

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



Father Christian's Epiphany Liturgy

Dear Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year to you all and your families.

We have hit the ground running after our break and the children have settled back into routines very well.

This week, we celebrated the **Feast of the Epiphany** and Fr Christian and Mrs Vander Vloet led a service for the whole school. It was beautiful and we were all asked to find ways to be a light for the world, like Jesus was.

As we start the new term, I would like to take the opportunity firstly to thank you for your kind words and gifts for both myself and the staff at Christmas. We are incredibly grateful.

OFSTED

I would also like to thank you for your support through our two inspections last term. I am immensely proud of pupils, staff and parents and to be a part of this community. When the OFSTED report is published, this will be shared with you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MONDAY 12TH JANUARY
KS2 Author Visit
Girls Football Match (Home) @ 3.20pm

TUESDAY 13TH JANUARY
-

WEDNESDAY 14TH JANUARY
Year 6 WW2 Workshop

THURSDAY 15TH JANUARY
Year 2 Victorian School Day Workshop

FRIDAY 16TH JANUARY
Year 6 Mass

At St Ignatius we never sit on our laurels and we have already started making plans post inspections for further, future improvement. One area is attendance and lateness. There is a note under my letter this week which I would like every parent to please read.

You will have also seen on Class Dojo, our plans for **Family, Fine Dining** which will be starting soon. Details to follow but very exciting.

- [Bing Videos](#) - This is a clip for KS1 pupils on cutting skills which I would encourage you to watch with your child
- [Bing Videos](#) - This clip for KS2 pupils

Have a lovely weekend.

God bless,

Ms Murphy, Headteacher

Term Dates 2026-2027

Please find below the term dates for 2026-2027.

Autumn Term 2026

- INSET Day Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Start of Autumn Term Wednesday 2nd September 2026
- Half Term Thursday 22nd October - Friday 30th October 2026
- End of Autumn Term Friday 18th December (*School closes at 1.15pm*)

Spring Term 2027

- Start of Spring Term Monday 4th January 2027
- Half Term Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2027
- End of Spring Term Thursday 25th March 2027 (*School closes at 1.15pm*)

Summer Term 2027

- Start of Term Monday 12th April 2027
- May Day Bank Holiday Monday 3rd May 2027
- INSET Day Friday 28th May 2027
- Half Term Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June 2027
- End of Summer Term Friday 16th July 2027 (*School closes at 1.15pm*)
- INSET Day Monday 19th July 2027
- INSET Day Tuesday 20th July 2027

Note: *There is an additional INSET day yet to be confirmed.*

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Attendance

I am noticing a significant rise in absences and lateness across the school. It is vital that children are on time and in school everyday unless very unwell. This time of year can be more tricky with the dark mornings and the cold weather but every day that is missed, is valuable learning time and social interaction for your child to thrive.

Our current % for whole school attendance is 95% and this needs to be nearing 98% at minimum. If you are experiencing any difficulties at home or with your child, please let us know at the earliest opportunity so that we can support full attendance. Appointments where possible, should be scheduled outside school hours or in half term breaks. Any holidays will not be authorised.

Since September, any child falling below 90% attendance is classed as persistently absent and a first letter is issued to families. If this continues then a meeting is required with myself and a plan is put in place to ensure this improves.

As of this half term, anyone falling below 95% will now receive the first letter from me.

Children only get one shot at their primary education and if we can give every child the opportunity to maximize every minute of learning and social interaction, they are set up for the next stage in their education and life.

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Dogs in and around the school site

Can I please ask that there are **no dogs** in the school site and near the outgoing gates. Many people are nervous of dogs and whilst owners know their dogs are friendly, for people and young children who are nervous, it is not a comfortable position to be in.

Thank you so much,
Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Safeguarding Notice

Next week, KS1 and KS2 assemblies will be the NSPCC safeguarding assemblies, based on the organisation's Speak out Stay safe programme. These will be followed up with activities and resources for children to use in class. If you would like to know more about the Speak out Stay safe programme visit www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout.

On **Thursday 29th January** there will be NSPCC workshops in the hall for Years 2, 5 and 6.

