

# Buckland St Mary Primary School



## A Message from Mrs Staniland

As we approach the end of a short but jam-packed half term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful events that have brought our community together. A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who has played a part—whether through organising, assisting or attending. These events truly exemplify the community spirit we share here at Buckland.

Our VE Day community celebration was a resounding success. I must extend my gratitude to our talented staff team for showcasing their baking skills, which ensured that everyone could indulge in delicious cakes—a delightful highlight of the day!

The May Fair was a triumph, boasting a record turnout. Such events don't occur without the extraordinary efforts of our dedicated Friends of Buckland (FoBs) team, who consistently go above and beyond to raise vital funds for our school. The proceeds from this event will contribute to a new, improved play area for the enjoyment of all our children and those in our wider community. Your support is invaluable—thank you all.

We have been fortunate with the weather lately, allowing us to host two fabulous sports days for both our Nursery and the whole school. I was immensely proud to witness the children's sportsmanship as they participated, raced, and cheered on their school teams. Well done, Buckland St Mary!



Meanwhile, our classrooms have buzzed with activity, from explorative play in Willow Nursery to Ash class's artistic endeavours and Oak class's innovative kite designs. Beech class has been hard at work, crafting detailed setting descriptions, and all our children enjoyed a memorable animal handling event with 'Fangs n' Feathers.'

As we approach the half term break, I wish you all a restful time. We look forward to welcoming everyone back, re-energised for the second half of the summer term.

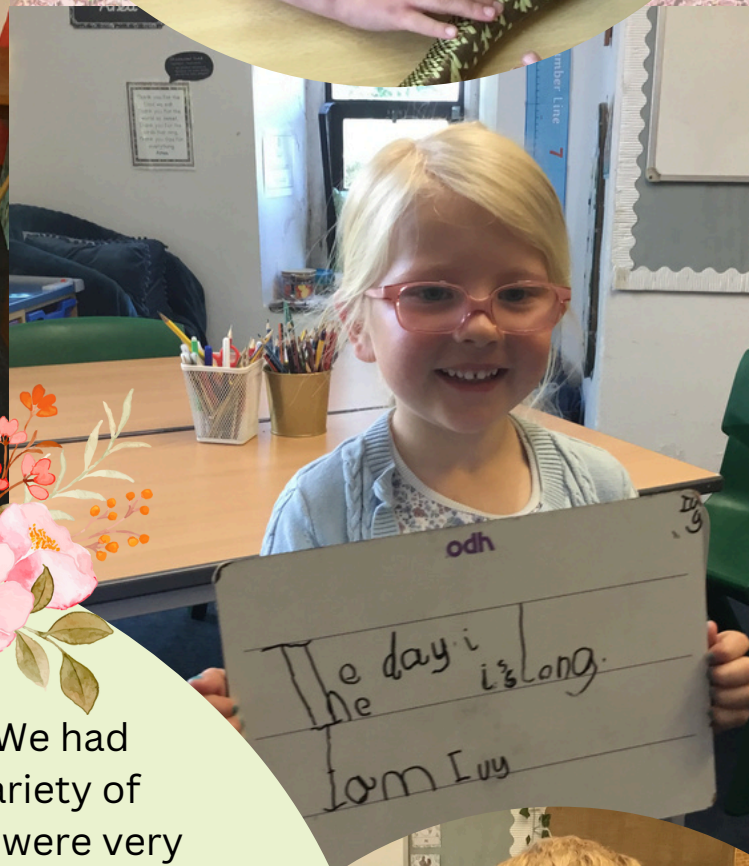
Warm regards,  
Mrs Staniland  
Headteacher





