

# ST COLUMBA C OF E

## SCHOOL NEWS - SPRING 1 2025



### MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM...

Dear Parents, Carers, and Children,

As we settle into the new term, I wanted to take a moment to share some exciting updates and express my gratitude for your continued support.

Firstly, I am thrilled to announce that World Book Day is just around the corner! This is always a highlight of our school calendar, and we have a range of fun activities planned to celebrate the joy of reading (see below). Encouraging your child to read not only enhances their literacy skills but also sparks their imagination and broadens their understanding of the world. We have a competition between the classes of the percentage of the class being regular readers, so far Beach Class are reigning champions with 50% of their class being regular readers, the children are keen to challenge this, please support them to do so by encouraging your child to read and record this, at least three times a week.

I am also delighted to share that St Columba School's attendance rate is higher than the national average! This is a testament to the positive environment we have created together, where children are eager to learn and participate. It truly shows that they want to be here, and we couldn't be prouder. Thank you for your unwavering support in ensuring your children attend school regularly. This has a huge, positive impact on their academic progress.

Please see below some of the fantastic work your children have been doing this half term, and check the dates for your diary for what is to come.

Finally, can I ask that when dropping and collecting your children you are considerate of our neighbours. We are working hard to raise our profile in the community and supporting our neighbours can contribute towards this.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Together, we are making St Columba School a place where every child can thrive.

Mrs Viola

Head of School



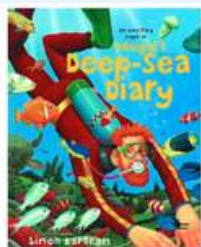
# READING NEWS

## Spring 1 Reading News

We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on **Thursday 6th March**.

This year, we will be theming the day on 'Under the Sea' and invite the children to come dressed as their favourite sea creature or character.

However, all costumes are welcome so if your child has a specific book character in mind, we are happy for them to deviate from the theme.



**WORLD  
BOOK  
DAY**



### Regular Readers

Thank you to all those that have been supporting our Regular Reader initiative.

Children are being asked to read at least **3 times a week** at home. This needs to be recorded in the reading record. This can be in the form of a comment, initials or even a smiley face! Older children can complete their own entries of what they have read.

Each Friday, we have been celebrating the winning class within our Celebration Worship.

Well done to Beech Class who reached Mrs Viola's target.

### Library Service

Sharing stories about various situations can put a child's mind at ease and make transitions and new experiences easier to cope with and more understandable. When a book might help is a list of story books suitable for this purpose and can be accessed at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/library/kids-zone/whenabookmighthelp>



Topics include: Behaviours and routines, Families and home life, Health and Wellbeing, Disability and neurodiversity.

### Home reading

Reading with your child at home is not only a way to spend time together but will also foster in them a love of stories, characters and adventures. Reading helps children develop their vocabulary and this impacts on their writing and spelling too.



### Free eBooks!

Did you know ... Oxford Owl have a free eBook library?

This has been created to help children 3-11 develop their reading skills at home. As well as stories, there is a great range of non-fiction eBooks to help your child explore their world.



# ATTENDANCE

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN ENSURING YOUR CHILDREN ATTEND SCHOOL REGULARLY.**

## **TERM 2 REWARDS RECAP:**

**LAST TERM, WE GAVE AWAY FOOTBALL MATCH TICKETS AS A REWARD FOR GOOD ATTENDANCE. THE CHILDREN WITH THE BEST ATTENDANCE WERE ENTERED INTO A DRAW, AND THE WINNERS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A LOCAL FOOTBALL MATCH**

## **TERM 3 REWARDS:**

**THIS TERM, WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH THE ANDRE SIMPSON CENTRE IN PORTSMOUTH TO OFFER A FANTASTIC REWARD: A FREE PADDLE SPORTS VOUCHER FOR CHILDREN WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE.**

**JUST LIKE LAST TERM, CHILDREN WITH GOOD ATTENDANCE WILL BE ENTERED INTO A DRAW FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THIS EXCITING PRIZE.**



**ADDITIONALLY, WE ARE REWARDING THE CLASSES WITH THE BEST OVERALL ATTENDANCE THIS TERM BY TREATING THEM TO SOME POPCORN IN THE CLASSROOM! IT'S A SMALL BUT FUN WAY TO RECOGNISE THEIR HARD WORK AND COMMITMENT TO BEING PRESENT AT SCHOOL.**



## **NEXT TERM:**

**LOOKING AHEAD, WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE REWARD FOR NEXT TERM'S BEST-ATTENDING STUDENTS AT THE BEGINNING OF TERM 4, SO KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR DETAILS.**

**THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR HELP IN GETTING THE CHILDREN TO SCHOOL, ESPECIALLY DURING THE COLDER MONTHS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN PROMOTING GOOD ATTENDANCE, WHICH PLAYS SUCH AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE CHILDREN'S LEARNING AND PROGRESS.**

