

NEWSLETTER Thursday 10th July 2025

Dear Parents,

The last couple of weeks have been jam packed with some wonderful enrichment activities. Please read on to find out all about what has been happening in school.

LANDSCOPE LEARNERS

CLASS ONE

On Friday, in their Outdoor Explorers session, Class One identified the many colourful signs of summer and explored the beautiful colours that can be found in our natural environment – they did a great job of collecting lots of examples!



CLASS TWO

In Computing Class 2 have been creating their own maps with obstacles for them to guide the Beebots through. They've had to work hard to 'debug' their programmes when the Beebots go off-route and there's been some fantastic team work as they've had to work together to complete the tasks.



CLASS THREE

Class 3 loved their time on their WildWise adventure last week. On arrival they sketched flowers and explored how plants spread their seeds. After a picnic lunch in the meadow, they headed to camp. After some fun team building activities, the children all did a fantastic job setting up their tents. They then headed into the woods for a wonderful sensory experience. 'Tent time' was a joy...Mr A said the camp went quiet ~ who knew what a tent could do!!

Team games were filled with lots of laughter; especially when Mr A had to be blindfolded! Once the light started to fade, everyone went on a bat walk. Using an echo locator, they were able to find bats feeding over the river. When it was completely dark Class 3 ventured into the woods, where they had a magical stroll. Immersed in the dark atmosphere they were treated to some amazing owl calls. After returning to camp, staff and children shared some hot chocolate and campfire stories. The children were definitely ready for bed and slept really well. The following morning found everyone up early to listen to the forest waking up and draw the sounds they could hear. After a fabulous breakfast, poetry and human photography were created in the woods. Well done Class 3 - We are so proud of you all!



CLASS FOUR

...have had a fabulous time in Bristol this week – from workshops at the Clifton suspension bridge, to being time detectives at the SS Great Britain, to taking part in a graffiti workshop, to spotting Gromit and Banksy art, to climbing in the tree-tops – it's been a fun packed few days. I can't wait to see the children's scrap books which will form a wonderful keepsake of a Landscope adventure!

Huge thanks to Mrs Neville, Miss Hart and Mrs Pearse for their time and enthusiasm – these residentials really couldn't happen if the staff didn't go the extra mile!



SAFEGUARDING & ATTENDANCE

Attendance: (Our school target is 96.8%)	
Whole school	95.9%
Class 1	96%
Class 2	97%
Class 3	97.6%
Class 4	93.3%
Well done to Class 3!	

iPads are a familiar fixture in many households offering access to educational tools entertainment, and the internet in one sleek package; however, with great versatility comes notable risk. From accidental spending and data privacy breaches to excessive screen time, there's plenty for parents to consider before handing over the device. While Apple offers built-in safeguards such as 'Screen Time' and 'Family Sharing', these features must be correctly set up and actively managed to be effective. This #WakeUpWednesday guide walks you through these options and highlights some of the more surprising ways children can get around restrictions – including with Siri – while offering practical advice on how to help keep young users safe and healthy online.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APPLE IPADS

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 ARE THE RISKS?