# Ash Class

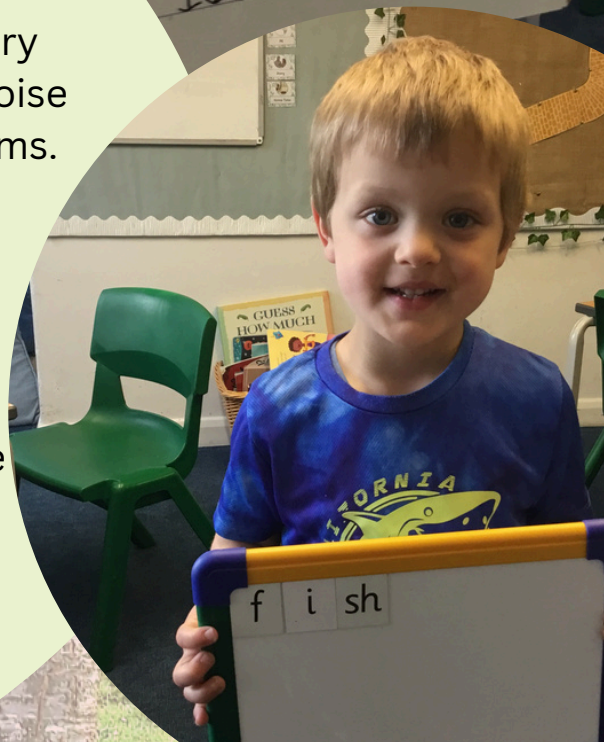
Miss Pam Mpofu



What a busy time we've had this half term! We had 'Fangs and feathers visit us and we met a variety of creatures with scales and exoskeletons. we were very brave and we touched and stroked the snakes, tortoise and gecko and we let a millipede crawl along our arms.

We had an amazing time on VE day. For the day we learnt all about VE day , what it meant and why we celebrate it. we created art for the day.

In our music enquiry we learnt about tempo and we created our own tunes using musical fruits. What creative musicians we are!





# Oak Class

**Mrs Henning and Mrs Staniland**



What a busy half term we've had! In Design Technology, the children enjoyed making and testing kites, learning about aerodynamics while having heaps of fun. We've also been busy practising for Sports Day; the excitement is building as the big day approaches!

We had a fantastic visit from Fangs and Feathers, where the children experienced some amazing reptiles. This links beautifully to our enquiry about animals, including humans, and it was wonderful to see their curiosity in action!

Additionally, we celebrated VE Day, where the students learned about this important historical event through various activities. They created posters, shared stories, and participated in themed activities that enriched their understanding of our history.

Thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to more adventures next half term!



# Beech Class

Mrs Wells-Burr and Mrs Henning

What a busy half term we have had, it's been short but mighty!

Firstly, I want to take a moment to celebrate our Year 6 pupils who have worked incredibly hard preparing for their SATs. Their dedication and effort over the past few months have truly made us all proud. Each child has shown remarkable commitment, attending SATs club and putting in lots of revision and practice at home. It has been inspiring to witness their growth and determination!

They have all made great progress since the start of the year and they should all be incredibly proud of themselves, well done Year 6!!

We've also had some fantastic experiences recently. A highlight was undoubtedly the animal handling workshop hosted by Feathers N Fangs. Excitement was in the air as the children encountered a range of snakes and other fascinating reptiles. Not only did they get to see these amazing creatures up close, but they also engaged enthusiastically, asking a range of questions about their habitats, diets, and behaviours. It was an enriching experience that sparked many conversations, deepening their appreciation for wildlife.

In addition to that, our swimming sessions at Chard Leisure Centre have kicked off, much to the delight of the children. They've been having a splendid time splashing about, developing their skills and strokes, and boosting their confidence in the water. It's great to see their progress and enthusiasm as they support one another during each session.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting array of activities coming up! Our school play, *The Pirates of the Curry Bean*, is just around the corner. The students have started learning some catchy songs that promise to be delightful, and singing rehearsals are in full swing. We are hoping to do the auditions and get the scripts out this week!

Furthermore, we are all eagerly counting down to our residential trip to Pinkery, which is on the horizon. This adventure will not only provide thrilling outdoor activities but also foster teamwork and friendships among the children. It promises to be an unforgettable experience filled with laughter and learning.

I hope you all have a fantastic and well-deserved half term break!





# Willow Nursery

Mrs Napper



What a fantastic start we have had to the summer term. Beautiful weather, fun activities, and lots of learning!

The children have thrown themselves into our enquiry of 'Are all animals the same?'. We have been looking at similarities and differences of various species; different habitats and how they change from country to country; how adults and babies are the same but different; and what sorts of foods different animals eat! We were extremely lucky to welcome in Fangs'n'Feathers with some fantastic animals including snakes, lizards, a tortoise and some millipedes. The children enjoyed learning all about them and were even brave enough to hold some of them!

