NOV 6
3:15PM & 4:15PM
Autumn Lights Discos R,KS1 & KS2

NOV 20
3:15PM
Yr 5 Class Tuck Shop

NOV 25
TBC
Parents Christmas Wreath Making

NOV 27
3:15PM
Fun Film Friday The Star R, KS1

NOV 27
DROP-OFF
Christmas Bauble Competition Sale

DEC 2
DROP OFF
Christmas Donation Day

DEC 4
3:15PM
Fun Film Friday Elf KS2

DEC 6
12-3PM
CHRISTMAS FAIR

DEC 11
In School
Pantomime

DEC 11
3:15PM & 4:15PM
Christmas Discos R,KS1 & KS2

For more info see Classlist

Reception 2027

We have just settled our Reception intake, but it is already time to think about 2027's new intake! If your child is due to start school in September 2027 and you would like to find out more about St. Cuthbert Mayne Catholic Primary School, we will be running tours of the school so that you can see us in action and have the opportunity to meet with Mrs. O'Donovan, Headteacher on the following Wednesdays at 9.30am:

October: 21st
November: 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th



Secondary School Admissions

Admissions for secondary schools opened on 1 September.

If you're a parent or carer with a child reaching age 11 between 1 September 2026 and 31 August 2027, you have until 31 October 2026 to apply for their 2027 school place.

Learn more about the admissions process on the Surrey Admissions webpages: https://orlo.uk/BQA2S

Online Safety

AI companions are becoming increasingly popular with young people, offering round-the-clock conversations with virtual characters designed to feel like genuine friends. Platforms such as Character.ai, Replika and Snapchat My AI can provide entertainment and creative opportunities, but their human-like interactions also raise concerns. This guide explores potential risks including emotional dependency, inappropriate content, oversharing personal information and harmful mental health advice.

As AI companions become more convincing, helping young people understand the difference between synthetic relationships and genuine human connection is increasingly important. This guide offers helpful advice for parents and educators on discussing AI friendships, reviewing privacy settings, managing subscriptions and encouraging healthy offline relationships. It also highlights the importance of seeking support from trusted adults rather than relying on chatbots.



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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

AI COMPANIONS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Powered by generative AI models like ChatGPT and Google Gemini, AI companion apps and virtual chatbots such as Character.ai, Snapchat My AI, Replika and Talkie, allow users to create, customise, and chat to synthetic avatars around the clock. While many young people use them for harmless entertainment, creative writing or homework help, these tools are designed to simulate genuine human empathy, emotional bonding and deep friendship.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

AI companions are programmed to be endlessly agreeable, attentive, and available 24/7. Unlike human friendships, an AI companion never disagrees, sets personal boundaries, or gets tired. Young people (especially those experiencing loneliness, social anxiety, or low self-esteem) can quickly develop an unhealthy emotional attachment, viewing synthetic software as their 'best friend' or a surrogate romantic partner.

DISTORTED SOCIAL SKILLS

Navigating real-world friendships can be messy, involving dealing with conflict, compromise, boredom, and awkwardness. If a teenager spends hours interacting with an AI that is tailored specifically to validate and flatter them, they may become impatient with real-world relationships. Over time, this can lead to social withdrawal, heightened anxiety in peer groups, and isolation: a vicious circle of growing online dependency coupled with a heightened sense that relationships in the 'real world' are too challenging to maintain.

DANGEROUS MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE

AI chatbots possess no genuine empathy, professional clinical knowledge, or moral reasoning. While developers state these tools are not therapists, vulnerable teenagers often turn to them in crisis. Chatbots have previously hallucinated unsafe medical guidance, validated depressive spirals, and failed to safely escalate disclosures of self-harm or suicidal ideation to real-world protective services.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

CENSORED

While most mainstream platforms feature safety filters and guardrails, young people frequently discover 'jailbreak' prompts to bypass them. Some companion platforms subtly nudge users towards mature themes, romantic roleplay, or sexually suggestive conversations. In worse cases, third-party apps with weak safety checks have been found to generate sexually explicit text or intimate images.

DATA HARVESTING & OVERSHARING

Because conversational bots simulate warmth and understanding, children often lower their guard and treat the chatbot as a trusted friend. They may disclose sensitive personal information, including full names, school details, private family problems, or secrets, unaware that their conversations are being logged, may be analysed by third parties (including advertisers), or used to train future AI models.

"FREEMIUM" UPSELLS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many companion platforms operate on a freemium model. While basic chat is free, features like voice calls, uncensored responses, custom avatars, or 'deeper bonding' tiers are locked behind expensive monthly recurring subscriptions or in-app token purchases. This can lead to significant hidden costs and pressure on young people to spend money to maintain the 'friendship'.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TALK OPENLY ABOUT FAKE RELATIONSHIPS

Demystify how these tools work. Explain to young people that an AI companion has no feelings, memories, or consciousness; it is simply calculating the next most mathematically probable word based on its training data. It is helpful to explain to them the mechanics of large language models so that they understand how they are trained and how they are designed to always flatter and be helpful.

ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTION

Ensure technology habits do not replace face-to-face peer socialisation, sports, hobbies, and family time. Create healthy boundaries at home (such as keeping phones and tablets out of bedrooms overnight) to prevent late-night, unmonitored attachment loops with conversational chatbots when young people are at their most vulnerable.

AUDIT PRIVACY SETTINGS & AGE LIMITS

18 CENSORED

Check which companion apps are installed on your child's phone or tablet. Many dedicated companion apps carry an App Store rating of 17+, while platforms like Character.ai set a minimum age of 13+ (or 16+ in the UK/EU). Review the privacy settings together: turn off data-sharing toggles, disable model training where possible, and ensure location permissions are blocked.

REINFORCE WHERE TO GET REAL HELP

Make sure young people know that a machine can never replace professional pastoral or mental health care. Remind them of the trusted adults they can turn to at school - such as their Form Tutor, Head of Year, or the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) - as well as dedicated youth support services like Childline (0800 1111) or Shout (text 85258).

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is the Founder and Executive Director of Kompass Education, a consultancy specialising in supporting educators, students and parents in making wise choices with AI. His book Ethical AI and Education, co-authored with Clara Hawking, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

See full reference list on our website

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 09.10.2026

National Autistic Society | Neuroinclusive Education Network

Schools

Making Sense of Autism

Gain a better understanding and awareness of autism and the way it affects children.

Who is this training for?

This is a raising awareness module for anyone who is a parent of someone with autism, and is seeking insight, understanding or awareness of the impact autism can have on a child.

What will you learn?

- Enhance your understanding and awareness of autism and how autism can affect children
- Know the importance of understanding the individual child and their profile of strengths and needs
- Identify potential barriers to learning for autistic children
- Begin to make reasonable adjustments in the way you support autistic children

Developed by leading autism specialists

Up to date with the latest research

Resources and frameworks linked to Ofsted

NEN Partner St. Joseph's Specialist Trust

Time 6:00pm – 7:30pm

Details 3rd November 2026
St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School
Horseshoe Lane West, Merrow,
Guildford Surrey
GU1 2SX

St. Joseph's Specialist Trust

Christ in Our Lives

No Limits ... Just Possibilities

CPD CERTIFIED The CPD Certification Service

For more information, visit: www.nen.org.uk

The week ahead		
Monday	**19th**	.
Tuesday	**20th**	3.20-6.10pm Parents Evening
Wednesday	**21st**	9.30am Open Morning 3.20-6.10pm Parents Evening
Thursday	**22nd**	
Friday	**23rd**	School closed

Weekly Awards

Well done to the following children for living out our school mission this week.

Everyone Belonging	Reception: Joshua Year 1: Lilly Year 2: Jessica Year 3: Teddy Year4: Florence Year 5: Aria Year 6: Grace
Aiming High	Reception: Theo Year 1: Amelia Year 2: Henry Year 3: Finley K Year4: Tilly Year 5: Olive Year 6: Bluebelle
Growing in Faith	Reception: Louis Year 1: Olivia Year 2:Year 2 Year 3: Nancy Year4: Angelo Year 5: Jonathan Year 6: Luke

Garden Explorers

A nature based holiday club





Inspiring curiosity, creativity, and a love of nature

October Half Term Holiday Club

Ages: 6-11 years

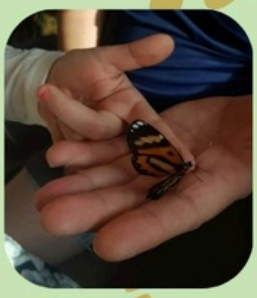
Monday 19th, Friday 23rd & Friday 30th October

Time: 9am - 3.15pm

Venue: The Therapy Garden, Normandy near Guildford

Price: £40 per day

Run by qualified, DBS checked nature lovers



Join us in our secure garden for exploring, crafting, bug hunting, planting, den building.. and so much more





"I loved being outside, getting dirty and finding all the bugs hidden in the gardens"

"The best bit was making and taking home our bird feeders"

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ADVENTURE
on WITLEY COMMON
THIS AUTUMN
WILD PLAY
HOLIDAY CLUB
10.00-4.00 School Years 1–6 £50/day
Witley Common
Webb Road, Godalming GU8 5QJ
Activities can include:
• Den building
• Track & trail
• Survival skills
• Ninja frisbee
• Wide games
• Rope courses
• Craft skills
• Storytelling
We take childcare vouchers
www.wild-learning.net

OCTOBER HALF TERM AT CRANLEIGH ARTS



WILD ABOUT BRITAIN
TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER



BUBBLE SHOW
WEDNESDAY 21 OCTOBER



COMIC MASTERCLASS
THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER



DRUM CIRCLE
SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER



POTTERY PAINTING CAFÉ
TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER



GAMERS LOUNGE
WEDNESDAY 28 OCTOBER

Empowering children through activities for sharper thinking and happier living

cranleigh arts

What is JEF?

Junior Elysian Farmers

A countryside membership programme for ages 6-12.

Elysian, Shamley Green, Surrey, GU5 0TL

Weekly Sessions include:

- Hands-on farm experiences
- Animal care
- Nature exploration
- Outdoor adventures
- Friendship building
- and more!

elysianukevents.org

Sign Up Today!







