St Andrew's News

Dates For Your Diary

- 28th Sept – Y5 Trip: Kentwell Hall
- 28th – 29th Sept – Y6 Birch Hall Residential
- 2nd Oct – Parent Phonics Workshop – EYFS and Y1 parents – 3:20pm – 3:45pm
- 6th Oct – Y2 Trip: Layer Marney Tower (TBC)
- 9th Oct – NON-PUPIL DAY
- 13th Oct – Parents' Evening (3:30-6:30pm)
- 14th Oct – Parent's Evening (3:30 -5:30pm)

- 19th -30th Oct – AUTUMN HALF TERM

- 4th Nov – Individual School Photos
- 13th Nov – Children in Need – details TBC
- 20th Nov – Y4 Multiplication Check Parent Workshop: 3:20pm – 3:45pm
- 7th Dec – KS1 Nativity – 2:00pm
- 8th Dec – KS1 Nativity –9:30am
- 15th Dec – KS2 Carol Concert – 2:00pm
- 16th Dec – Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
- 18th Dec – Last Day of Autumn Term

- 21st Dec – 4th Jan – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

- 5th Jan – Spring Term begins

Playtimes

All the children have had training from Suffolk Play this week to use our brand-new Play Pod. Jamie was very impressed with all of the children and staff, and sent this lovely message in about out Year 6 class specifically:

"I'd just like to highlight that the Year 6 class at St Andrews in particular were a really lovely group. They listened to everything I told them with both maturity and a sense of excitement, took it all on board and had a really fun session, including the teacher! They were an absolute pleasure to spend time with at the end of two days of delivering sessions and are a credit to themselves and their school."

Year 7 Open Evenings

It is that time already - you will need to start deciding on secondary school choices for your child. Applications need to be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions and the deadline for submissions is 31st October 2026. We will send an email to all parents with more information about how to apply in case you have any queries.

Ready, Set, Learn!

Every school day starts with important learning, so please help your child get the best start by arriving at school on time. A few minutes make a difference:

5 minutes late, 3 times a week = 15 minutes missed
10 minutes late, 3 times a week = 30 minutes missed

Coming through the gate on time means children can greet their friends, settle into class and start the day feeling calm, confident and ready to learn.

Lunch Menu

Meals must be booked at least 12 hours in advance to guarantee availability. NOURISH our school meal provider, prepares meals based on daily pre-booked orders, we are unable to guarantee meals for bookings made after this deadline.

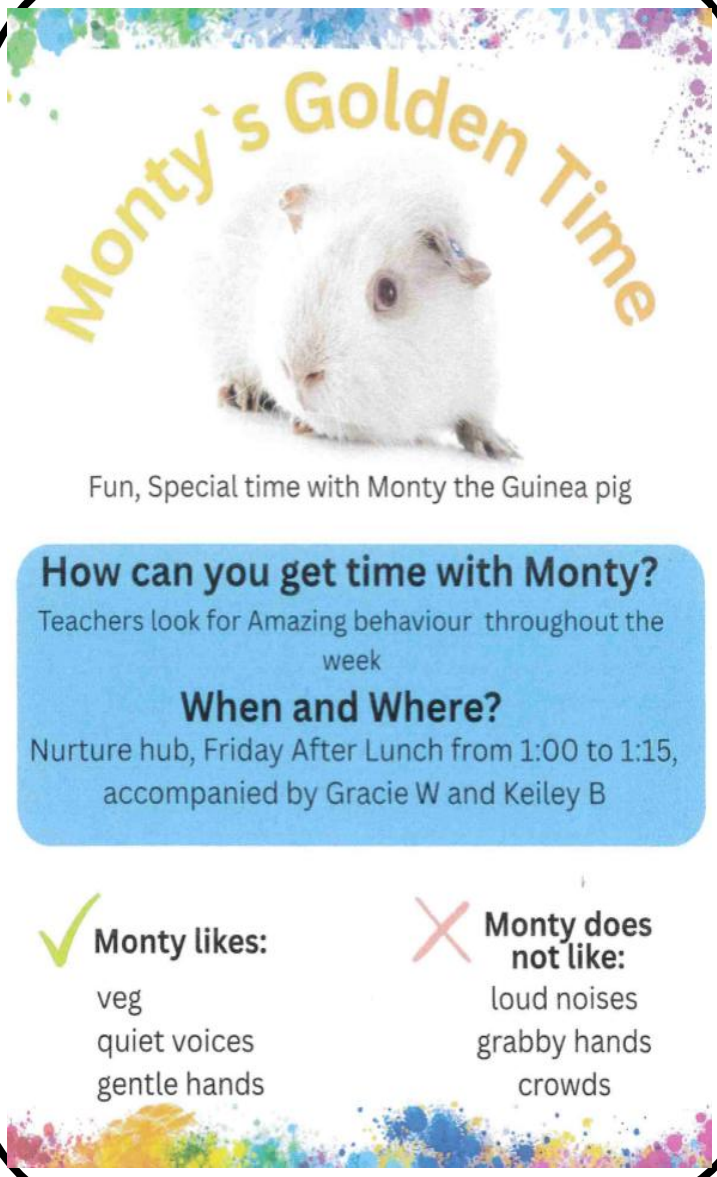
Our Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about a child or need support yourself, you can reach out to our safeguarding team.