Mrs O'Neill - Deputy Headteacher and Designated Safeguarding Lead

Workshops and Trips

Please see below a summary of the workshops and educational trips scheduled so far this year, along with their corresponding payment deadlines.

We kindly ask that all payments are made by the stated deadlines to ensure that each event can go ahead as planned.

Workshops and Trips

- **WW2 Workshop**
 - Year Group: Year 6
 - Date: 14 January 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 9 January 2026
- **Victorian Workshop**
 - Year Group: Year 2
 - Date: 15 January 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 5 January 2026 (now passed)
- **Flamenco Workshop**
 - Year Group: Years 1–6
 - Date: 19 January 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 16 January 2026
- **Rose Theatre Trip**
 - Year Group: Year 5
 - Date: 9 February 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 2 February 2026
- **Wisley Gardens Trip**
 - Year Group: Reception
 - Date: 11 March 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 20 February 2026
- **Bocketts Farm Trip**
 - Year Group: Reception
 - Date: 21 April 2026
 - Payment Deadline: 27 March 2026
- **PGL Residential Trip**
 - Year Group: Current Year 5
 - Please refer to the previous letter for the full payment schedule.
 - Deposit Deadline: 30 January 2026

Upcoming Trip Communications

- Information regarding the Year 4 trip will be sent out next week.
- Details for Year 1, 2, and 3 trips will follow shortly.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Miss McCormack - School Office

After School Clubs

After school clubs will commence next week.

Please pay careful attention to club finish times. Most internal clubs will finish at 4:00 pm, with the exception of Ms Gleaves' Monday Art Club, which will finish at 4:15 pm.

External clubs may finish at different times; please refer to your joining email for specific details. The majority of clubs are now full for this term. However, if you have any queries, please contact the school office.

Can we please ask you to remind your child which club they will be attending and on which days.

Miss McCormack - School Office

Exciting Author Visit for Key Stage Two!

We are looking forward to welcoming author **Mel Taylor-Bessent** to school on Monday to visit Key Stage Two. Mel will be sharing insights into her life as an author, the writing process and talking about her latest book in the Race to Imagination Island series.

If you would like to order a signed copy for your child, this is available at the reduced cost of £5.60 - please click [here](#) for SCOPAY. If you have already placed an order, children will have the opportunity to meet Mel and receive their books on Monday.

Miss Brown - Year 6 Class Teacher and KS2 Reading Lead



Year 6 WW2 Workshop - Wednesday 14th January 2026

Next Wednesday, Year 6 pupils will take part in an interactive, in-school historical experience led by a visiting performer who will arrive in character as a civilian from the wartime era. During a 45–50 minute interactive performance, the children will learn about his work at a munitions factory at The Royal Gunpowder Mills, his role as an ARP (Air Raid Precautions) warden, and what everyday life was like on the home front during the war.

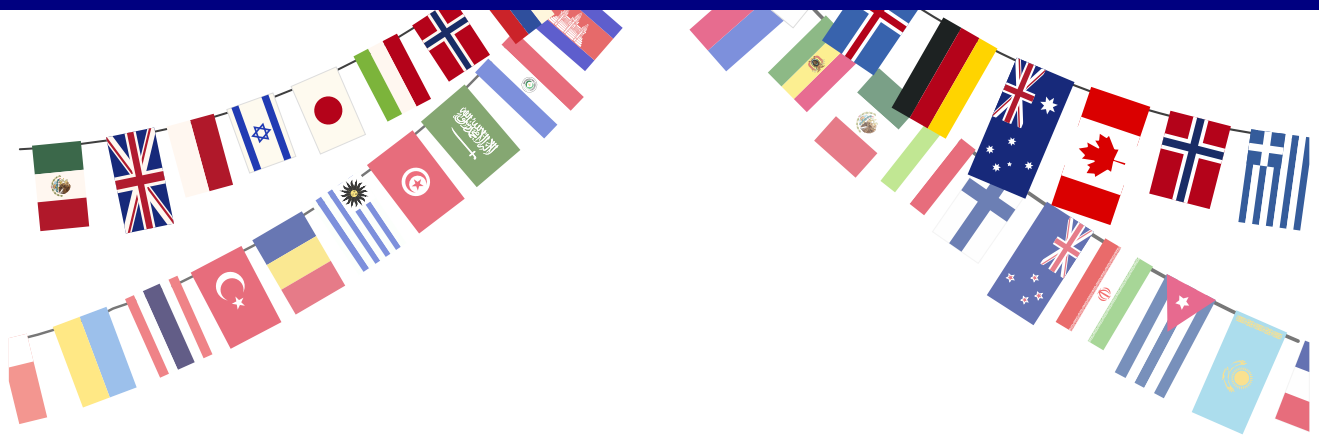
Through storytelling and discussion, the performance will explore key aspects of wartime Britain, including rationing, the Blitz, blackouts, and the fears surrounding enemy spies. This immersive approach is designed to bring history to life and deepen the children's understanding of the period in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

