

Week 1 Autumn 2026

Friday 4th September



A new beginning



Welcome back!

We hope that you had a wonderful summer break – a breather from the busy routines of term time. Weren't we lucky with the weather (or not if you are not a fan of the heat).

Although the school was closed to children over the summer, it was a hive of activity in terms of work on the building. Have a look at the photos on the next page of some of the changes and improvements to our school. A massive thank you to our Xavier Premises team for coordinating all of this.

It was lovely to welcome the children back on Thursday – the school comes alive again! Well done to everyone for arriving on time – let's keep this up. Our new Reception children

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs O'Donovan

This week's Gospel

For the first worship of our new school year we explored a reading from Luke's Gospel where Jesus reminded people to include everyone. We thought about how this links to our school mission statement – particularly 'Everyone Belonging'.





Start of Term Mass



You are all invited to join the children in Year 1 to 6, along with the Parish for Mass to celebrate the start of our new term on Monday 14th September at 10am.

Building work over the summer

During the holidays, the Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms had a make over with repairs to the plaster work and a repaint. The reception class also got new bi-fold doors.

Doors were a bit of a theme across the school, with a new external door on the staffroom, new fire doors in the hall and a new door on the Oak Room. The render on the playground facing walls of the school has been changed to reduce the marks from balls too.



Library update

Over the summer we have given our library some TLC and moved it upstairs. We needed to cull a lot of books that had seen a lot of love and were a little outdated. All of the books have now been levelled with Accelerated Reader, including the non-fiction books. This means that children will have a regular time to change books that are targeted at their appropriate reading level.

We will be sharing more information with you about Accelerated Reader shortly and how you can use it more at home to support your child's reading.



PE days

PE will start again next week. On PE days, the children come to school in their PE kits. This should be: their St. Cuthbert Mayne t-shirt, their school cardigan or jumper, black leggings, joogers or shorts, white or grey socks and trainers. Earrings should NOT be worn to school on PE days please.

Wednesday: Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 and 4

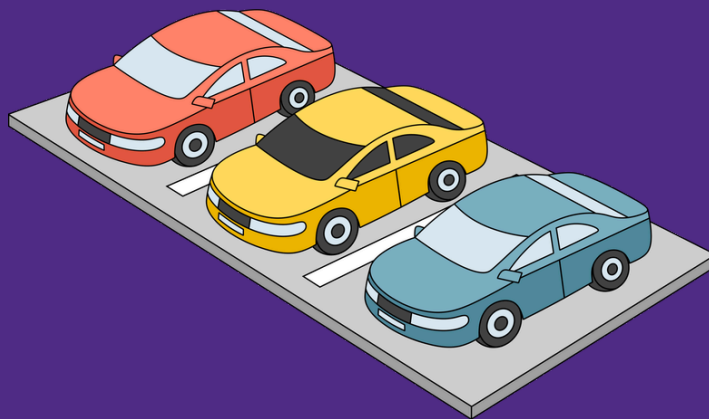
Thursday: Reception, Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

Friday: Yr 1, 2, 5 and 6

Parking

Sadly, on day 1 of the new term, we received a complaint from a neighbour regarding the parking of parents within our school community. on Nuthurst Avenue. Out of kindness and courtesy to others, please be mindful of where you are parking. St. Nicolas Avenue and Parsonage Road get busy with 3 schools all in a close vicinity and so it is great to park a little further away and walk. Please remember the rules of the road, park safely and ensure people's driveways are not blocked.

Please also be really mindful of the yellow zig-zag lines outside of the school. Parking wardens do hand out tickets for these and they are there to ensure the safety of all of our community.



Introduction to Year group talks

The introduction to year group talks take place next week in your child's new classroom with their teacher. The meetings take place at 2.45pm promptly. We look forward to welcoming you into school for these meetings if you are able to attend.

