



# St Pius Spotlight

'To renew all things in Christ'



16.01.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to those Year 6 parents who have put forward their preferences for booster groups. I will be organising them and sending out a letter with the information next week.

Please can I remind parents that children need to be in school by 8.55am latest. The school day begins at 8.55am and we have Phonics sessions that begin at 9am promptly. This is so that we can fit everything in to our very busy day. If you need any support with punctuality, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We are increasing the profile of reading across school and will be introducing an exciting reading rewards scheme in school for pupils. Details of this will be shared with you as soon as they are finalised.

Best wishes as always,

Miss Hudson

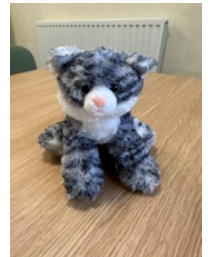
## Attendance

During celebration assembly on Friday, we have been celebrating whole class attendance and each week the class with the highest attendance will receive our Anna the Attendance Cat to live in their class all week! Well done to Class 1 who won this week.

Week beginning: Monday 1st December 2025



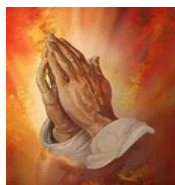
Year group	Attendance percentage
Class 1	100%
Class 2	96.19%
Class 3	96.47%
Class 4	97.93%



Our overall school attendance this week was 97.33%. Our attendance target is 96%.

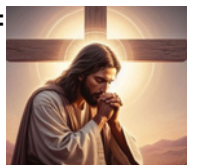
## Phonics

We are going to be inviting parents in to join in with their child's Phonics session. Each group will take a turn to work in the school hall so that parents and carers can sit with them to join in the session. We will be organising these in coming weeks and sending information out to parents as soon as possible.



This Sunday John the Baptist tells us that Jesus is the Lamb of God.

"Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world."



# Encouraging Empathy in Pupils



Studies show that emotional empathy is developed in children as early as age 2, and where they have good attachment experiences and modelled behaviour, a child will develop a good level of empathy. Cognitive empathy develops slightly later on when children begin to understand that another person's way of seeing the world may be different to their own.



In school, the environment, people, values, systems and culture all help determine how pupils develop empathy. Here is a guide to help create the conditions in which empathy can thrive.

## 1. CREATE THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT

Develop a trusted, safe environment where pupils can talk about their feelings without fear of judgement, being shamed or belittled. This is in the context of whole-school values and within a classroom environment.



## 2. MODEL EMPATHY

Demonstrate empathy through the interactions you have with pupils and other adults. When they share their feelings or experiences, listen and validate them. 'It makes sense to me, given what you have told me, why you feel that way.'



## 10. FIND A BALANCE

Sometimes, we need to dial the empathy up for a distressed pupil or colleague, but having the dial turned up all the time will lead to compassion fatigue and overwhelm. We need to learn and know when it is best to dial it down too.

## 3. ESTABLISH WHOLE-SCHOOL BUY-IN

Take time to establish whole-school buy-in from senior leaders and teachers to parents and pupil ambassadors; it is crucial that the whole-school community understands their part in demonstrating and developing empathy.

## 9. DEVELOP DEBATING SKILLS

To develop cognitive empathy, help pupils learn the skills of debating. Being able to hold your own perspective and also see that of another, takes practice.



## 4. DEVELOP SELF-EMPATHY

In order to have empathy for others, we first need to learn to have empathy for ourselves. Help pupils who are perhaps overly hard or dispassionate towards themselves, and encourage behaviours and thoughts which promote kindness and self-care.

## 8. DEVELOP LISTENING SKILLS

Being empathetic requires us to be really present "with someone" when they are in times of need. Teaching pupils active listening skills through games and role play will help.



## 5. TEACH EMOTIONAL LITERACY

Improve pupils' understanding of their own emotions and expand their range of vocabulary. Discuss what it feels like on the inside and what shows on the outside when we have a particular feeling. Discuss with pupils instances when they may have felt a certain way.



