

Headteacher message

I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your support during this week's Book Fair. We strive to ensure that our children foster a love of reading and your enthusiasm and generosity in purchasing books made this event a success.

Please check your children's school bags in the morning as we have had cases of children bringing toys and even mobile phones in lower KS2. These items are not permitted in school. Children in years 5 and 6, who travel home alone, are allowed to bring a mobile phone to school. These children hand in their mobile device at the beginning of the day to the class teacher and these are returned at the end of the day.

Parent Tours

We are holding parent tours of our EYFS setting on Wednesday 23rd October and Wednesday 6th November at 9:30am on both days. If you, or anyone you know, have a child wanting to attend Nursery or applying for Reception places for September 2025, please share these dates with them.

Attendance



Classes with the highest attendance this week:

EYFS/KS1— Poppy : 96.5%

KS2— Orchid: 96.7.%

Whole School Attendance: 93.6%

Our whole school target is 96%

We need to see an improvement in attendance for our nursery and reception classes. Your children need to be in school to secure their progress through the early years.



Dates for your diary



Wednesday 23rd October

EYFS Parent workshop—Reading

Thursday 7th November

School photographs—individual and siblings

Friday 25th October

School closed Inset Day

Half term

Monday 28th October—Friday 1st November

Monday 4th November

School closed Inset Day

Tuesday 5th November

School reopens to children

Friday 8th November 5pm-7pm

Bond Fireworks Display

Tuesday 12th November

Flu Vaccination catch up

Week commencing Monday 24th November

Parent's Evening

Parent Phonics Workshop

Parents joined our first phonics workshop on Thursday. They enjoyed tea/coffee, played phonic games and explored a variety of resources to be used to support their children at home. We had a very productive session and as a result set up a support group on WhatsApp. Our next session is Thursday 24th October at 9am and our focus will be maths. We hope you will join us!





Bond Primary fireworks Display 2024

Friday 8th November 5-7 pm.

Tickets available via PARENT PAY & are STRICTLY LIMITED so be quick!!

Purchased tickets will be sent home with children 5th Nov onwards.

Adults: £5

Children: £3

Family: £16 (2 adults & 3 children)

Fireworks at 6 pm.

(NO SPARKLERS TO BE BROUGHT ON SITE)

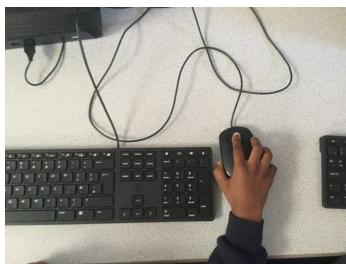
Burgers/ hotdogs & selection of non

alcoholic drinks

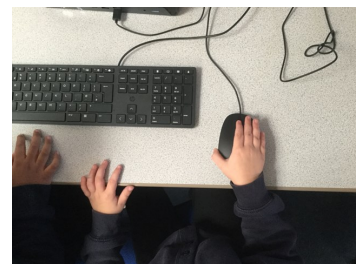
PLUS.... MUSIC & glow in the dark items available to buy!



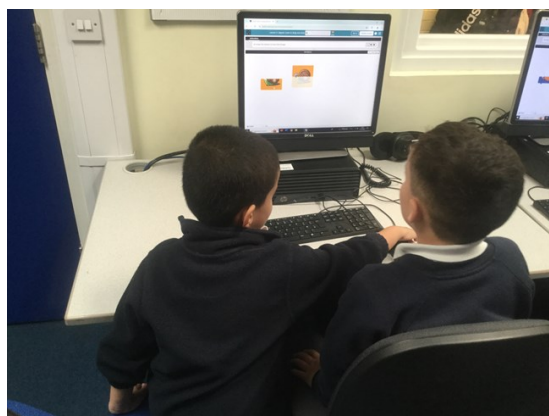
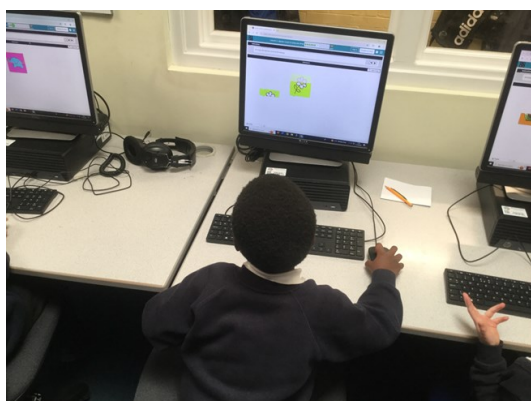
See you there!!



Year 1



The children in Year 1 have been enjoying their weekly trips to the upstairs computer room. They've been learning the names of the various parts of a computer, how to safely switch it on and off, and developing mouse control. Next week, they will take the exciting step of using the keyboard to type their names! These lessons are a key part of preparing our children for the digital world, equipping them with essential skills for navigating technology confidently and responsibly in the future.



Year 3

On Thursday Waterlily Class completed a walk around Mitcham.

Our walk around Mitcham links to Year 3's RE and Geography learning which this term has been about places of worship in our community and places to visit in our local area.

We walked around our local area, identifying landmarks and their purposes and found that Mitcham has a lot of housing facilities, retail facilities and some green spaces which led us to conclude that it is a suburban area.



Online Safety

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

▶ YOUTUBE ▶

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 9) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

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.



The National College

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ONLINE PARENT/CARER WEBINARS

Jointly run by **Off The Record** and **Croydon Drop In**

Join us online for the following workshops. Sign up via Eventbrite by scanning the QR code below. Cameras and microphones can be turned off.



Helping your Child's Behaviour (Primary age)

Wed 6th Nov 5pm

Helping your Child with Anxiety and Worries

Wed 13th Nov 5pm

Looking After Yourself for Parents

Wed 20th Nov 5pm

Introduction to Autism

Wed 27th Nov 5pm

Introduction to ADHD

Wed 4th Dec 5pm



Off The Record also run workshops for parents for support with **Self Harm** and **Emotionally Based School Avoidance** scan the QR code to the left to find out dates, times and how to sign up.



TALK TO US

OFF THE RECORD



**Are you OK
Croydon?**



**You Talk,
We Listen**
Croydon Drop In