Monday 7th September: Year 5 and Year 1

Tuesday 8th September: Year 6 and Year 2

Wednesday 9th September: Year 3 and 4

Uniform

You may choose for your child to wear summer uniform until the 5th October. Please see the website for details.

Thank you for your support in ensuring the children are smart and in the correct uniform – we will continue to focus on this, as it supports a real sense of belonging and equality in school. We are currently focusing on making sure our shirts (school shirt or polo shirt) are tucked in.

Bikes and scooters

To keep everyone safe as they come into school in the morning and leave at the end of the day, please remember that bikes and scooters need to be pushed onto the school playground and out again rather than ridden. Thank you for your support with this.



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: 7th, 14th and 21st
November: 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th

Safeguarding

Returning to school after a break can take some adjustment. This #WakeUpWednesday guide shares practical ways for families and education professionals to make the transition smoother, from gradually restoring sleep and morning routines to preparing school essentials. It also explores how predictability, healthy nutrition and age-appropriate responsibilities can support children and young people as term begins.

Emotional and social readjustment matter too. The guide highlights the value of open conversations, patience and flexibility, alongside gentle opportunities to reconnect with learning and friendships. With expert insight from Adam Gillett, Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School, it offers supportive ideas for helping children rebuild confidence, concentration and familiarity with school life.

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.

Top Tips for SUPPORTING CHILDREN'S RETURN TO ROUTINE

Returning to school after the holidays can be challenging for some children and young people, and both families and education settings can play an important role in helping them readjust. Consistent routines, clear expectations, and supportive communication can support children and young people's wellbeing, self-regulation, and academic success. These practical tips can help make the transition back to school feel more manageable.



- 1 START EARLY**
Gradually reintroduce school-day sleep, meal, and wake-up routines around a week before term begins. In education settings, familiar routines and expectations can also be introduced from the start of term to help pupils settle back in. A gradual and predictable approach can make the transition feel less abrupt and give children and young people the time they need to readjust to the structure of school life.
- 2 REBUILD ROUTINES TOGETHER**
Involve the children and young people in your care in the rebuilding of familiar routines at home and in education settings. Having a say in their daily schedule can increase predictability for them and give them a greater sense of control. This might include discussing morning routines at home or reviewing classroom timetables, expectations, and activities together at the beginning of the school day.
- 3 ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY**
Giving children and young people age-appropriate responsibilities can help foster their autonomy and engagement. For younger children at home, this might include getting dressed independently or checking their school bag. In education settings, children and young people could organise their learning materials, complete simple classroom tasks, or follow a familiar morning routine. These manageable responsibilities can help them feel more involved in the school day while developing useful skills.
- 4 RECONNECT WITH PEERS**
Re-establishing friendships can help children and young people feel more confident and connected when they return to school. Families might arrange opportunities for their children to speak to or spend time with school friends, while educators can use group activities, 'buddy' systems, or collaborative tasks to help rebuild classroom connections.
- 5 SUPPORT HEALTHY NUTRITION**
Regular, balanced meals, particularly at breakfast, are linked to improved concentration, behaviour, and academic outcomes. Families can gradually return to familiar school-day mealtimes, while education settings can reinforce healthy eating routines at the start of term and signpost breakfast provision where available. Consistent access to food can help support children and young people's energy levels and concentration throughout the day.
- 6 COMMUNICATE OPENLY**
Talk to the children and young people in your care about how they feel about the return to school and give them the opportunity to share any worries or questions. Anxiety around going back to school, particularly when starting a new year group, can be common, and children and young people may benefit from your reassurance and support. Parents and educators can all help with this by listening calmly to concerns and questions, and sharing relevant information with one another where appropriate.
- 7 RECONNECT WITH LEARNING AND PEERS**
Light educational activities before term begins can help children become familiar with learning routines again without creating any unnecessary pressure on them. In school, low-pressure recap activities and familiar tasks from the previous year group can serve a similar purpose during the first few days back. Keeping learning positive and achievable can help rebuild children's concentration, confidence, and academic motivation as they settle back into their usual routine.
- 8 PRIORITISE SLEEP**
Ensure the children and young people in your care get age-appropriate sleep and begin returning to their usual bedtime habits before term starts. Reducing screen use before bedtime may also support better sleep quality. Educators can also be mindful that tiredness may temporarily affect children's concentration, behaviour, and emotional regulation as they readjust to school routines.
- 9 PREPARE AHEAD**
Organising uniforms, bags, lunches, and other school essentials in advance can reduce unnecessary stress when school mornings begin again. Educators can also help by preparing pupils for any changes to classrooms, timetables, staff, or behaviour expectations. Giving children clear information about what to expect ahead of time can make the return feel more familiar and help build up their confidence and independence.
- 10 BE PATIENT AND FLEXIBLE**
Children adjust to changes in their routines at different rates, so your patience and flexibility can be important during the first days and weeks back. Some may settle quickly, while others need longer to adapt to earlier mornings, classroom expectations, or busy schedules. Parents and educators can support children and young people's readjustment by maintaining consistent routines, all the while recognising that concentration, behaviour, or confidence may temporarily look different for them.