- **Miss Robertson** – Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Miss Percival** – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Mr Wainford** –Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- **Mrs Emrich** - Deputy - Designated Safeguarding Lead

ST ANDREW'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Student Leaders



Our Pupil leaders are already busy and making a difference!

Our Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl have created a new reward – Monty's Golden time! They designed the poster, presented their idea to Miss Robertson and then shared it with all the children in Worship.

Our Prefects have also been very busy this week. They came to see me to say that because the staff work so hard, they wanted to help a lunchtime more. They have started to take it in turns to help tidy up the hall.

Our worship leaders have also started their duties, welcoming everyone, leading the prayer and lighting the candle.

We are so proud of our leadership team already! They are certainly showing Love, Trust and Wisdom in all they do.

There will be some more pupil leadership opportunities released soon including Junior Librarians, House Captains and Sports Leaders so keep your eyes peeled children!

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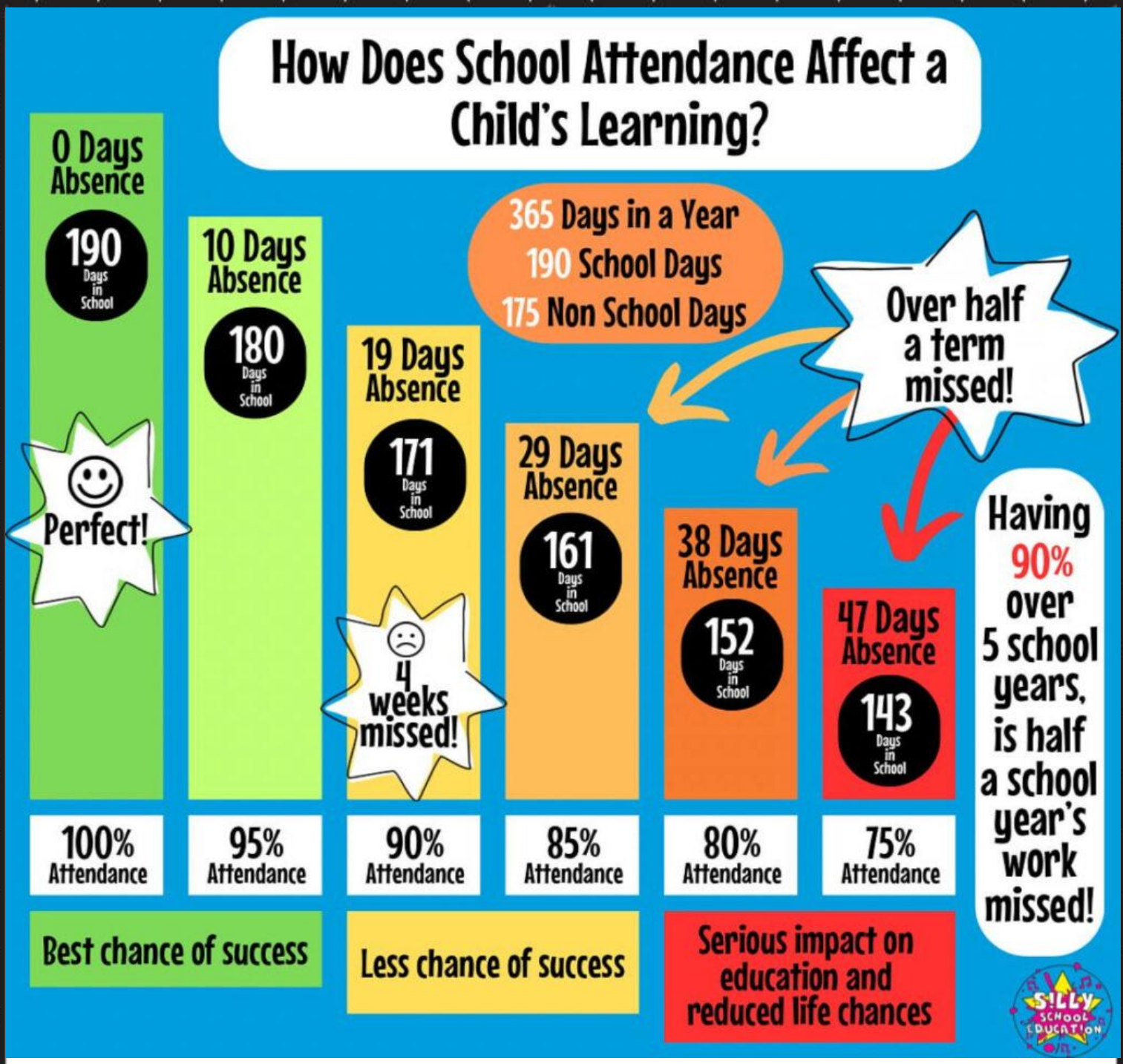

