



ST IGNATIUS NEWSLETTER

16.10.2026



'Achieving our best by learning together and serving one another with Christ by our side'



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we end the week, I am delighted to share several great pieces of news. The Year 5 pupils who help at the local food bank every Thursday are continuing to make us proud. I have been told that the behaviour and manners of the children who have visited over the past two weeks were impeccable. Well done children and thank you very much to the parent volunteers whose support enables us to take part in these activities.

We had a visit from our Diocesan advisor this week who observed pupil-led worship in classes, looked at religion books and observed our wonderful new Prayer Garden. She was very impressed with the children's ability to plan and deliver high-quality worship. She was able to join the Rosary at the end of the day too. A highly successful visit.

The Year 6 children sound like they have had the most wonderful time on their residential trip this week. I have been in regular contact with **Mr Sheehan** who has been very happy with the children's behaviour. The photos look wonderful! I am sure the children have had a great time but will need plenty of sleep this weekend.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER

Open Morning for Prospective Parents @
9.30am

TUESDAY 20TH OCTOBER

EYFS Welcome Assembly in School Hall @
9.15am (**parents invited**)
Parent Consultation Meetings in School
Hall @ 3.30pm - 7pm

WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER

Parent Consultation Evenings in School
Hall @ 3.30pm - 6pm
School Closes at usual time

THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER

Half Term
PSD Funweeks

FRIDAY 23RD OCTOBER

Half Term
PSD Funweeks

Thank you to all the staff who have joined the trip this year and I hope they have a good break this weekend too.

School Uniform - Sports Trials

If your child is taking part in any trials they should come into school in their full school uniform and shoes and change into their trainers at the point of the trial. After which they should change back into their school shoes.

EYFS Welcome Assembly - Tuesday 20th October @ 9.15am

Next Tuesday, we have our Reception classes EYFS Welcome Assembly, which is always a wonderful and special gathering to officially welcome our youngest children to the St Ignatius family. All Reception parents are welcome to attend.

Parents' Consultation Meetings

We will also be holding our first parent consultation meetings of the school year next week. This first meeting is an opportunity to share how your child has settled into the new year group, new expectations and identify some areas for continuous development. There is an expectation that every parent attends the sessions.

Have a lovely weekend.

God bless,

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Attendance

Thank you so much for supporting the school to support your child - for the smart uniforms, being on time every day and 100% attendance. It really is appreciated and I cannot stress enough the difference it makes to your child.

This week's **highest attendance** was **6N with 100%** and **4AP with 99.7%**.

The whole school attendance percentage this week was **97.7%**. Our school target is 98%.

A huge thank you to all parents for a real push on attendance this week and for ensuring your child is in school for as close to 8.30am as possible.

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Half Term

Please be reminded that the last day of this half term is **Wednesday 21st October**. The school day will finish at the usual dismissal times.

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Parent Consultation Meetings

Please be reminded that bookings for the parent consultation meetings will **close on Monday 19th October at midday**. The meetings will take place in the School Hall from 3.30pm on both Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st October.

If you have any questions regarding your booking, please contact your child's teacher directly via Class Dojo.

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

After School Clubs

All after school clubs taking place next week will run as usual, with the exception of **Spanish Club** on Wednesday 21st October.

Miss McCormack - School Office

Open Morning Event

We are holding an Open Morning event on **Monday 19th October** at 9.30am.

If you have a child due to start school in September 2027 we invite you to visit us.

Please feel free to share with any family members or friends that also have children due to start school in September 2027.

Ms McCarthy - School Office

[Visit our website to book a place](#)



St Ignatius Catholic Primary School
"Achieving our best by learning together and serving one another with Christ by our side"

OPEN EVENTS

FOR RECEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2027

We invite you to join us for one of our Open Events for entry into Reception 2027. During your visit you will have an opportunity to tour the school, hear from our Headteacher and learn about life at St Ignatius. Everyone is welcome!