Before leaving, the character will ask the children for help with an important wartime task: cracking secret coded messages that have been intercepted. Following the visit, the class will work collaboratively on a code-breaking activity pack, allowing them to apply what they have learned and further develop their problem-solving skills.

We believe this experience will be a memorable and valuable addition to our World War Two topic and will greatly enrich the children's learning.

Mr Newman and Mr Sheehan - Year 6 Class Teachers

Cultures Exhibition



Following the success of last year's Cultures Exhibition, which took place during Cultures Week, we would like to confirm that we will be running this event again.

The Cultures Exhibition will take place in the School Hall on **Wednesday 21st January**. We would like to invite parents to come together to create a stall representing your background. It would be really lovely for groups of parents from similar backgrounds to work together to create a stall.

Your stall might contain any of the following:

- Foods to sample (*no nuts please!*)
- Flags
- Information / Posters
- Music
- Artefacts
- Interactive activities for pupils

The event will run from 1.30pm until 3pm and stallholders can gain access to the hall from 1pm to set up displays. Classes will then be invited to view the stalls from 1.30pm.

If you are interested in organising a stall, please email Mrs Tunnicliffe via admin@st-ignatius.surrey.sch.uk so that we can plan the logistics in the hall. I am really looking forward to seeing the wonderful diversity within our school community.

Mrs Pegram - Year 2 Class Teacher and Geography Lead

PE Notices

Years 5 & 6 Boys A Team Football

The following fixtures have been arranged:

- **Monday 2nd February** (home vs Ashford CofE). Letter to follow.

Years 5 & 6 Girls A Team Football

The following fixtures have been arranged:

- **Monday 12th January** (home vs St Nicks). I apologise that this letter was only sent yesterday, I was waiting for the opposition to confirm. Please complete the link in the letter at your earliest convenience.
- **Friday 23rd January** (home vs Hawkdale). Letter to follow on Tuesday.
- **Monday 26th January** (home vs Meadhurst). Letter to follow on Tuesday.

Years 5 & 6 Indoor Sports Hall

This competition will take place on the morning of **Wednesday 28th January** at Eclipse Leisure Centre in Staines. We will be asking parents to transport their own child.

Well done and thank you to all of the children who came to the trials this week. I will finalise the team over the weekend and let the children know on Monday who is in the team. Letters will follow next week.

Years 5 & 6 Girls Netball Team

Weather permitting, I will do the trials for this club on Friday. Please ask your child to meet at 12.15pm on the netball court with their trainers on if they want to take part.

Miss Grady - Year 1 Class Teacher and PE Lead

Earrings and PE

Please be reminded that as part of our PE policy, children can not take part in PE lessons wearing earrings. Please ensure that earrings are removed and left at home on PE days. If your child is wearing earrings on a PE day, they will be asked to remove them and put them safely in their bag. If they can't remove them, they will not be able to take part in their PE lesson.

As children are unable to remove their earrings for at least 6 weeks after having them pierced, we kindly ask that you wait until the start of the summer holidays to have your child's ears pierced. This will ensure that your child does not miss out on their PE lessons.