BIG MOUTH  
THEATRE



BELIEVE IN  
YOURSELF

# 23 JAN



**YEARS 1-6 HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE BIG MOUTH THEATRE WORKSHOPS IN THEIR CLASSROOMS.**



**THEY PARTICIATED IN WORKSHOPS AND ACTIVITIES, WITH AIMS TO BUILD THEIR SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENET THROUGH KEY COMMUNICATION AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS, AS WELL AS SHOWIGN THE CHILDREN HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES AND THEIR ABILITIES.**



# Beech Class

**IN ART, BEECH CLASS HAVE BEEN LEARNING ABOUT FROTTAGE**

**FROTTAGE IS AN ART TECHNIQUE, WHERE THE CHILDREN TAKE A RUBBING FROM AN UNEVEN SURFACE, AND ADDING ALL THEIR RUBBINGS TOGETHER, CREATED THEIR ART PEICES!**

**SUPER!**





**STEM CLUB ARE HAVING FUN WHILST PARTICIPATING IN THE CREST AWARD SCHEME, RUN BY THE BRITISH SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.**

**SO FAR, THEY HAVE TESTED WHAT SHAPE A SNOWFLAKE NEEDS TO BE TO FALL SLOWLY, BUILT BRIDGES OUT OF PAPER AND THIS WEEK THEY WERE TESTING DIFFERENT BOAT SHAPES TO SEE WHICH ONE COULD HOLD THE MOST MARBLES.**



## SPRING 1 CLUB LIST

Club	Year group	Day	Teacher
football	3-6	Monday	Mr Smith
drawing	3-6	Monday	Miss Woodhouse
arts & craft	R-2	Monday	Mrs James
Yoga	1-6	Tuesday	Miss Lever
Cooking	4-6	Tuesday	Mrs James
Gymnastics	1-6	Wednesday	outsourced
Construction	R-2	Thursday	Mrs Robertson
STEM club	5-6	Thursday	Mrs Charlton

# JOIN NOW

Clubs are running until Friday 14th February 2025.

Clubs are bookable on Arbor.

**Spaces: Football, Drawing Club & Gymnastics (£)**

Please note Gymnastics is payable at £3.80 per session and payment will need to be made on Arbor to secure your child's place.

If a club becomes full and you are unable to enroll your child, please contact [admin@stcolumba.school](mailto:admin@stcolumba.school) and we can add them to our wait list.

# RELISH ART COMPETITION

## JUST A REMINDER...

RELISH ARE HOSTING AN ART COMPETITION AND WOULD LIKE TO DISPLAY YOUR CHILD'S DRAWING IN THE HALL!

PLEASE BRING YOUR DRAWINGS AND ART WORK TO MRS PENRIC IN THE OFFICE, BEFORE FRIDAY 31ST JANUARY!



**RELISH  
ART COMPETITION**

**SWEET TREAT FOR  
BEST DRAWING!**

**ANY TOPIC! GO CRAZY!**

Relish are looking for art work for a display board in the Hall.

Join in and create your art work for display!

Please bring your art work to Mrs Penric in the office!

**DEADLINE - 31ST JAN**

# HALF TERM FUN

LOOKING FOR SOME FUN ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR CHILD TO DO OVER THE FEBRUARY HALF TERM....



**February Half Term Family Swim Sessions**  
 Tuesday 18th February  
 Thursday 20th February  
 13.00 to 14.30

Adult £3.50  
 Child £2.50  
 Family £10.00  
 (2 x adults + 3 x children)

KING'S ACADEMY BRUNE PARK  
 02392 505222  
 COMMUNITY@KGAHAMPSHIRE.UK



**FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2025 SWIM COURSE**  
 17TH FEBRUARY 2025 - 21ST FEBRUARY 2025

JUST £25 PER CHILD

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST SCAN THE QR CODE



KING'S ACADEMY BRUNE PARK  
 02392 505222  
 COMMUNITY@KGAHAMPSHIRE.UK

❖ FUN ❖



**Let's Play**  
 FUN | INCLUSIVE | EDUCATIONAL

**FEBRUARY FUN DAYS**  
 SWIMMING, MULTI-SPORTS, ROCK CLIMBING, BOUNCY CASTLE, ARTS N CRAFTS, SOFT PLAY, LASER TAG, NERF WARS, LEGO BUILDING, PERFORMING ARTS, GAMING AND MORE!

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February



**Fareham Leisure Centre**  
 Park Lane, Fareham PO16 7JU  
 9.00am – 4.00pm  
 Early drop off from 8am, late pick-up until 5pm

OPEN TO CHILDREN AGED 5 (SCHOOL YEAR 1) - 12  
**FROM £27.50 PER DAY!**  
 Discounts for siblings & full week booking – please see booking page for details.