Our open day events take place on the following dates:

Monday 19th October @ 9:30 am
Wednesday 18th November @ 9.30 am
Monday 7th December @ 9:30 am

St Ignatius Catholic Primary School
Green Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6QG
01932 785396 | admissions@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk | www.st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

FOOTBALL

YEAR 5 BOYS B TEAM FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

A huge congratulations to the 8 boys from Year 5 who took part in the B team tournament. After an amazing round-robin stage the boys then went on to win their semi-final. In the final, the boys played superbly to beat St Nicholas Primary School 3 - 1.

Mr Clements and **Mr Garnet** were both very impressed with the excellent behaviour, sporting attitude and teamwork that the boys displayed. They represented our school in the best possible way and we are very proud of your achievements! Well done boys!

YEAR 5 & 6 GIRLS B TEAM FOOTBALL

- **Tuesday 9th February** @ Egham Leisure Centre (letters to be sent closer to the time)

YEAR 3 & 4 BOYS FOOTBALL

Thank you to all of the Year 3 & 4 boys who tried out for the football team. We have selected 10 children to be part of the team. They will train every Tuesday at 12.00 - 12.30pm starting on November 17th.

Please have your football boots and shin pads as I'm hopeful that we will be able to use the field!

YEAR 3 & 4 GIRLS FOOTBALL

I will hold trials for the girls football team on November the 10th. If you think you might like football and want to give it a go, please come to the trials and see how you do. Please wear your trainers and meet on the court at 12 noon.

YEAR 5 & 6 BOYS AND GIRLS TAG RUGBY

RUGBY

I will hold trials on **Monday 19th October**. If you'd like your child to take part, please ensure they have their trainers with them. Please meet me on the court at 12 noon.

The tournament will be a separate boys and girls event on **Tuesday 3rd November** at Matthew Arnold School from 1-3. I will send letter straight after the trial to the children selected.

HOCKEY

YEAR 5 & 6 GIRLS & BOYS HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

- **Tuesday 17th November** @ Ashford Hockey Club (1pm-4pm) - I will send letters after half term.

Please have your trainers and gum shield with you every day next week as Ms Gleave will do some training sessions with you.

Please note that for now we will be asking parents to transport your child to any competition or league match that they are selected for as we don't currently have a mini bus driver.

Miss Grady - PE Lead

Headteacher Awards

Each week our pupils are recognised for following our school values. This week's value was **Inclusive Inaya**. During our Celebration Assembly today the following children were awarded a Headteacher Award:

Reception:

- Hedgehogs - Noa P
- Badgers - Rosie R

Year 3:

- 3V - Skyla W B / Jayden D
- 3CF - Celine S

Year 5:

- 5W - Jaydon S
- 5G - Emily D

Year 1:

- 1D - Joy G
- 1G - Caelan D M

Year 4:

- 4P - Summer S
- 4AP - Marnie R

Year 6:

