



ST IGNATIUS NEWSLETTER

05.09.2025



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



Dear Parents / Carers,

As we end our first week of the academic year, there is much thanks to be given to a lot of people. Over the summer a great deal of work has taken place to make the school look beautiful, well-kept and smart, ready for the new academic year. Mr Moran, our site manager, in particular has organised for redecoration, building work and cleaning. A huge thank you to him for going over and above for St Ignatius.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for ensuring that your children have returned to school wearing the correct school uniform, for arriving on time and are well prepared for a new academic year. The children look smart and have been very focused in class for their first week back.

Thank you also for buying the reading texts for your child in KS2. I have seen them being used in classes already. It really will make a difference to the children's reading, understanding and enjoyment of books. What a great start!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

Year 2 Tea with the Teacher @ 2:15 pm

Year 6 Tea with the Teacher @ 2:15 pm

TUESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

Year 3 Tea with the Teacher @ 2:15 pm

Year 4 Tea with the Teacher @ 2:15 pm

WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER

Year 1 Tea with the Teachers @ 2:15 pm

THURSDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER

Year 5 Tea with the Teacher @ 2:15 pm

FRIDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

Year 6 attend Mass

There is a new addition this year to our calendar. We will be celebrating grandparents on Friday 10th October. Please read the details below about booking a place for this special event.

There are only a few notices this week, but I hope that you and your family have a lovely first weekend as we get back into the swing of things.

God bless,

Mrs Murphy - Headteacher

Safeguarding

Safeguarding will always be our overriding priority. Therefore, I have made the decision that, as of Monday morning, the wooden gates will no longer be used for entering and exiting school. I would ask everybody to use the remaining two pedestrian gates to come in and out of school, please. The only times the wooden gates will be used will be for delivery vans, and this will only be allowed during the school day when all the children are inside the building. I hope that you can appreciate why I have made this important safeguarding decision.

I would also ask you all to continue standing right back at pick up time so that the teachers can clearly see parents to dismiss the children. Please speak to your children about exactly where you intend to stand daily, as this will help them, you and the staff dismiss safely.

Like last year, we would ask that Year 1 parents stand on the larger area and the new Reception parents on the side where the trees are. These are the youngest children in the school and we need to ensure that they feel safe at all times.

Finally, I request that as of Monday, parents are not using mobile phones whilst on the school grounds. This is firstly to ensure that cameras or videos are not being used where there are children around. Secondly, I feel it is very important that when you collect your child that they see you with a smile ready to greet them. We, as adults, are the role models for our children and I feel it is important not to give them the impression that screens rule our lives.

Mrs Murphy - Headteacher

Tea with the Teachers

Please be reminded that over the next two weeks we will be holding our 'Tea with the Teacher' informal meetings.

This is an opportunity for parents to visit the school, meet with their child's class teacher and receive information regarding the year ahead. It will include important information about expectations, homework and the curriculum. Each session will be held in a classroom at 2:15 pm and will be completed by the end of the school day. **Attendance is very much encouraged.**

- EYFS - Thursday 25th September
- Year 1 - Wednesday 10th September
- Year 2 - Monday 8th September
- Year 3 - Tuesday 9th September
- Year 4 - Tuesday 9th September
- Year 5 - Thursday 11th September
- Year 6 - Monday 8th September

Parents should gather outside the main entrance doors and your child's class teacher will come and greet you.

Mrs Murphy - Headteacher

Parent Information Sessions

We will be delivering a series of sessions for parents on how best to support your child with their learning. We will cover early reading, phonics, writing, maths and safeguarding. The dates and times are listed below and all sessions will begin at 2:15 pm and will be held in the hall.

- Monday 29th September @ 2:15 pm - KS1 English
- Tuesday 30th September @ 2:15 pm - KS1 Maths
- Wednesday 8th October @ 2:15 pm - KS2 Maths
- Thursday 2nd October @ 2:15 pm - KS2 English
- Monday 6th October @ 2:15 pm - Safeguarding and Online Safety

Mrs Murphy - Headteacher

Homework

Homework will begin next week and class teachers will give you more details of these in the Tea with the Teacher sessions.

Every child in the school will have reading daily as a non-negotiable. Please support your child by encouraging them with daily reading, and from Years 2 to 6, completing their own comments in the reading records.

Please continue to sign and date to say that you have sat with your child during this reading time.