Following on from this, there will be a Nursery trip to a small wildlife park allowing the children to further cement their learning experiences in relation to animals. More details to follow soon!



We had a very successful sports day, with the children having fun in different races, and cheering each other on throughout. It was so lovely to have parents and siblings join us to enjoy the event, and all children enjoyed a donut to celebrate their achievements. A big thank you to the year 6 children that supported the nursery children throughout.

Best wishes

Mrs Kelly Napper

Nursery Manager





## Wow – We Did It!

We've Smashed Our £5,000 Fundraising Target! For a small school, this is a huge achievement and we are feeling immensely proud of our school and its community and our hard-working committee.

We're delighted to share our Easter Bingo raised an amazing £413.12! Thank you to everyone who came along and supported the event – it was a well-supported evening, lots of fun and prizes. Please see separate poster for full thank yous.

We were proud to provide Easter Egg treats for all the children to enjoy – there were lots of happy faces before the holidays!

And we're excited to share that we have booked the pantomime for the children to enjoy again this year! And thanks to generous funding from our Parish Council, we will also be inviting 'Fizz Pop' into school – a high energy, interactive science workshop that promises fun and hands on experiments for all the children. This fantastic experience is designed to inspire curiosity, engagement and a love of science in a memorable way. We deeply appreciate the council's commitment and kind donation to our school, and we have shared our thanks for their continued support.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the school and all of the teachers for the most wonderful VE Day celebrations – the cake table was most impressive!! Some secret star bakers among you, and Mrs Spillers famous brownies! Thank you for treating us all and making the afternoon special and to Jess Hodges and Jennie for helping serve the refreshments.

On to our Mayfair Celebrations.... Our Mayfair alone has raised an incredible **£2,504.30!** We'd like to thank each and every one of you who helped make the day so special – from the planning and preparation, to running stalls, baking cakes, donating prizes and simply showing up to support. Buckland was well and truly on the map, and it was the most wonderful day filled with joy, community spirit and generosity. A full list of thank yous will be shared separately (we have a huuuuuugeeeee list of amazing people to recognise!) – but for now, please know how very grateful we are! This fantastic total marks the beginning of our fundraising pot for new play equipment – hurrah!

We're also proud to share Nikki secured a further £250 grant towards our play equipment. Thank you, Nikki! Bringing our grand total to £2,754.30!







**Friends of Buckland School**

A few more recent successes include:

- Ash Class Bake for Books raised a fantastic £65.45 – meaning they can now choose some new books for their classroom. A big thank you to everyone who donated cakes, bought treats and to Jess Hodges and Jennie for running the cake stall.
- Our recent Moana Film Night raised £69.52, and Up raised a further £48! Thank you to all the families who joined us, and to Mrs Kelly Napper, Jess Hodges and Nikki Scale for arranging refreshments and kindly running these events – we couldn't do it without you!
- We recently had our Sports Day, where refreshments raised a further £20.20.

Don't forget the next Bake for Books for Nursery on Thursday 5th June, as well as the last few film nights and a 'Break the Rules Day'! Which will take place on Friday 20th June. Full details and list of rules to be shared very soon!

Meanwhile, quotes are currently being finalised for new play equipment, and we are actively exploring grant funding to help bring it all to life! THANK YOU so much for your continued support – it means the world to us and makes everything we do possible!

Do join us at our next meeting, (with your cakes!) on Thursday 5th June 3.15pm!

#### SAVE THE DATES

- Film Night 'Elemental' – Monday 19th May 3.15pm – 5.15pm. Bookable now on Parentmail.
- Willow Class Bake for Books – Thursday 5th June, 3.15pm.
- 'Break the Rules Day' – Friday 20th June 2025 – full details and list of rules to follow.
- Film Night 'Big Hero 6' – Thursday 19th June 3.15pm – 5.15pm. Bookable now on Parentmail.
- Film Night 'Ferdinand' – Monday 14th July 3.15pm – 5.15pm. Bookable now on Parentmail.
- '2025' We're excited to launch our 2025 fundraiser before the school holidays! We're encouraging families to raise £20.25 for 2025 – a fun and simple way to get involved and support our school. Full details to follow soon!

