

Our Weekly Winners!

Here are the names of our shiny stars, crowned winners in our celebration assembly this week. Well done to you all!

Stars of the Week



Saplings Class: Louis.
Oak Class: Henry.



Our Dojo Champions are:



Saplings Class: Jasmine.
Oak Class: Wilf.



Our Dojo Runners Up are:



Saplings Class: Selby.
Oak Class: Joel J.



Head teacher Award: Bella.



Lunchtime Award: Johanna.





The Valley Primary School Newsletter



School Drive, Oakmoor, Staffordshire, ST10 3DQ. Tel: 01538 702355 (option 2). Email: office@valley.staffs.sch.uk.

Lateness and Attendance.

Coming to school every day and on time, means that we can learn lots of new and exciting things!

School attendance and lateness is closely monitored to ensure that children have the best opportunity to learn.

School attendance for the week ending 27.02.26:

97.06%

Well done everyone!

Please may we remind you that our school day begins at 8.45am when the doors open to children. They remain open until 9.00am. Children should arrive at school between these times, to ensure that they are marked present and do not incur 'late' marks. Lateness is recorded on children's attendance and it is important that they are on time.

Keeping in touch.

If you have any questions or queries you can contact the class teacher directly using our class email address, we will aim to respond during school working hours; our class email addresses are:

saplings@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

oak@tmpf.staffs.sch.uk

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Celebrating Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week 2026: This Is My Place.

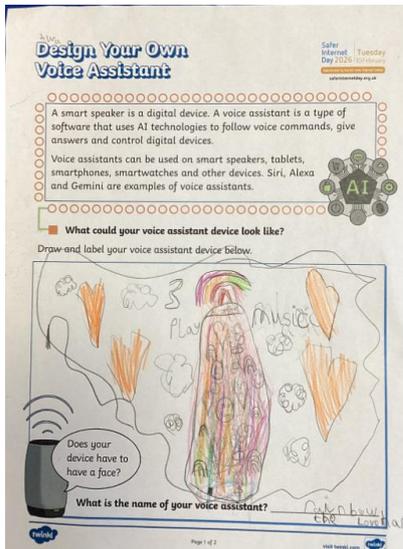
On Tuesday 10th February, we were busy celebrating Safer Internet Day and Children's Mental Health Week across school.

To begin our themed day, Mr Greaves led an assembly and discussed the use of AI. During the morning in Oak Class, the children took part in a live lesson, learning how to stay safe online and discussing the importance of responsible internet use. Meanwhile, Saplings explored how to use smart speakers safely, designing their very own thinking carefully about how technology can be used in a safe and positive way.

In the afternoon, our focus shifted to Children's Mental Health Week. Mrs Bould led a thoughtful assembly, encouraging pupils to reflect on the importance of looking after their mental wellbeing. Following this, Saplings created a beautiful class collage, with some children drawing self-portraits and others writing positive adjectives to describe their friends.

Oak Class took part in a range of mindful activities throughout the afternoon, helping to keep mental wellbeing at the forefront of their learning.

It was a meaningful and reflective day for everyone, promoting both online safety and positive mental health.





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Celebrating the National Year of Reading – World Book Day.

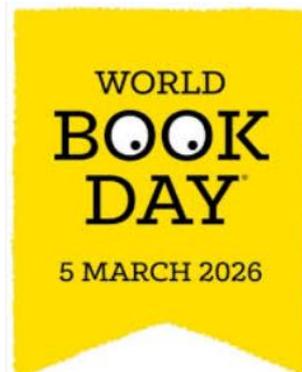
We are excited to share our plans for World Book Day, which we will be celebrating in school on Thursday 5th March 2026.

This year is particularly special as it marks the National Year of Reading and we are delighted to be welcoming local author Tilly Matthews into school. Throughout the day, Tilly will be delivering engaging workshops for our children, inspiring them to explore stories, develop their creativity and nurture a lifelong love of reading.

As part of our celebrations, children are invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character or in their cosiest 'bedtime reading' comfies - perfect for snuggling up with a good book!

This week, we have sent home a World Book Day book voucher for each child. This £1 token can be exchanged for one of the special World Book Day £1 books available in participating bookshops and supermarkets, or it can be used as a £1 discount toward any book of their choice. More information about where and how vouchers can be used is printed on the token itself.