## 7. MANAGE CONFLICT

As school life is so busy, telling pupils what to think, feel and do at times of conflict can seem like a quick solution. To develop empathy however, help pupils to stop, employ breathing and calm down techniques, actively listen and then respond.



## 6. DISCUSS CHARACTERS IN TEXTS

Develop cognitive and emotional empathy by regularly helping pupils to imagine and feel what it might be like for a particular character or group of people.



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This guide is part of The National College staffroom poster series. A collection of information posters for your school staffroom.



**Meet the Expert: Anna Bateman**  
Anna Bateman, subject matter expert on mental health & wellbeing and school improvement adviser

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www.thenationalcollege.co.uk Email: support@thenationalcollege.co.uk Twitter: @TheNatCollege Facebook: @thenationalcollegeuk

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# Spotlight Celebration

## School life this week



Class 3 went on a fabulous trip on Wednesday with Miss Renwick and Mr Devanney. They learned a lot about skills and team work and had lots of fun!



In this section, we celebrate our achievements both in and out of school. If you have something you would like us to share for your child—an achievement, work of art, event they attended - please send it to school via email and we will include it in the newsletter!

## Dates for Your Diary

21.01.26: Class 4 Assembly 9am

30.01.26: Class 2 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

04.02.26: Class 3 Assembly 9am

05.02.26: Year 3 Games Festival PM—please wear PE kits

06.02.26: Non-uniform day—bring a bottle

18.02.26: Ash Wednesday Service in school—time TBC

HALF TERM 21.02.26-01.03.26

04.03.26: Class 1 PE trip PM—please wear warm, outdoor clothes

05.03.26: World Book Day

06.03.26: Class 3 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

11.03.26: Class 2 Assembly 9am 13.03.26: Class 2 Invasion games festival PM—please wear PE kits

13.03.26: Non-uniform day—crafts, chocolates, toys

20.03.26: Class 4 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

23.03.26 and 24.03.26: Parents evening Spring Term 3.30-5.30pm

25.03.26: Class 1 Assembly 9am

25.03.26: Class 4 Rugby skills trip PM— please wear PE kits

30.03.26: Palm Sunday Procession 2.45pm

02.04.26: Easter Raffle and Easter Egg Competition awards 2pm

EASTER HOLIDAYS 03.04.26—19.04.26

20.04.26: Summer Term begins

24.04.26: Class 2 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

29.04.26: Class 3 Assembly 9am

06.05.26: Class 4 Assembly 9am

08.05.26: Non-uniform day—bring a bottle

11.05.26-14.05.26: KS2 SATs 15.05.26: Class 1 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

22.05.26: Pentecost Procession 2.45pm

22.05.26: Non-uniform day crafts, chocolates, toys

HALF TERM 23.05.26—31.05.26

05.06.26: Class 4 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

10.06.26: Class 1 Assembly

12.06.26: Non-uniform day—bring a bottle

19.06.26: Class 3 Celebration of the Word 2.45pm (followed by Coffee and chat)

24.06.26: Class 2 Assembly

## Dates for Your Diary Continued

- 25.06.26: St Bede's Uniform evening for Y6 parents
- 26.06.26: Non-uniform day—crafts, chocolates, toys
- 01.07.26-02.07.26: St Bede's Transition days for Year 6
- 02.07.26: Transition day in school
- 03.07.26: Non-uniform day—£1 contribution
- 09.07.26: Year 6 Leavers' Performance 4pm
- 10.07.26: Sports Day and School Fayre
- 13.07.26-15.07.26: Robinwood residential for Class 4
- 16.07.26: School Raffle Draw 2pm

Due to the residential dates, the Year 6 Leavers Mass—Time TBC—will be rearranged— we will let you know the new date asap.

Monday 20th July - Monday 31st August - Summer Holidays 2026