We accept Childcare Vouchers, Tax-Free Childcare & we are OFSTED registered!  
 Please bring: Lunch, Snacks, Waterproof Clothing & A Refillable Drinks Bottle.



Scan the QR code for more information, call 01344 508008 or email [info@lets-play.org.uk](mailto:info@lets-play.org.uk)  
 Book online: [www.lets-play.org.uk](http://www.lets-play.org.uk)

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**NoFear FirstAid** **mini MEDICS**

**First Aid Training for Children**

**Would your child know what to do in an emergency?**

Come join us for an exciting and educational event....

**Mini MEDICS First Aid Training for Children!**

This is a basic introduction to First Aid and Defibrillation aimed at children between the ages of 7 and 11.  
 A fun and interactive session to learn valuable first aid skills

Topics include:

- Resuscitation (CPR)
- Defibrillation
- Bleeding
- Choking
- Recovery position

**BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW ON OUR HALF TERM WORKSHOPS**

Email: - [Nofearfirstaid@outlook.com](mailto:Nofearfirstaid@outlook.com)  
 Facebook: - [No Fear First Aid](https://www.facebook.com/NoFearFirstAid)



**DATE: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025**  
**TIME: 09:30-12:30**  
**LOCATION: St Faiths Church, Tribe Road, Gosport**  
**Price: £25 per child**  
**Includes 32-page activity book and certificate**



## Parentkind

At Parentkind, we support everyone in a parenting role. And let's face it, that's a challenging job. Tackling a wide range of topics, our webinars are designed to share insight on how you can support your child with a wide range of learning and life experiences, strengthen your understanding of education and school life, and foster solid parent-child relationships along the way.

Courses on offer:

Motivation Matters

Helping your child cope with Exam stress

Nurturing Healthy Behaviour online

Emotionally Based School Avoidance: Support for Autistic pupils and their families

and many more....

During these interactive webinars, you'll be able to engage with their experts, ask questions and connect with others on a similar journey — they believe in the power of community and the strength of sharing experiences and learning together.

Click the link below

[Browse Free Webinars Here](#)

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](http://nationalcollege.com).

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

### 1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

### 2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

### 3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

### 4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

### 5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

### 6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

### 7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

### 8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

### 9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

### 10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



# 2025

## February

- 3rd - Fire Safety Talk Y1/2 & Y5/6
- 4th - Swish Fareham - YR R - Drama Workshop
- 4th - Fareham BC & Student Council Photo Opportunity
- 6th - PTFA School Disco
- 11th - Winchester Trip 5/6
- 13th - Love yourself Day - Non Uniform £1
- 14th - INSET
- 24th - Back to School
- 25th - Speak Out. Stay Safe Assembly
- 26th - NHS School Measuring - YR & Y6

## March

- 3rd - School Council Visit to Mayor's Parlor
- 5th - NSPCC Talks Y2, 5 & 6
- 6th - World Book Day
- 6th - Drama4All Workshops - YR R, Y1, Y2
- 18th & 19th - Parents Evenings
- 28th - PTFA Mothers Day Shop
- 31st - Southern Electric Class Talk - Beech

## April

- 2nd - Easter Service 9.30-10am
- 2nd - PTFA Easter Egg Hunt
- 22nd - Back to School

## May

- 12th to 16th - SATS Week
- 14th - Bikeability Y5-Y6
- 23rd - INSET

## June

- 2nd - INSET
- 5th - Mental Health Workshops Y5/6
- 6th - 9th -Y5/6 Residential Trip
- 13th - Fathers Day Shop
- 16th - School Photos
- 18th - Sports Day

## July

- 2nd - Transition Day - Henry Cort Y6
- 6th - PTFA Summer Fayre
- 9th - Y6 Leavers - Portsmouth Cathedral
- 18th - Last day of term

## Inset Days 2025

- 14th February
- 23rd May
- 2nd June

## Half Terms

- 16th - 21st February 2025
- 7th - 18th April 2025
- 21st April - BANK HOLIDAY
- 26th-30th May 2025



## Important Update on School Meals

From the start of the Spring Term, 4th January 2025, school meals will need to be paid for when ordered. If there are any outstanding monies owed for unpaid meals this will have to be cleared before ordering a school lunch can resume.

Please contact the school if you would like to talk to us about payment options of any outstanding amounts.

Free School Meals (FSM) recipients are unaffected by this change.

## After school club - Barn Owls

Barn Owls are providing breakfast (from 7.30am) and afterschool (until 5.30pm) wrap around care for the St Columba children. For any families who require a space for their child/children or have any enquiries please contact Barn Owls directly on: 07359 883847.