We look forward to a wonderful day of reading, imagination and celebration.



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Staying Safe 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, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

13+ AGE RESTRICTION

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- GROUP CHAT PRESSURES**
Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for young people to feel excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when the conversation is uncomfortable or upsetting.
- SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS**
Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common scams include fraudsters posing as family members in an emergency or holding users into revealing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private conversations.
- DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES**
WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which can give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by scammers to hide inappropriate conversations or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.
- EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS**
'Channels' are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations; however, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or distressing content, including misinformation and harmful ideologies.
- UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING**
WhatsApp users can share their live location, and if not managed carefully, this can allow others – even those in mutual groups – to track someone's whereabouts. Also, without the right privacy settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.
- COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT**
WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Updated' feed and has introduced an AI assistant – Meta AI – across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting, privacy, AI use, and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Activate the 'Share Unknown Content' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.
- TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS**
Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.
- BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS**
Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something made them uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.
- TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI**
Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate responses. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert
Dr. Gaila Tullymore is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and eating behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

[See full references list on our website](#)

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.02.2025

This guide can be found at: [What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Whatsapp](#)

Y3/4 Swimming Gala.

Before half term, a group of our Year 3 and Year 4 pupils proudly represented our school at the Swimming Gala and we couldn't be more delighted with their efforts.

Every child gave their absolute best - showing determination, enthusiasm and fantastic team spirit throughout the event as we worked alongside our friends at Dilhorne Endowed Primary School. Whether swimming in individual races or supporting their teammates from the poolside, they demonstrated the values we cherish as a school.

We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for trying so hard and representing us so brilliantly. Well done, team!

Young Voices.

Our choir had an incredible opportunity as they took part in Young Voices at the Manchester Arena. Joining thousands of other children from across the region, they helped create one of the largest school choirs in the world - an experience they will remember for a very long time!

The pupils sang with energy, enthusiasm and confidence, performing a fantastic range of songs they had been practising so diligently over the past few months. Their excitement on the day was infectious and they represented our school beautifully from start to finish.

A huge well done to all the children involved. We are so proud of their hard work, dedication and amazing performance. Thank you also to the staff and families who supported them along the way.





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Y3/4 Netball Development.

Some of our Year 3 and 4 pupils had a fantastic time taking part in a Netball Development afternoon at South Moorlands Leisure Centre alongside other CADSSA schools.

Throughout the session, the children took part in a range of skill-building activities, including defending, footwork, shooting, positioning and passing. They showed brilliant focus and enthusiasm as they learned new techniques and developed their confidence on the court.

The afternoon concluded with a mini-tournament, where pupils had the opportunity to rotate positions in each game - giving everyone the chance to experience different roles and work as part of a team.

The children represented our school wonderfully. Well done to all involved!

PTFA Meeting Highlights – 30th January 2026.

The PTFA met to discuss upcoming fundraising plans, charity registration and events for the school community.

Charity Status & Funding

- The PTFA is exploring becoming a registered charity to support major fundraising projects, including a new lighting and sound system for school productions.
- A draft PTFA constitution is being reviewed. Once agreed, it will be signed by the Chair and Secretary before registration.
- Charity status will help strengthen applications for external funding and grants.
- The group discussed opportunities such as Tesco Blue Token funding, the Blue Spark Foundation and National Lottery community grants.

Fundraising Ideas

- "Bags 2 School" recycling collections are being explored, with the possibility of involving the wider community.
- The PTFA agreed it is important to clearly communicate to parents what fundraising supports, to help keep everyone informed and engaged.



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Communications

- Fortnightly PTFA updates will now be included in the school newsletter.
- Social media guidelines will be created to support safe and clear online communication.

Finance Update

- Christmas Fair raised £390.68.
- Quiz Night raised £162.00.
- Current funds: £1,817.44 (including petty cash).
- £500 will be banked, with £100 kept in school for supplies and event needs.