Attendance this week:

KS1
Hedgehogs: 87.4%
Rabbits: 94.9%
Squirrels: 84.4%

KS2
Foxes: 97.3%
Badgers: 93.8%
Owls: 93.5%
Stags: 93.1%

Whole school: 92%

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 about YouTube. The Google-owned platform allows users to upload and share videos globally, making it a readily accessible resource with free content on almost any topic. However, with over 20 million videos uploaded each day, not all material is suitable for younger audiences.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed across multiple device types, even without an account. While some videos are marked as 'age restricted', this relies on uploader honesty and automated moderation, meaning children and young people may still encounter unsuitable content if these measures aren't taken.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube includes social features such as comments and direct messaging. This means young users can interact with people they don't know, potentially exposing them to inappropriate language, cyberbullying, or unwanted contact. Young content creators may be especially vulnerable.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Popular trends and challenges can be entertaining and widely shared. While many are harmless, some can be risky or harmful if copied. For example, the 'salt and ice challenge' has caused injuries when imitated.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos based on what a user has previously watched. While this can enhance the experience, it may also encourage binge-watching and excessive screen time, particularly when Autoplay is enabled. Without an account, users are shown trending videos, which are not always age appropriate.

EXPOSURE TO EXTREME CONTENT

The platform's algorithm often promotes content that attracts high engagement, which can sometimes include videos containing extreme viewpoints, misinformation, or risky behaviour. As children and young people watch more of this content, similar videos are likely to be recommended by YouTube's algorithm, therefore reinforcing the exposure.

SHORT-FORM CONTENT IMPACT

YouTube Shorts – short, fast-paced videos – are designed for continuous viewing. This style of content can be highly engaging but may also contribute to increased screen time and difficulties with maintaining focus over longer periods.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

YouTube Kids can help reduce young users' exposure to unsuitable content by filtering videos into age groups, such as preschool, younger, and older children. However, as moderation is automated, it should be used alongside active supervision.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

If a child in your care uploads content, consider setting videos to Private or Unlisted so they are only shared with trusted viewers. Disabling comments can also help reduce unwanted interaction from strangers.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Google Family Link allows adults to filter content, monitor usage, and manage younger users' screen time. Supervised Accounts offer a gradual step up from YouTube Kids, enabling children to explore the platform with appropriate safeguards.

WATCH TOGETHER

Spending time watching YouTube with the children and young people in your care can help you understand what they enjoy and guide your conversations about content. Tools like Downtime in Family Link can also help limit unsupervised viewing.

Meet Our Expert

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

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See full reference list on our website

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