



Newsletter

Friday 28th November

Welcome to our penultimate newsletter of 2025. It's hard to believe that Christmas is already on the horizon!

We'll be starting our Christmas celebrations in just a few weeks. I keep reminding the children—and the staff—that we still have three weeks of school left, with plenty of learning to complete before we can fully relax and enjoy the festivities. The children have recently completed their first assessments of the year, and we will be analysing the results and adapting our teaching and interventions accordingly in the new year.

Please continue to support your children by reading with them and practising spellings and times tables whenever possible. Fluency in these key skills really helps them to thrive in lessons. It's an exciting time in school, and we have lots of fun-filled days ahead.

As the weather gets colder, please ensure that children have a coat, hat, gloves, and a scarf in their school bags for those really chilly days.

Mrs Elam



PTFA update:

Christmas Fayre - Friday 5th December

The countdown is on - just one week to go until our Christmas Fayre!

Join us after school from 3.15pm - 5pm for an afternoon full of festive fun and activities for the whole family. Here's a sneak peek at what's in store:

- Santa's Grotto 
- Raffle - including exciting prizes and our popular Rainbow Hampers! 
- Chocolate Tombola 
- Teddy Tombola 
- Advent Calendar Game 
- Badge Making 
- Cafe 
- Games Room 
- PTFA Stall 
- Tuck Shop 
- School Exercise Book Sale 

All funds raised will go directly towards enriching our children's experiences at our wonderful school.

A huge thank you to parents, carers, school staff, local businesses, and our amazing volunteers for their support in bringing this event together. We can't wait to see you there - and don't forget to wear your Christmas jumpers!

Bethel Chapel Christmas Tree Festival

A big thank you to everyone who purchased our wooden Christmas tree ornaments and to all the wonderfully creative children who returned theirs to be included on the PTFA-funded tree at Bethel Chapel!

Some of the ornaments have been selected to receive a small gift as a token of appreciation for the children's hard work and creativity.



A special thank you goes to a group of our School Councillors, who visited Bethel Chapel today to help decorate the PTFA tree - doesn't it look magical! If you'd like to admire the tree and spot your ornament, while supporting another very worthy cause, the festival runs from Sunday 30th Nov - Saturday 6th Dec.

Updates:

Children in Need - Friday 14th November

Thank you to everyone who sent in donations for BBC Children in Need earlier this month, in total we raised approximately £150 for the charity.



Scholastic Bookfair

At the start of term we held the Scholastic Bookfair at school making £406 which means we get 50% back in books for school!

The winners of the Book Bingo competition were Florrie S (W2) and Rayah P (M2) - well done to both girls.

A big thank you to everyone involved in helping to coordinate the fair.



Shelf Gala Committee - looking for new members!

Do you love the Shelf Gala and want to be part of the team that makes it happen?

We're looking for new committee members and we'd especially like to find a Secretary to join our friendly group.

About the Secretary role:

- Take meeting minutes
- Help with correspondence and communication
- Attend one meeting a month on a Tuesday at 7.30pm
- Voluntary position (but hugely rewarding!)



To support you in the role, you'll be provided with:

- A license for Office 365
- A Shelf Gala email address
- All the necessary stationary you'll need

If you're organised, community-minded, and what to help keep Shelf Gala going, we'd love to hear from you!

Please email j.kerry@shelfgala.org.uk if interested.

Learn more at www.shelfgala.org.uk

Updates:

Year 1 - A Very Merry Mix Up Musical

Year 1, Lister class will be performing A Very Merry Mix Up Musical on Wednesday 17th December at 2.45pm - parents are welcome to attend with tickets costing £2 which can be paid for on the day.

Tickets include, live music, mince pies, mulled wine (juice) and Christmas Chaos!



Governor Spotlight - Mrs Pippa Booth



Hello! My name is Pippa Booth. I've been part of the School Governors team for six years, and for the last 16 months I have served as Vice Chair. I also have additional responsibility for attendance, relationships, and behaviour.

I'm a mum of two, and both of my children have attended Shelf J&I—one of them is currently in Year 3. I have a background in education and wanted to use my experience to help support the school. The education, safety, health, and happiness of our children are extremely important to me.

MCAS (My Child at School) - our primary communication & payment system

We would like to remind all parents that MCAS is now our primary method of communication and school payments. All families should have activated their MCAS accounts by now.