Upcoming Events

- Special Person's Events – 13th March and 22nd June
- Easter Parade – 27th March
- Wildlife Garden Official Opening with Henry Hound – 22nd May
- Cheadle Carnival – 11th July
- Oakmoor Festival – 5th September (possible raft race or stall)

The next PTFA meeting will be held TONIGHT at 7pm at The Star, Cotton.



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Diary Dates.

Spring 2

- 23.02.26 – Pupils return to school
- 25.02.26 – SATs Information Evening for Parents 3.30pm
- 26.02.26 – Y3/4 Netball Tournament
- 03.03.26 – Cross Country League. **REARRANGED DATE 21.04.26**
- 05.03.26 – World Book Day (Tilly Matthews - Author Workshops)
- 09.03.26-13.03.26 – British Science Week
- 10.03.26 – Cross Country League **REARRANGED DATE 28.04.26**
- 10.03.26 – R.E Retreat Day (selected Y3/4 children).
- 11.03.26 – KS2 Gymnastics Event
- 11.03.26 – The Valley Science afternoon.
- 13.03.26 – PTFA Special Person's Event.
- 17.03.26 – KS2 Dance Festival
- 18.03.26 – Y5/6 Football Tournament
- 19.03.26 – Saplings Mindfulness Session led by Mini Me Mindfulness.
- 20.03.26 – Comic Relief
- 20.03.26 – Easter Service in Church
- 24.03.26 – Reports out
- 24.03.26 – Saplings/Oak Class Maths Workshops 9.30am.
- 25.03.26 – Y3/4 Football Tournament
- 26.03.26 – World Maths Day
- 26.03.26 – Y3/4 Football Tournament.
- 27.03.26 – PTFA Easter Bonnet/Egg Parade 2.30pm.
- 27.02.26 – Break up for Easter holidays.

Summer 1

- 13.04.26 – School opens for pupils.
- 15.04.26 – Y1/2 Gymnastics Competition.
- 21.04.26 – Cross Country League **NEW DATE**
- 23.04.26 – Girls Football League.
- 27.04.26 – Academy Photography.
- 28.04.26 – Cross Country League **NEW DATE**
- 30.04.26 – Girls Football League.
- 04.05.26 – May Day Bank Holiday.
- 06.05.26 – Y3/4 Tag Rugby.
- 07.05.26 – Girls Football League.
- 11.05.26 – 15.05.26 - Y6 SATs Week.
- 15.05.26 – Y5/6 Tag Rugby.
- 22.05.26 – Grand Opening of The Valley Wildlife Garden 2pm (with special guests).
- 22.05.26 – Break up for May half term.

Summer 2

- 11.07.26 – Cheadle Carnival.



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Diary Dates continued.

Summer 2

- 01.06.26 – INSET DAY
- 02.06.26 – School open to pupils.
- 02.06.26-05.06.26 – Y4 Multiplication Times Table Check.
- 03.06.26 – Y3/4 Cricket.
- 08.06.26-12.06.26 – Y2 SATs Week.
- 08.06.26 – 12.06.26 – Y1 Phonics Screening Check.
- 10.06.26 – Solos and Duos @ TCA (children transitioning from Y6 to Y7).
- 10.06.26 – Y5/6 Cricket.
- 11.06.26 – Y3/4 Girls Football Tournament.
- 15.06.26-19.06.26 – Y6 Residential.
- 25.06.26 – Y5/6 Rounders.
- 29.06.26 – Whole School Trip to Formby Beach.
- 01.07.26 – KS2 Athletics Event
- 01.07.26 – New Intake Morning (Reception 2026)
- 01.07.26 – New Intake Parent's Evening (New Reception Parents 2026)
- 03.07.26 – Nursery Graduation Ceremony.
- 06.07.26 – End of Year Reports sent out
- 08.07.26 – New Intake Morning and lunch (Reception 2026).
- 09.07.26 – Sports Day.
- 10.07.26 – Y6 Leavers' Church Service @ Free Memorial Church.
- 10.07.26 – End of Year Disco 6pm.
- 11.07.26 – Cheadle Carnival.
- 13.07.26 – End of Year Production Dress Rehearsal.
- 15.07.26 – End of Year Production 2pm and 6pm.
- 17.07.26 – Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9.30am.

Please note that dates are subject to change and we will inform you as soon as possible to these changes.