Meet Our Expert
Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School, and a business development specialist for Minds Ahead, which works with schools to improve their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday The National College

See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds) [/www.thenationalcollege](https://www.thenationalcollege) [@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.wake.up.wednesday) [@wake.up.weds](https://www.wake.up.weds)

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Safeguarding on our school site

At home time, the playground gets busy. There is always a member of staff on the gate to ensure the safety of the children leaving.

Once the class teacher has dismissed your child to you, please make sure that they remain with you. It is also important to ensure any younger siblings remain with you too.

The playground equipment is out of bounds after school. This is only for use during the school day. Please could we ask for your support with this.



Surrey Highways – 20 mph proposal

Surrey County Council is proposing a 20mph speed limit on Parsonage Road and others in Cranleigh, which include St. Nicolas Avenue. A public engagement activity has already taken place and they are now undertaking a statutory consultation. You can submit statements of support or objections online and you can view the consultation materials at Cranleigh Library or at the Surrey County Council reception in Guildford.

[Click here](#) to view the consultation and add your views.

Attendance and Punctuality

One of the areas we need to work together on as a school, is attendance and punctuality. It is so important that children are in school every day and come in via the gates on the playground by 8.50am.

The first day of term proved that everyone can get here on time – no one was late to school and everyone came in via the green gates. Arriving late at school is never a comfortable feeling as you walk into a classroom where everyone already knows what is going on for the day and what they should be doing.

The Department of Education have made some really useful, short videos for parents to support with attendance and punctuality. Just click on the links below to access them.

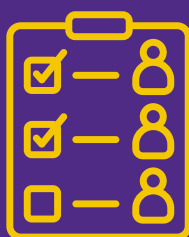
[Tips for how parents can support with good attendance in primary school](#)

[School attendance expectations for parents of those going into primary school \(really helpful for Reception parents\)](#)

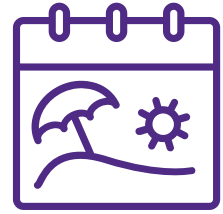
[Why attending every day matters in primary school](#)

[NHS guidance on when a child is too ill to attend school](#)

If you need any support with your child's attendance, Mrs Hua is here to support you in ensuring that we work together to offer your child the best possible experience.



Avoiding Term Time Holidays



As a school and in line with the DfE's guidance, we expect parents to avoid taking holidays during term time.

Headteachers are only able to authorise absence in exceptional circumstances, and family holidays do not normally meet this criteria. Unauthorised term time holidays may result in a Penalty Notice (fine) being issued by the Local Authority.

We ask all families to arrange holidays during the school holiday periods. By ensuring children attend school every day, parents are giving them the very best chance to succeed academically and to make the most of all that school has to offer.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain high levels of attendance for all our pupils.

Every day counts, every lesson matters, and every child deserves the opportunity to thrive.