Miss Grady - PE Lead

Opal Play

The following children have been awarded an OPAL play certificate during our Friday Celebration Assembly.



Golden Broom Award

- KS1 - Cameron A
- KS2 - Bailey S

Golden Welly Award

- KS1 - Sadie S
- KS2 - Kensi W

Miss Frew - Assistant Headteacher

Headteacher Awards

Each week our pupils are recognised for following our school values. Below are the children that received a Headteacher Award during today's Celebration Assembly.

Persevering Peter - *last week of autumn term recipients*

Reception:

Hedgehogs - Sienna-Iris B-G
Badgers - Alana H

Year 3:

3V - Jasper V-W
3BF - Thomas M

Year 5:

5W - Charlie S
5B - Diego T-S

Year 1:

1OS - Harry A-S
1G - Daithi B

Year 4:

4P - Jeffrey J
4AP - Emily B

Year 6:

6N - Joseph R
6S - Isaac H

Year 2:

2C - Wynter C-W
2BP - Phoenix W

Helpful Harrison - *this week's recipients*

Reception:

Hedgehogs - Eoin D
Badgers - Isabella F

Year 3:

3V - Navea P
3BF - Mateo D

Year 5:

5W - Jaxson S
5B - Kayla K-D

Year 1:

1OS - Seren E
1G - Sophia L

Year 4:

4P - Eddie K
4AP - Rohan T

Year 6:

6N - Caiden B
6S - Tanveer B

Year 2:

2C - Ruby H
2BP - Hektor D

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

Ms Murphy - Headteacher

Wake Up Wednesdays

This #WakeUpWednesday edition offers clear, supportive guidance to help parents and educators feel more confident in navigating the online world with children and young people. It looks at how everyday conversations, simple boundaries, and a bit of digital awareness can make a real difference to young people's online experiences.

This guide also explores how parents and educators can create an environment where children feel comfortable asking for help when something online unsettles them. By highlighting the importance of safe and healthy internet usage, these tips provide a grounded starting point for anyone supporting young people's digital lives.

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 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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ESSENTIAL ONLINE SAFETY

Children and young people use the internet every day to learn, play, and connect, but the online world is not always safe. For adults, it can be hard to keep up with the risks, including harmful content, cyberbullying and scams. These 10 tips provide clear and practical advice to support safer and healthier digital habits, helping young people to make informed, secure choices when using technology.

- 1 START EARLY CONVERSATIONS**
Begin talking about online behaviour from the moment children start using devices. Use age-appropriate language and revisit topics regularly, making it clear they can speak to you about anything that upsets or confuses them. Keeping these chats open helps build trust, so children are more likely to come to you when needed.
- 2 PROMOTE SAFER SHARING**
Children can overshare without understanding the risks. Remind them that photos, locations, or messages can be copied or shared beyond their intended audience. Explain how even private messages or group chats can be saved and/or misused. Talk about what is appropriate to post, message, and who it's safe to share with.
- 3 ENCOURAGE DIGITAL BALANCE**
Many apps and games are designed to keep users engaged through rewards, likes, or constant updates. These features can make it hard for children to switch off. Talk openly about how these systems work and help children recognise when it's time to take a break. Building in tech-free routines supports a healthier balance and awareness of their screen time.
- 4 CREATE A SAFE SPACE FOR CONCERNS**
When children come to you with a concern, respond with interest and care, rather than with alarm. Keeping your reaction measured helps them feel safe and supported. This doesn't mean ignoring serious issues; it means showing that you're there to help. When children trust that they can speak openly, they're more likely to feel supported through unpleasant online experiences, and to ask for help in future.
- 5 STAY INFORMED AND CURRENT**
With emerging technologies like AI moving and changing so quickly, it's important to stay updated on how children are using new platforms, apps and games. Ask them to show you what they use and let them take the lead as you explore together. This opens up valuable conversations and helps you stay ahead of emerging risks and trends.
- 6 TEACH CRITICAL THINKING**
Talk to children about how to recognise unreliable information or scams online. With AI-generated videos, photos, and stories becoming harder to spot, help children question what they see and encourage them to look for evidence, check sources, and ask questions. These skills will help them avoid risks, make smart choices, and develop healthy habits for the future.
- 7 SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES**
Involve children in conversations about device usage so they feel included. Agree on digital rules such as screen-time limits, age-appropriate apps, and no devices in bedrooms overnight. Use parental controls to block or filter harmful content and explain that rules are there to protect and support them, not to spoil their fun.
- 8 LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Children often copy the behaviour of adults around them. Show them what balanced, respectful, and mindful use of technology looks like, such as avoiding scrolling during family time and speaking kindly in messages. If you expect certain behaviour from them online, make sure your own habits reflect the same standards.
- 9 EXPLORE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER**
Show children how to use privacy tools on apps, games, and websites. Teach them to use strong passwords, block or report others in response to problems, and avoid sharing personal details. Explore settings together so they feel confident and in control, and explain that these features are there to help them stay safe online.
- 10 KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP**
Familiarise yourself with tools and organisations that support online safety. The National College offers online safety guides and webinars which provide tips on staying safe. Websites like Report Harmful Content and CEOP can be used to report when something goes wrong. Show children how to report or block users, and where to go if they feel unsafe. Make sure they know that asking for help is always the right thing to do, and be prepared to support them.