Mrs Murphy - Headteacher

Year 5 & 6 Talk

This is a notice for Year 5 & 6 parents.

On Monday 15th September, Mr Mc Nulty, the Headteacher at St Paul's Catholic College, will deliver a session for parents of children in Years 5 & 6. Attendance is highly recommended. The session will be held in our School Hall at 6pm.

Mrs Murphy - Headteacher

Welcome Assembly for Reception Parents

This notice is for Reception parents.

Please be advised that a Welcome Assembly for parents of Reception children will take place on Friday 3rd October at 2:15 pm in the school hall. More details regarding this will follow in due course.

Mrs Murphy - Headteacher

Grandparents Afternoon

On **Friday 10th October** we will be hosting our first ever Grandparents Afternoon. This is an event where grandparents will be invited to attend the school to enjoy displays from each class whilst enjoying some refreshments. This links with our Catholic Social Teaching value of Dignity and respecting our elders.

A google form will be sent out to parents shortly to confirm if grandparents wish to attend. Numbers will be limited to 2 guests per family and on a first come, first served basis, so please book up early. This will be an annual event.

Mrs Murphy - Headteacher

After School Clubs

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back to our autumn term after school clubs.

Please be reminded these will commence the week beginning 15th September 2025, with the exception of **Holly's School of Dance** and **Pinks Coaching**, which will commence week beginning 8th of September 2025.

Bookings for our after school clubs are now closed. If you would like to enquire about availability for any of the clubs, please email me directly via admin@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk.

Miss McCormack - School Office

School Session Times

School Start Times

Our school gates are open at 8:30 am and registration takes place at 8:45 am. We encourage all children to be in the classroom for 8:30 am so that they can participate in the '**Early Morning Start Activities**' which include Reading, Spelling and Maths.

School Finish Times

Our school day finishes at 3 pm for Reception, 3:05 pm for Years 1 & 2 (KS1) and 3:15 pm for Years 3-6 (KS2) - please ensure you collect your child on time.

EYFS (Reception) Staggered Start

Please be advised that children in Reception should arrive to school next week at 8:45 am and they will be dismissed at 2:45 pm. From the week commencing 15th September onwards they will should arrive in school at the usual time of 8:30 am and will be dismissed at 3 pm.

Mrs Murphy - Headteacher

PE Notice

Year 5 & 6 Boys Football

The Year 5 & 6 boys football team have their first tournament on **Friday 19th September** at Eclipse Leisure Centre in Staines upon Thames. I will hold trials for the football team on Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th September. Even if you were in the team last year, please still come to the trials.

The trials will be on St Paul's field, so if your child wants to take part please ensure they have their football boots and shin pads with them. Everyone who wishes to take part should meet at the Gaflak gate at 12:15 pm on Tuesday.

Trials for Year 5 & 6 Girls Football, Netball and Year 3 & 4 Boys Football

The above trials will take place the week commencing the 15th September. I will share further details next week.

Miss Grady - PE Lead

SEND Notices



National
Autistic
Society

Surrey
Branch

Please find attached a [letter](#) from the National Autistic Society regarding a free swimming event in Woking on Saturday 27th September.

Mrs Barkwork - SENDCo / Inclusion Manager

Wake Up Wednesdays

Top Tips for Supporting Children Going Back to School

The return to school after summer can be a whirlwind of emotions – a mixture of excitement, nerves, and everything in between. This guide shares ten practical tips to support children during this transition. From re-establishing routines to encouraging conversations about feelings, this guide is designed to reduce stress and build a sense of calm.

Whether children are starting a new school, heading into a different year group, or readjusting after a long break, these strategies can help to ensure a smooth transition. From planning ahead and refreshing social connections to creating calm mornings and supporting healthy sleep habits, our latest #WakeUpWednesday guide is packed with useful advice to make the back-to-school journey more positive for the whole family.

Miss Partington - Year 4 Class Teacher

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 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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Returning to school after the summer holidays can be both exciting and daunting for children of all ages. Different routines, classes, schools, and academic pressures can cause anxiety or uncertainty. Parents play a vital role in easing this transition. This guide will help you support your child emotionally, mentally, and practically as they return to school.