Our Next Meeting is on Thursday 5 th June 2025 at 3.15pm in the School Hall. Straight after the Cake Sale for Willow Class (Nursery). Everyone is very welcome.

#### **April 2025 100 Club winners are:**

**1st Prize £10 Delilah Farmer**  
**2nd Prize £5 Toby Keates**

#### **May 2025 100 Club winners are:**

**1st Prize £10 Mrs Kelly Napper**  
**2nd Prize £5 Lexi Dodge**

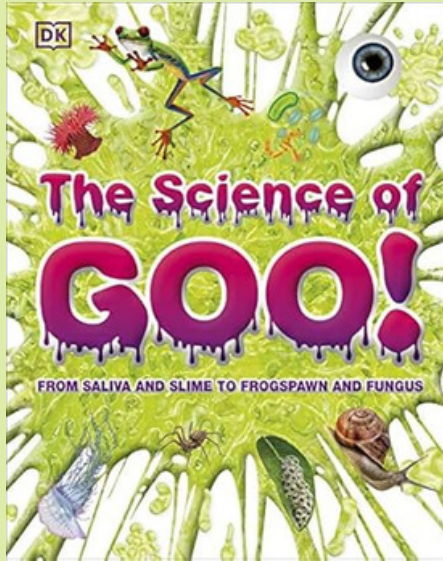
£2.50 entry to be paid monthly into the FoBs bank account via standing order. If you would like to be added to / or increase your monthly prize draw, please speak to a member of FoBs.

Lastly, don't forget the clothes bank! We receive funds for every donation made, and our most recent payment was £14.10 – just for helping clear out unwanted items! The clothes bank is located right next to the village hall, making it easy and convenient to use. Every little bit adds up, so please continue to support us by using it whenever you can!



# FoBS

Every term, FoBS has given money to each class to help enrich the childrens learning, experiences and learning environment. Here are some of the recent items funded by FoBS thanks to your support...



Science Books for Beech

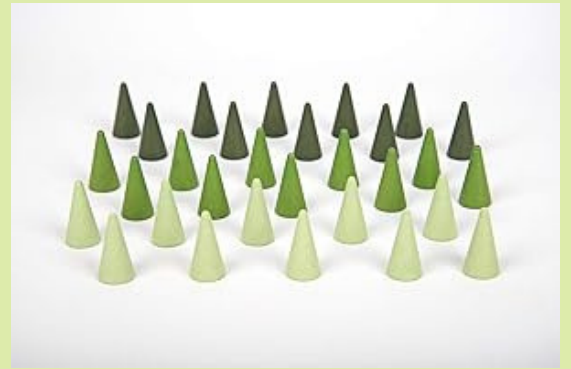


Willow nursery funds the last two terms have purchased items to create a waterfall play wall in EYFS, Water play table and pool

THANK  
YOU

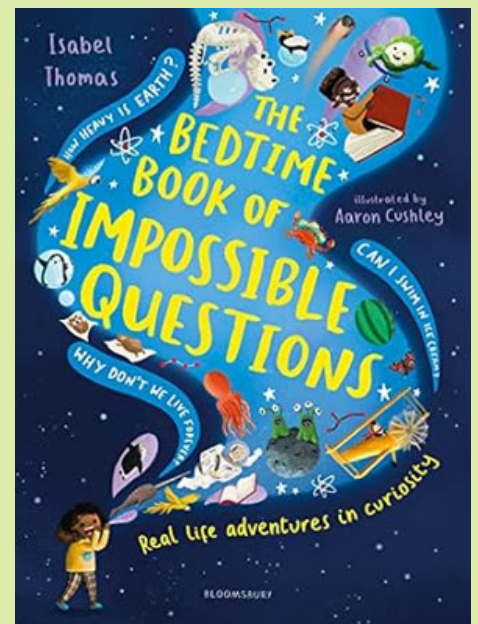
THANK  
YOU

Beech Class have funded SATS club breakfasts and new science and question and answer books



Small World Play area supplies and play table for Ash Class

THANK  
YOU



Funds towards a minibus for planned Museum Trip for Oak Class (more info to follow)

THANK  
YOU



Hi all,

This Summer term in Buckland St Mary with Ash class we have had wonderful weather and had the opportunity to enjoy the woods and be in the shade of the lovely trees. There we made some dens from sticks and camouflaged them, we used tarps and practiced our knot tying. The children climbed trees and spent time observing the different trees and connecting naturally with nature, the sweet smell of Bluebells, listening to birdsong and identifying birds by song.