- COSTLY TO REPAIR**
Unlike some child-friendly tablets, the iPad is not built for rough handling. Its sleek design and high cost mean that a drop or spill can result in a costly repair. If a child is using the device regularly, a sturdy case and screen protector are strongly recommended to help prevent accidental damage.
- DATA PRIVACY**
While Apple is known for strong privacy protections, a recent study found that many iOS apps aimed at children still share personal data. Over 40% of the tested apps sent at least one piece of user information to third parties, raising concerns about advertising and analytics being targeted at underage users.
- INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**
The App Store and Safari browser provide almost unrestricted access to online material. Children may stumble upon age-inappropriate content, whether through apps, advertisements or online searches. Even recommended content algorithms can surface unsuitable material.
- BYPASSING RESTRICTIONS**
Siri – Apple's voice assistant – can potentially override restrictions, especially with the newer text-based commands introduced through Apple Intelligence. Without safeguards in place, children may inadvertently access inappropriate topics simply by asking a question. Bypassing certain filters previously set by parents.
- SCREEN ADDICTION**
iPads can be highly immersive, and excessive screen time may affect a child's emotional and behavioural development. Signs of excessive use might include mood swings, irritability, and difficulty focusing on non-digital activities.
- REDUCED ATTENTION & COGNITIVE IMPACT**
Prolonged use of tablets has been linked with reduced memory, slower processing speeds, and difficulties in concentrating. Research shows that children who spend excessive time gaming or consuming media on tablets may struggle with language development and executive functioning over time.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- ENABLE FAMILY SHARING**
Family Sharing allows you to create a dedicated Apple ID for your child and manage their activity. You can approve purchases, control what content they can access, and set time limits – all done remotely from your own device. It's a simple but powerful way to maintain oversight.
- FILTER APPS, WEBSITES & IN-APP PURCHASES**
Parental Controls in iOS let you block specific content in Safari, restrict app downloads, and manage in-app purchase permissions. You can also filter websites automatically to prevent access to adult material and disable the installation of certain app types completely.
- USE SCREEN TIME FEATURES EFFECTIVELY**
Tools like Downtime and App Limits can reduce device usage. Downtime allows you to block access during key times – such as before bed or during homework – while App Limits set daily time caps on specific games or apps. Alerts help children anticipate when their time is almost up.
- PREVENT UNAPPROVED SPENDING**
Children can occasionally (or intentionally) make purchases within apps. Activating Ask to Buy under Family Sharing means you receive a notification to approve any app or in-app purchase. This stops surprise charges and allows you to discuss purchases together before they're made.

Meet Our Expert
Carly Page is a seasoned technology journalist with over a decade of experience. Formerly a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly now writes for publications including BBC, Forbes, TechRadar, and Tes. With a deep understanding of online safety, she brings a valuable perspective to parenting in the digital age.

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<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/pKuNZwodRrzKLNYd?ref=Link>

If you are concerned about a child's wellbeing, please contact the school or in non-school hours contact Frontdoor on 0345 155 1071.

Our designated safeguarding lead is Mrs. Ryder, and the deputy safeguarding lead is Mr. Ansermoz.

ETHOS & VALUES ~ PLEDGE FOR OUR PLAYGROUND

Well, my socks were well and truly knocked off at the summer fair last week! I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the staff and children to Emma & Josh for their extremely generous donation which has allowed us to go ahead with the planned playground renovations. It really will make such a huge difference to our school community and the social development of the children. We expect work to begin in November ~ we will be sure to keep you posted on all things 'playground'!

FOLS

What a fabulous summer fair! There was a lovely buzz in the air last week and we'd like to say thank you to everyone from Michelle and her team to those who came and spent some time and money to make it the success it was! THANK YOU!

FOLS ~ a message from Michelle

A massive thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the Summer Fair last week, whether you were a spender, helper on a stall, or brought donations for the Tombolas, you have all helped in some way and I am very grateful. It was a great afternoon supported by many which raised over £1100 for FOLS



funds which is absolutely fantastic. There were many people who helped out in many ways, and I thank all of you. There are too many to name individually, but you know who you are.

- Friday 11th July – Ice lolly sales £1
- Monday 22nd September – FOLS AGM 3:30pm at school, children can go into afterschool club free of charge.

Many thanks, Michelle

A PLEA FROM THE STAFF

It is part of our school policy that we do not have toys from home in school. We have found that there have been an increasing number of Jelly cat toys and similar items which lead to arguments and breakages/loss. We have plenty to keep the children engaged during the day at break times.

I feel the need to reinforce this policy as it seems to have slipped over this term. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

12 th July	Landscape village fete 4pm-till late
16 th July	Transition afternoon – a chance for those moving class to meet their teacher and classmates for the coming year.
17 th July	Classes 1&2 will be enjoying a day of circus skills
22 nd July	Leavers service @ St Matthew's 10am Break up for summer.

That's all the news for now. Have a good weekend.

Jill Ryder.