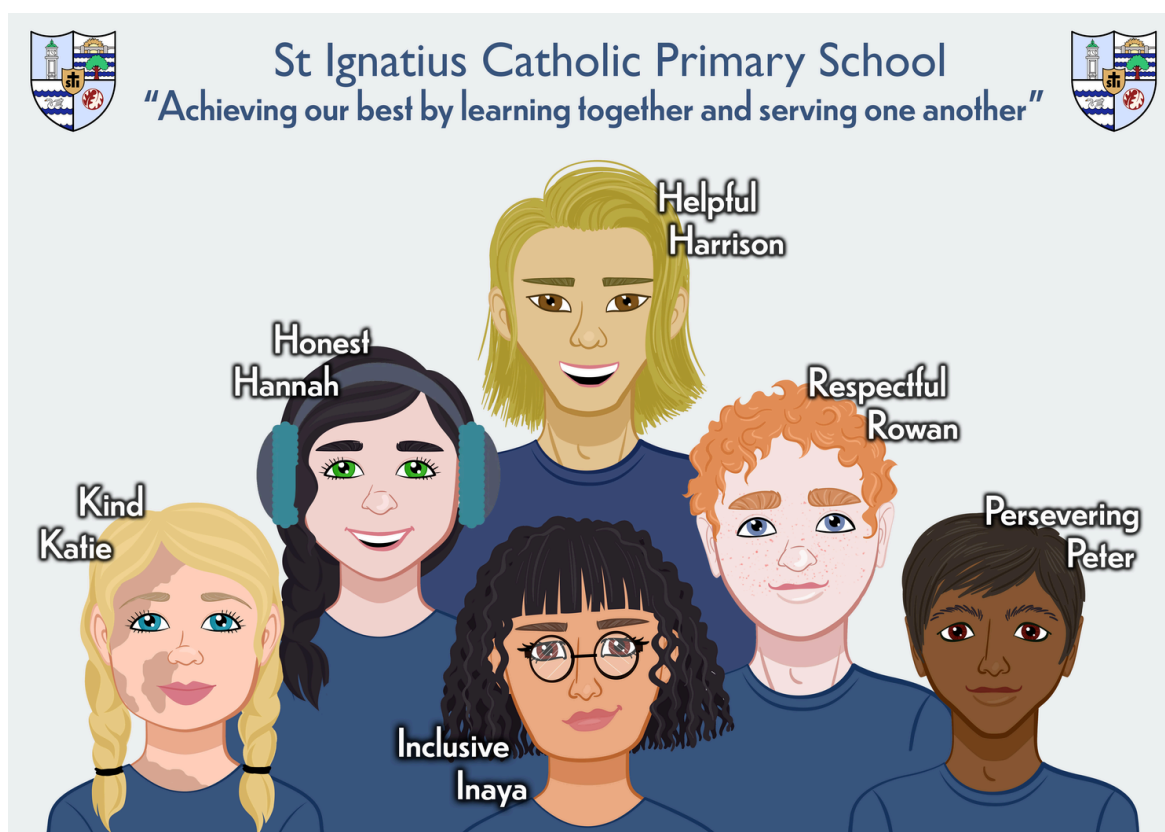
- No awards due to PGL

Year 2:

- 2C - Sasha P
- 2D - Nina H

I am so very proud of each and every one of you!

Ms Murphy - Headteacher



Wake Up Wednesdays

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

Miss Partington - Year 4 Class Teacher

At The National College, we WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip learners, carers and educators across 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, Replicai 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.

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.

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.

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.

INAPPROPRIATE OR EXPLICIT CONTENT

While most mainstream platform features 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.

"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

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 18+ 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 85256).

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 Howling, will be released later in 2026 by Taylor and Francis.



See full reference list on our website

[@wake_up_weds](https://www.wake_up_weds)
[f / www.thenationalcollege](https://www.thenationalcollege)
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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Let's Celebrate

We love to hear about your pupils' achievements both inside and outside of school.

- Congratulations to **Aria S** (2D) for receiving 'Star Player' at Football Coaching last week
- Congratulations to **Rome S** (Badgers) for receiving 'Star Player' at Football Coaching last week

Mrs Tunnicliffe - School Office



Autumn Term Menu

MENU WEEK 1

SERVED W/C: 7th September, 28th September,
19th October

Cucina IFG

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Main Meal

OPTION 1

OPTION 2

Margherita pizza & oven baked wedges

Mixed bean bolognaise with penne pasta

Vegetable sausages with roast potatoes & gravy

Pea-powered vegetable stir fry with carrot rice

Vegetable nuggets, chips & tomato ketchup

Pepperoni pizza & oven baked wedges

Beef & lentil bolognaise with penne pasta

Roast gammon with roast potatoes & gravy

Creamy coconut chicken & chickpea curry with carrot rice

Fish fingers, chips & tomato ketchup

Broccoli

Carrots & peas

Carrot & cabbage

Broccoli & cauliflower

Baked beans

Penne pasta with house tomato sauce

Penne pasta with a creamy cheese sauce

Creamy pesto penne pasta

Penne pasta with a creamy cheese sauce

Penne pasta with house tomato sauce

Ham Cheese Tuna mayo

Ham Cheese Tuna mayo

Ham Cheese Tuna mayo

Ham Cheese Tuna mayo

Cheese Tuna mayo

Lemon shortbread biscuit

Chocolate & banana brownie sponge

Orange jelly & mandarins

Baked apple & cinnamon sponge

Strawberry yogurt & strawberry sauce

Available Every Day -

Crunchy Colourful Salad Bar & Jacket Potatoes with Cheese, Beans, Tuna Mayonnaise & Cheese & Beans