From the end of November, ParentPay will no longer be used, so please ensure your ParentPay account is deleted. Any outstanding balances will be transferred to MCAS over the next couple of weeks.

Using MCAS ensures you receive all school updates, event information, and payment notifications in one convenient place. If you need any assistance with your account, please contact the school office.

Thank you for helping us make this transition smooth for everyone.



School Christmas Dinner - Wednesday 17th December

On Wednesday 17th December, we will be serving our Christmas dinner - children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper over their uniform to get in the festive spirit!

In order for us to plan ahead, please complete the form [here](#) to pre-order your child's school dinner.



The Pupil Premium & Claiming Free School Meals

The Pupil Premium is extra funding the school receives for children eligible for free school meals. It helps support your child's education and wellbeing.

Even if you don't think you're eligible for Free School Meals right now, the system checks weekly, and you'll be notified if your child becomes eligible. If your child already receives free school meals, there's no need to reapply.

For more information or help with your application, please contact Mrs Jackson or Mrs Powell in the school office. Please click [here](#) to apply online.

Jewelry at school

Please could we remind you that children should not wear jewelry to school. Earrings can be worn as long as they are small studs and must be covered up for PE and/or removed if swimming (Year 4 only).

Learning:

Year 2

This term in Year 2 we have designed and made Fire Engines in DT. We learned all about wheels, chassis and axles.

In PE we have been busy doing Pirate Fitness - we had to do lots of exercises to raise our heartrate. Now we are learning to aim and throw so we can play Boccia.

In History we LOVED learning about the Great Fire of London, and about various landmarks in Shelf. We are glad we come to school in 2025 and not 100 years ago!



Mackintosh trip to Cliffe Castle

Earlier this month, Year 3 / 4 went on their school trip to Cliffe Castle, Keighley.

We had lots of fun, exploring the museum and learning about how fossils are made. We also enjoyed a workshop about different types of rocks, thinking about their properties and uses.



Learning:

Forest School

To celebrate Bonfire night we enjoyed sparklers and made our own edible sparklers with bread sticks, chocolate and sprinkles! Yum!



To commemorate Remembrance Day our KS2 group created their own Poppies with sticks and wool.



Superworm week with Reception saw us make worms using pipe cleaners and Cheerios! These can also be used as bird feeders.



Learning:

Forest School continued:

KS1 group went on a worm hunt. We looked under logs, between leaves and in dark places trying to find them. We made sure to put them back where they came from after.



KS2 after school club had a fun first session getting muddy and practicing their fighting skills.



Last week, we enjoyed the first bit of snow with Reception. We warmed up with hot chocolate and marshmallows around the fire. We used the jelly kettle for the first time this year, the children loved it!



Learning:

Forest School continued:

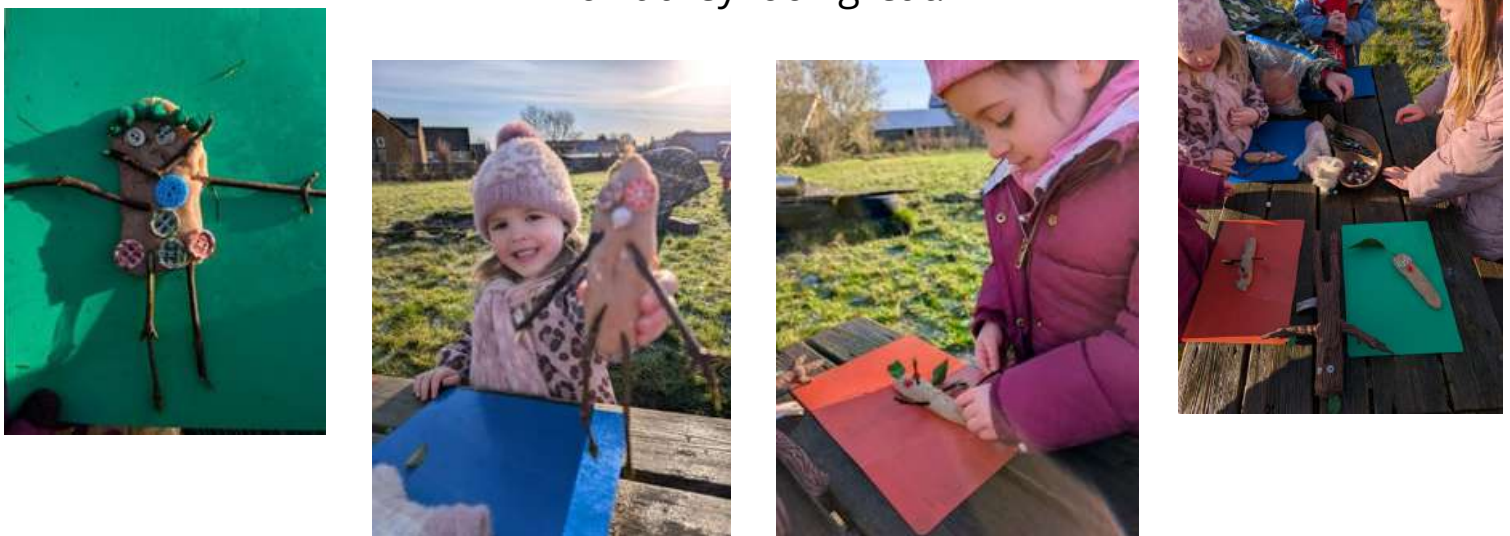
This week, KS2 have started making Christmas decorations. We used the bow saw to cut our wood cookie slices.