- 1 RE-ESTABLISH ROUTINES**
Gradually shift back to school-time routines a week or two before term starts. Regular bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes can help children feel more secure and reduce the shock of change when school begins. Having a routine creates predictability and stability, helping to reduce anxiety while improving sleep and concentration.
- 2 TALK ABOUT FEELINGS**
Encourage open conversations with children about their feelings. Ask them how they feel about returning to school, such as what they're looking forward to and anything they might be feeling unsure or worried about. Validating their emotions can help reduce anxiety and show them it's okay to talk about their emotional wellbeing.
- 3 SUPPORT WITH SLEEP**
Children need adequate sleep for concentration, brain function, memory, and emotional regulation. Establish a wind-down routine without screens at least an hour before bed, and encourage relaxing activities like reading or listening to calming music.
- 4 LOOK OUT FOR SIGNS**
Some children hide their anxiety. Watch for changes in their behaviour such as withdrawal, stomach aches, and irritability. If worries persist, speak with their teacher or the pastoral team early to ensure your child receives support.
- 5 REFRESH SOCIAL CONNECTIONS**
Help children reconnect with school friends by arranging playdates or video chats in the week before school starts. Familiar faces and social interactions help the transition and provide emotional comfort on that first day back.
- 6 CREATE A CALM MORNING**
Mornings set the tone for the day. Plan ahead with a consistent morning routine that allows time for breakfast, getting dressed, and talking calmly about the day. Avoid last-minute rushing to reduce stress for everyone.
- 7 FOCUS ON POSITIVES**
Talk about the fun and interesting parts of school – seeing friends, favourite subjects, or exciting activities. One simple but powerful change parents can make is swapping "How's your day been?" for "What's been good about your day?" This invites more of a positive, open response. Focusing on positives can help shift children's anxious thoughts and reframe school as a safe and engaging place.
- 8 VISIT OR VISUALISE SCHOOL**
If possible, encourage visits to the school grounds before the first day, especially if it's a new school. Walking the route or even looking at photos of classrooms and teachers can make the environment feel familiar. The school website is always a great go-to place for this. This is particularly helpful for younger children or those with additional needs.
- 9 PLAN AHEAD TOGETHER**
Involve children in preparing for school – buying supplies, packing their bag, or choosing lunch options. This gives them a sense of control and builds excitement. Use checklists or calendars to prepare together, helping reduce last-minute stress.
- 10 STAY POSITIVE AND PRESENT**
Children pick up on your outlook. Stay calm, positive, and present, especially during drop-offs. Avoid lingering goodbyes, and let them know you'll be there at pick-up. A consistent, reassuring presence builds their confidence and resilience.

Meet Our Expert
This guide was created by Jo Morton-Brown, an Emotional Health Practitioner with nearly 15 years' experience supporting children and young people's mental health. She produces uplifting YouTube content for pupils and trains adults to better support young people's wellbeing, with a mission to help every child feel valued and understand their emotions.

#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

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

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.08.2025

Let's Celebrate

We love to hear about our pupils' achievements both inside and outside of school. If you would like your child's achievement to feature in the newsletter, please email the details along with a photograph to newsletter@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk.

Mrs Tunnicliffe - Office Manager

EXTERNAL NOTICES

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



BISHOP WAND
CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
— REALISING GOD-GIVEN POTENTIAL —

Open Evening for Admissions 2026

Our Open Evening will be held on
Thursday 2nd October 2025, 5.30pm-8.30pm

Open Morning Tours:
Tuesday – Wednesday – Thursday
from the 23rd September until 16th October 2025

Please see the School website for further details
and to arrange a tour please contact 01932 778600

www.bishopwand.surrey.sch.uk



INSPIRING
MINDS
NURTURING
SPIRIT
RESPECTING
DIFFERENCE

Parents Supporting Parents

By volunteering just a few hours each week you can transform the lives of young children and their parents in your community.



As a Home-Start volunteer you could make a BIG difference to a local family

If you are a parent, a carer, or maybe a grandparent, you know just how tough family life can be at times. And we know it too. Our volunteers, who have parenting experience, help families with all sorts of problems, from the everyday to the overwhelming. Problems such as:

- Loneliness and isolation
- Relationship difficulties
- Multiple children under 5
- Ill health, disability or special needs
- Lone parenting
- Coping with bereavement
- Mental health
- Children's behaviour



**Our next training course starts Tuesday
16th September, sign up today!**



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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:

Mrs H Murphy - Headteacher

Miss T Frew - Assistant Headteacher

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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