Meet Our Expert
Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforces and managing compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on [our website](https://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: 07.01.2025

Lunch Menu

Please see below next week's menu. Please discuss with your child their preferred lunch options and book via [IFG](#).

MENU WEEK 3		SERVED W/C: 20 th Oct 10 th Nov 1 st Dec 22 nd Dec 12 th Jan 2 nd Feb 23 rd Feb 16 th Mar 6 th Apr					Cucina IFG
		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
MAIN MEAL	OPTION 1	Mixed Vegetable & Bean Fajita & Oven Baked Wedges	Vegetarian Chilli Nacho Bake & Rice	Vegan Roast Quorn Fillet with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Baked Creamy Mac 'N' Cheese	Vegan Sausage Roll & Chips	
	OPTION 2	Chicken & Spinach Pasta Bake	Mild Beef Chilli & Rice	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes & Gravy	Creamy Chicken Curry & Carrot Rice	MSC Approved Fish Fingers & Chips	
VEGGIES		Peas & Carrots	Sweetcorn	Broccoli & Peas	Carrot & Mixed Salad	Beans	
PASTA		Cheese Sauce	House Tomato Sauce	Cheese Sauce	House Tomato Sauce	Creamy Pesto	
FILLED ROLLS		Ham Cheese	Chicken Egg	Ham Cheese	Tuna Mayo Cheese	Egg Cheese	
AVAILABLE EVERY DAY Our crunchy colourful salad & jacket potatoes with cheese, beans, tuna mayo or cheese and beans							
SWEET TREATS		Strawberry Yoghurt & Strawberry Sauce	Mixed Berry & Apple Crumble with Custard	Orange Jelly & Mandarins	Gingerbread Squares with Custard	Garden Brownie	
Desserts available every day - a choice of jelly, fruit or yoghurt							
KEY Nutritionist's Choice Vegetarian Vegan Added Wholewheat							

Key Term Dates

- Monday 12th January - KS2 Author Visit
- Wednesday 14th January - Year 6 WW2 Workshop
- Thursday 15th January - Year 2 Victorian School Day Workshop
- Friday 16th January - Year 6 Mass
- Monday 19th January - Cultures Week (all week)
- Monday 19th January - Years 1-6 Flamenco Workshop
- Wednesday 21st January - Cultures Exhibition
- Thursday 22nd January - Year 5 Parent Assembly
- Friday 23rd January - Year 4 Mass
- Friday 23rd January - Celebration of Cultures (in class)
- Friday 30th January - Celebration Afternoon @ 2.45pm (parents invited)
- Monday 9th February - Year 5 Rose Theatre Trip
- Tuesday 10th January - Year 5 Tudor Workshops (in class)
- Friday 13th February - Wellbeing Exhibition
- Friday 13th February - Year 3 Mass
- Friday 13th February - End of Half Term

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

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

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