At lunchtimes the Gardening club have persevered trying to plant despite the drought, we have potatoes coming through! The pond we have been cleaning out dead leaves and observed the tadpoles and numerous Goldfish. We've also put in a small natural pond and hope to attract more wildlife in the summer months.

The Nursery and Toddler group have been very busy building their own obstacle courses testing out their balance and agility. They have also been busy creating with clay and many art pieces with paint and amazing recipes in the Mud Kitchen.

Many thanks to the generous donation of wood chippings, tree stumps and mud kitchen utensils.

We are grateful for donations of wooden planks, pallets and children gardening tools.

I look forward to our last Summer Term with Oak class and learning more about the habitat and having the opportunity to have fun, play and create in Forest School.

Best wishes,  
Paloma Gordon-Watson







## FoBS Cash Prize Draw



Hello everyone!

**Don't Forget!** As Friends of Buckland School we launched a monthly Cash Prize Draw, giving you the chance of winning a cash prize of (1st) £10 and (2nd) £5 **EVERY MONTH.**

A **GUARANTEED** cash winner every month!

Not only does this give supporters a chance to win, but it also easily contributes funds back to the schools' fundraising efforts, directly benefitting our children and our school community.

**Don't miss out – you've got to be in it to win it!**

We greatly need your ongoing support. This is a fantastic and easy way to contribute to the school with just a **monthly payment of £2.50**. We encourage as many parents, family members, friends and generous community members to please get involved.

**The next prize draw will be drawn in October 2024.**

Entries are £2.50 each and a counter with your name will be entered each month for each £2.50 paid, eg. £5 per month would be two entries, two counters. There is no limit to the number of entries. You might even want to increase your chances!

1st and 2nd prizes of £10 and £5 will be drawn monthly by the school children.

Your payments can be made in an annual lump sum (£30 for one entry per month for a year/ £60 for two entries per month for a year) or monthly by standing order.

**Cheques made payable to:**

**Bank details:**

Friends of Buckland St Mary School

Friends of Buckland St Mary School

**Lloyds**

Sort code **30 96 26**

Account number **21465368**

**Please use 'FoBS prize draw' as your payment reference**

If paying annually by cheque please write your name and contact number on the back of your cheque. If setting up a monthly standing order or making a one-off bank payment please send an email confirming your payment to our FoBS treasurer Nikki Scale via [nikkinoodle9@hotmail.com](mailto:nikkinoodle9@hotmail.com) and CC our Chair Jessica Hodges via [tom.hodges27@gmail.com](mailto:tom.hodges27@gmail.com)

If anyone has any further questions, please give Jessica a call on 07901 861 037.

***A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR NEW OR CONTINUED SUPPORT,  
"THANK YOU"***



# School Information Board

## EVERY DAY COUNTS!

School and future success starts with good attendance!



Remember - your education is important - **don't miss out!**

## Attendance

Whole School - 96.4%

Ash - 97%

Oak - 96%

Beech - 96%

### Contact Information

If you change any of your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we may update our records. It is imperative that we have up to date details at all times.

Phone: 01460 234251

Email: [office@bucklandstmary.acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:office@bucklandstmary.acexcellence.co.uk)

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding is high priority at Buckland St Mary Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

**Our Designated Lead (DSL) is Ethne Staniland and our Deputy DSL's are Kelly Napper and Lucy Wells-Burr.**

Our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at: <https://www.bucklandstmarycofeprimary.org/our-policies>

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSLs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website – please follow [this link](#) to help keep your child safe.

