



# School News

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No. 23  
6th March 2025

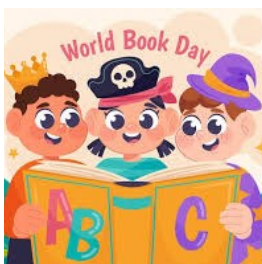
## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### Thursday, 6th March - PTFA Wonda Chocolate Fundraising Event

The PTFA's exciting Wonder Bar event takes place after school today! Children will have an opportunity to buy a 'Wonda' bar of chocolate with some of them containing hidden 'golden' tickets to win some amazing prizes. There will even be a special appearance by 'Mr Wonka' and his Oompa Loompa—not to be missed! Chocolate bars that have been pre-ordered can be collected during the event

**We would also like to say a big thank you to Kyle Wright at 'Future Construction Kent Ltd' for kindly sponsoring many of the chocolate bars, and for the many business who kindly donated prizes for this event.**



### Friday, 7th March - World Book Day

On Friday, 7th March we will be celebrating World Book Day. Throughout the day children will be taking part in reading related activities. Children are invited to come to school dressed in their favourite book character or in pyjamas to represent bedtime reading. There is no donation required for this event.

### Monday, 10th March - Dogs Trust Workshop with Year 1 and 2

### Monday, 10th and Wednesday, 12th March - Parent's Evening 3.30 to 6.30pm in the School Hall

We will be holding our parents' evenings next Monday and Wednesday for you to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher. Appointments can be made on either evening between the times of 3.30 to 6.30pm. These meetings are a valuable way for sharing successes and concerns and I do hope you are able to make one of the evenings. Miss Gillmore will also be available to discuss any Special Educational Needs on Monday evening.

To book an appointment please email office@eastry.kent.sch.uk or telephone the school office on 01304 611360 **after 9.00am** when an appointment will be made for you.

### Wednesday, 12th March - Year 6 Lancaster Model Health Presentation and Questionnaire

### Thursday, 13th March - Autism Awareness Course

On Thursday, 13th March, we will be holding the second session of our Autism Awareness Course which runs from 1.30 to 3.30pm in the school hall.

## HEALTH ADVICE/ONLINE SAFETY SECTION

### Word Book Day - Using Technology to Support Reading

We will be celebrating World Book Day tomorrow and as you will know Technology can play an important part in supporting and encouraging children to read. This may be through captions or text while playing online games, subtitles on television programmes or an e-book on a device. Did you know that many devices for reading now offer tools that enhance and help with reading, or make this more appealing for the reader. Below you will find a useful guide about how to access these useful tools.

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 TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

- 1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT**

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.
- 2 READING ON SCREEN**

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.
- 3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS**

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.
- 4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES**

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.
- 5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS**

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives, making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.
- 6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS**

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Repeatedly watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.
- 7 USING AUDIOBOOKS**

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.
- 8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING**

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.
- 9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY**

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press Play to hear it read aloud! This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.
- 10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS**

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

**Meet Our Expert**  
Catrina Lowri is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, Neuroteachers, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.

**#WakeUpWednesday**  
The National College

**@wake\_up\_weds** **/www.thenationalcollege** **@wake.up.wednesday** **@wake.up.weds**

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 05.03.2025



## BOOK FAIR VISITING EASTRY



It's  
Book Fair  
Time!

Following the very popular book fair that visited the school last year, we are pleased to announce that they will be visiting the school again from 21st to 28th March. World Book Day tokens can be used towards purchases from the book fair. Books are available for every budget and the book fair will run every day after school. This is a cash free event and books can be purchased using the QR code which will be available at the fair.

The school will receive rewards for any books sold which can be used towards purchasing new books for the school.

Please note there is no Ballet or Gardening Club on Monday, 10th March as Miss Thomas and Miss Page have parent's evening, and no Home Learning Club on Wednesday at Mrs Prestleton has a meeting.

<b>AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS</b>	
Week commencing 10.3.2025	
MONDAY	
Gardening Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	NO
Ballet Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	NO
Football Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)	Yes
TUESDAY	
Netball Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	Yes
WEDNESDAY	
Singing Club (8.00 to 8.30am)	Yes
Home Learning (3.30 to 4.00pm)	NO
Multi-Sports Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)	Yes
THURSDAY	
Harmony Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	Yes
FRIDAY	

Kind regards

Mrs Sarah Moss  
Headteacher

**1<sup>st</sup> Sandwich Rainbows (in Eastry) Easter Egg Hunt Fundraiser**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April 10:00 till 14:00**  
 (final registration time is 13:30)  
 Registration at the Parish Hut, Church Street, Eastry  
 Cost £2.50 per answer sheet – each returned completed sheet can be redeemed for a prize!  
 This hunt will take you on a walk around the village  
 Children must be always supervised by an adult. An adult must also be present at registration.  
 If you have any questions, please feel free to email us [eastry.rainbows@gmail.com](mailto:eastry.rainbows@gmail.com)

All money raised will be going to our unit to help with our running costs and to keep the unit accessible to all. It will help us run activities and keep the cost of subs down.

# Community Engagement Session



**Dover District Council and Stagecoach invite you to a community engagement session.**

Meet your Community Development Officer and representatives from Stagecoach to discuss your local bus services.

**Say hello!**

Look for the Community Roots van

<p><b>Elvington Community Centre / play area</b> Friday 14 March, 2pm – 4pm</p> <p><b>Sunny Corner – Aycliffe</b> Friday 21 March, 2pm – 4pm</p> <p><b>Heritage Road, Aylesham</b> Friday 11 April, 2pm – 4pm</p> <p><b>Whitfield Recreation Ground</b> Friday 25 April, 2pm – 4pm</p>	
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A welcome first for the village . . .

# AYLESHAM

## Model Railway Exhibition



Superb layouts + trade support

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**10am to 4pm**  
**Admission: Adults £5, Children free**  
(u-16 and accompanied by paying adult)

**Old School, Main Hall  
 Aylesham Community Trust  
 Ackholt Road  
 Aylesham, nr Dover CT3 3AJ**

Free on site parking • Station nearby

Presented by East Kent Model Railway Society (Whitstable).  
 Why not join us? email [ekmrswhitstable@gmail.com](mailto:ekmrswhitstable@gmail.com) for info



St Dunstan at Snowdown Colliery, nr Aylesham, c.1974 by Tom Henyside.