KEY

Wholegrain

Vegetarian

Nutritionist's Choice

Vegan

Key Term Dates

Date	Event
Monday 19 th October	Open Morning for Prospective Parents @ 9.30am
Monday 19 th October	School Photographs for absent pupils
Tuesday 20 th October	EYFS Welcome Assembly @ 9.15am (parents invited)
Tuesday 20 th October	Parents' Evening @ 3.30pm - 7pm
Wednesday 21 st October	Parents' Evening @ 3.30pm - 6pm
Thursday 22 nd October	Half Term & PSD Funweeks
Monday 2 nd November	Year 4 Bikeability Level 1 @ 9.10am
Monday 2 nd November	Year 6 Bikeability Try It Out Day @ 1pm
Tuesday 3 rd November	Year 6 Bikeability Try It Out Day @ 9.30am
Tuesday 3 rd November	Years 5 & 6 Tag Rugby (Mixed)
Wednesday 4 th November	Year 4 Bikeability Level 1 @ 9.10am
Wednesday 4 th November	Year 6 Bikeability Try It Out Day @ 1pm
Thursday 5 th November	Year 4 Bikeability Level 1 @ 9.10am
Thursday 5 th November	Year 6 Bikeability Try It Out Extra Practice @ 1pm
Friday 6 th November	Year 1 Mass
Friday 6 th November	Year 5 Swimming
Friday 6 th November	Year 6 Bikeability Try It Out Extra Practice @ 9.30am

External Notices

Please be advised that whilst we share external advertisements, St Ignatius does not personally endorse/recommend any of these companies.



FUNWEEKS

OCTOBER HALF TERM

ACTIVE CAMP



BE QUICK!
EARLY BOOKING DISCOUNT
ENDS ON 14/10/26



 **ST IGNATIUS PRIMARY SCHOOL**

 **THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER - FRIDAY 30TH OCTOBER**

 **FOR CHILDREN IN YEARS 1 - 7**

 **10% SIBLING DISCOUNT**

 **9AM - 3PM**

 INFO@THEPSDGROUP.ORG.UK

 0203 397 7409

  [THEPSDGROUPUK](https://www.facebook.com/THPSDGROUPUK)



SCAN TO BOOK

SPORTS 

ARTS & CRAFTS

PRIZES

HALLOWEEN DISCO

EARLY BIRD PRICING:

BOOK BEFORE	BOOK AFTER
MIDDAY ON	MIDDAY ON
14TH OCT	14TH OCT
£25.00	£27.00

BOOK ONLINE:
WWW.THEPSDGROUP.ORG.UK/PSD-FUNWEEKS



Community
Sports
Trust

HALF TERM CAMP

HAZELWOOD CENTRE

Get ready for an action packed day of football
fun and games with exciting prizes to be won!

TUESDAY

27

OCTOBER

10AM - 3PM | Boys & Girls aged 7-14

Scan QR code to book onto camp

Hazelwood Dr, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6QU

Safeguarding

Governors and staff of St Ignatius share an objective to help keep children safe by:

- Providing a safe environment for them to learn
- Identifying children who are suffering or likely to suffer significant harm, and taking appropriate action.

Please read through the safeguarding guidance documents on this page, which include those designed for children. Please contact the Designated Safeguarding Leads below should you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child.

You can do this by calling the school directly, or emailing: dsl@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

You can also find out more about how we teach safety to children on our [Safety Curriculum](#) page, in the Curriculum section of the website.

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL):

Mrs E O'Neill - Deputy Headteacher

DEPUTY DSL:

Ms H Murphy - Headteacher

Miss T Frew - Assistant Headteacher

Mrs I Barkworth - SENDCo

Mrs L Whittington - KS2 Lead

Miss Z Palmer - KS1 Lead

Any concerns can be discussed with a DSL. If you have any concerns that involve the Headteacher, please contact the **Ascension Catholic Academy Trust** via email at admin@ascensioncat.org or by telephone on 0208 325 4630. The LGB details are being updated.

You can read our **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy** [here](#).

Contact Us

St Ignatius Catholic Primary School
Green Street, Sunbury-on-Thames, TW16 6QG

Telephone: 01932 785396

Email: admin@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

Website: www.st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk

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