



### **Happy New Year**

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a restful, happy and healthy holiday and are looking forward to this new year. Please find attached the action for happiness calendar to support a happier January and a flyer from NT about their Healthier Lifestyles group

### **Year 2 Class Mass**

On Thursday the children in Year 2 led the parish Mass on the theme of Thanksgiving. They read, sang and prayed with great reverence and were thankful to be joined by the family and member of the parish.

### **School Lunches**

Please complete the school meals form to make your child's lunch choices by clicking on this link. The form is open from 8am on Fridays until noon on Wednesdays. <https://forms.office.com/e/CJQL8kYdyb>

### **DONATIONS!**

Can you help? We are looking for some pop up books or cards that can be used as examples in our DT lessons. If you have anything like this, please can you send it to the school office? Also Mrs Byerley is looking for some donations of Mobilo especially the wheels and connectors. Please send any donations to Nursery. Thank you.

### **Holiday Clubs**

We know many parents are often looking for clubs for the children during the school holidays. After many years of working in local holiday clubs, Mr Miley has begun a new partnership with a fellow PE teacher and from Easter will be running holiday clubs at Monkseaton High School. To book follow this [link](#) or go to the Facebook page Miley & Johnson Active Kids Club

### **North Tyneside Activities**

Please see attached some information from North Tyneside about a range of events for children in the local leisure centres after school.

### **Parent Support Groups**

We have been invited to share with you some events taking place to offer support to parents. The first is for parents of children aged 0-5yrs who may have SEND or disabilities and the second is a virtual group to support parents of children who are experience emotional or mental health issues. The flyers explain how to access these events

### **Roadworks**

Just a reminder that roadworks are scheduled to take place from Tuesday next week at Mast Lane Roundabout and we have been advised that this work may cause traffic delays. The school crossing patrol will be moved during this time.

### **Dates for Diary**

*Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Year 3 Family Celebration of the Word*

*Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January – Year 6 at Safetyworks*

*Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February – Mini Vinnies Meeting after school*

*Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Year 1 Class Assembly*

**Next week is MONKEY week on the school lunch menu**

**Don't forget to visit it our school website for further school information**

**[www.stmarysonline.co.uk](http://www.stmarysonline.co.uk)**

# Online Safety #wakeupwednesday

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Children & Young People Need to Know about

# FREE VS HATE SPEECH

Everyone in the UK has the right of "freedom of expression". That's the right to voice your opinions and share information and ideas with others. It's *not* the right to say whatever you want without regard for others' feelings and values. We all have a responsibility to use this right properly; being respectful and inclusive to those around us, rather than making offensive and threatening remarks. That's called 'hate speech' and knowing the difference is incredibly important.

Free speech is a person's legal right to share information, opinions and ideas without fear of retaliation, censorship or legal consequences. This freedom of expression is recognised in international human rights legislation, and here's what it does for us in our day-to-day lives ...

The Human Rights Act 1988 states that everyone has the right to express themselves freely – even if their views are unpopular and might offend others.

Freedom of expression encourages listening to others and allowing opposing views to be heard. It's important to respect someone's opinion, even if we disagree with it. Free speech lets us engage in meaningful discussions with people who feel differently.

Any concept could potentially offend someone. Galileo's theories were incredibly offensive to many at the time, while not everyone agrees with Darwin, even today. A frequent exchange of ideas is vitally important for a healthy society.

Free speech allows us to engage people we disagree with in a debate. The ability to challenge others' views is healthy – while having *ours* challenged helps us learn how to deal with criticism and think deeply about what we say and believe.

Freedom of expression includes the right *not* to do something, like not standing up for – or singing – the national anthem. Even though some people would find that offensive, it isn't illegal. By law, nobody can force you to say anything you don't want to.

Free speech is a powerful tool for change, justice and reform. Many modern UK rights – such as women being allowed to vote, decent working conditions or same-sex marriage – couldn't have been achieved without it.

Hate speech refers to any communication – like talking, texting or posting online – that negatively targets a group or an individual because they are perceived to be different in some way. Demonising and dehumanising statements, threats, identity-based insults, offensive name-calling and slurs would all count as hate speech. Here are some common forms it takes...

Targeting people or groups because of a protected characteristic – like race, gender identity, sexuality, nationality, religion or a disability – and verbally abusing them with slurs and name-calling. The Equality Act 2010 has more information on this.

Content that dehumanises people based on the same characteristics: referring to them as if they were animals, objects or other non-human entities, for example. Separating the target from other human beings is usually an attempt to justify the speaker's bigotry.

Calling for violence or hatred against certain people or groups and justifying and glorifying those actions. Suggesting that a certain group should be removed from society could be seen as a call to arms, for example – potentially putting people from that group in danger.

Claiming that specific types of people are physically, mentally or morally inferior (or even that they are criminals) to encourage others to view them in the same way. This kind of thinking is always incorrect – but can be incredibly harmful to the group in question.

Spreading damaging misinformation about a person or group that the speaker views as "different" – essentially, trying to turn others against them by lying. Someone might claim that a recent tragedy is the fault of this entire group, when this is simply not possible.

Promoting the segregation of certain groups, or discrimination against them, because of who they are. This has been illegal in the UK for a long time – but some people still try to promote the exclusion of others, which can cause a huge amount of distress.

### Meet Our Expert

The Global Equality Collective is an online community for homes, schools and businesses, a collective of hundreds of subject matter experts in diversity, equality and inclusion, and the organisation behind the GEC app, the world's first app for diversity, equality and inclusion.

GLOBAL  
EQUALITY  
COLLECTIVE

Source: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/schedule/1#-text=Everyone%20has%20the%20right%20to%20freedom%20of%20expression>

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#WakeUpWednesday

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