It was a frosty morning, so we had lots of ice to play with. We used hammers to smash the ice, Stick Man was stuck inside so we set him free!



We made our own stick men with cinnamon play dough, sticks and decorations. Don't they look great!



#WakeUpWednesday - Top Tips

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 Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Adults tend to associate online videos with YouTube – but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a stream of short clips tailored to users' interests, based on what they've already watched. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while much of the content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where youngsters "were most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's Following feed only displays videos from familiar creators, for you is a collection based on a user's previously watched clips. Most of these videos will probably be inoffensive, but the app could potentially show something unsuitable. If children then engage with this content, more like it will follow. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the huge number of uploads means that a small amount inevitably slips through.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

According to Ofcom, most online harms for teens are body image related for girls (promoting unhealthy eating, body shaming and so on) and dangerous stunts for boys. Both are prevalent on TikTok. One extreme example of the latter was the 'blackout' trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. This led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase gifts for content creators. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99, while that may not sound appealing, the app still generated £7.9 billion in user spending in 2023. TikTok's policy is that under-18s can't make in-app purchases, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birth date.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With more than 1.5 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-16s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and enables anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

Although the short videos on TikTok tend to be more frivolous than the longer ones on YouTube, clips can still influence impressionable minds in a negative way. Not only is there plenty of dangerous misinformation on TikTok, but Ofcom reports that nearly a third of 12 to 15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source – so you should be wary of misogynistic, racist or conspiracy-themed material shaping how they see the world.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

With its constant stream of eye-catching videos, TikTok can be addictive to young brains. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the app: that's twice as much as in 2020. Excessive use can interfere with young people's sleep patterns – often leading to irritability – and distract them from other healthier activities. The instantly skippable nature of bite-size videos may also impact children's ability to maintain focus.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's, and control settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen-time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks. Ensure that they don't share any identifying personal information, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's also worth talking about misinformation and propaganda, and how to identify it.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

If a child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter their settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend enabling this feature, as it can be quite easy for a young person to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins to unlock more features of the app – sometimes without even realising.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tiktok-2025>

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Dates for the Diary:



**Sunday 30th November - Saturday 6th December - Bethel Chapel
Christmas Tree Festival**

Pop along and have a look at the lovely trees on display, including our PTFA tree



Friday 5th December - PTFA Christmas Fayre

3.15pm - 5pm at school - FREE Christmas Jumper Day
to be worn over uniform

****Christmas Week w/c 15th December****



Monday 15th December - Reception Nativity Performance

1.30pm-2pm - ticket only event

Tuesday 16th December - Cinderella Pantomime

Bradford Playhouse, Bradford

(followed by picnic lunch in classrooms back at school)



Wednesday 17th December - Christmas School Dinner

*(menu was shared via MCAS & children can come to school in Christmas Jumpers
over uniform)*

**Wednesday 17th December - A Very Merry Mix Up Musical - Year 1
performance**

£2 entry (pay on the day) at 2.45pm



Thursday 18th December - Class Christmas Parties (PM)

Children can come to school in their party clothes

Friday 19th December - last day of term!

Dress down day - minimum donation of £1 to go towards school funds