**Safeguarding email address: [safeguarding@bucklandstmary.acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:safeguarding@bucklandstmary.acexcellence.co.uk)**

### Our School Vision

***'That they may have life, life in all its fullness.' John 10:10***

***At BSM C of E Primary School everyone matters. We strive to be an inclusive community providing an outstanding education for all. Our lives are enriched through the teaching of Christian Values to grow as global citizens in an ever-changing world.***



# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SAFETY ON THE ROAD

Traffic-related incidents are a significant risk for young pedestrians and cyclists, so understanding road safety is crucial for children's wellbeing. While all road users share responsibility for keeping one another safe, this guide offers strategies for empowering young people to navigate the roads confidently and responsibly.

## 1 TAKE PRACTICE JOURNEYS

Making 'practice' journeys with children is a great way to help them stay safe, thereby modelling responsible behaviours and having road safety conversations as they prepare to travel independently. Add hazard perception activities like spotting electric vehicles – which may have a green number plate – and point out how quiet they are. Children learn by watching others; remind them that their peers might not always be the best role models.

## 2 BE BRIGHT, BE SEEN

Visibility is lower during darker winter days, and drivers need to take extra care to look out for pedestrians. Wearing bright and reflective clothing can help make children more visible to drivers near roads. In poor daylight conditions, encourage children to wear light, bright or fluorescent clothing. When it's dark, wear reflective clothing or materials such as a reflective armband or jacket.

## 3 EYES UP

Encourage children to look up and keep their eyes on the road. Teach them to constantly watch for traffic and practise double-checking the road before crossing – looking right, left and then right again.

## 4 LIMIT DISTRACTIONS

Where possible, devices like phones should be kept away from children while out and about near roads. If they're carrying devices, these should be put away until they've reached their destination. Children must also avoid playing with toys or being distracted by friends. If a friend wants to show them something funny on their phone, there'll be time for that once they've safely arrived.

## 5 SLOW DOWN

Discuss the importance of waiting instead of crossing immediately. It can be tricky to judge the speed of traffic and spot obstacles that could cause a trip or a fall. For safety, children must stop and think before they get to the kerb and should always walk – not run – when crossing the road. They should avoid crossing until they're certain they have plenty of time. Even if traffic seems a long way off, it could still be approaching very quickly.

## 6 STOP BEFORE THE KERB

Teach children to stop before reaching the kerb – not right at the edge of it. Halting before they get to the kerb allows them to see if anything's coming, whereas getting too close to traffic is dangerous. If there's no pavement, children should stand back from the road's edge but ensure they can still see approaching traffic.

## 7 CROSS SAFELY

Children should always find a safe spot to cross the road, prioritising zebra crossings or pelican crossings, footbridges and subways. Find a place where they can see traffic coming from both directions. Avoid crossing near junctions, bends in the road, or obstacles that block their view, instead moving to somewhere they can see and be seen. Remind them to use their eyes and ears together when checking the road, as sometimes they can hear traffic before they can see it. Looking and listening while crossing helps them quickly spot traffic, including cyclists and motorcyclists driving between other vehicles.

## 8 PARKED VEHICLES

Crossing between parked vehicles is very dangerous. Teach children to use extra caution if crossing in this way, and, ideally, avoid it altogether. They should use the outside edge of a vehicle as if it were the kerb, waiting and checking for traffic before moving. They should ensure vehicles aren't about to move, by looking for drivers in the vehicles and listening for engines running – but remember that electric vehicles may move off silently. They should always make sure there is a gap between any parked vehicles on the other side, so they can reach the pavement.

## 9 REVERSING VEHICLES

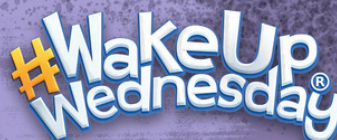
Children must never cross behind a reversing vehicle – it's extremely dangerous. Remind them to look for white reversing lights and listen out for warning sounds. Can they hear the engine sound or a radio playing inside the vehicle?

## 10 WAIT FOR THE BUS TO LEAVE

When getting off a bus, children must wait for it to leave before crossing so they can have a clear view of the road in both directions. This also allows them to see and be seen by other road users. Crossing near large vehicles is particularly dangerous and should be avoided.

## Meet Our Expert

THINK! is a year-round national campaign that aims to encourage safe road behaviours – whether we're driving, cycling, horse riding or walking – with the aim of reducing the number of people killed and injured on the UK's roads each year. Find out more at: <https://www.think.gov.uk/education-resources/>



The National College