



Be kind. Be ambitious. Be the best you can be!

Issue Number 14 : Friday 13th December 2024

It has been a lovely festive week in school. On Tuesday, we welcomed our Year 3/4 parents and carers into school to listen to the fabulous singing. I was extremely impressed with all of the children for learning all of the words to the songs. What excellent commitment and determination they have shown. Mrs Parkin, our visiting singing teacher and the whole of Year 3/4 had us all captivated by their spectacular performance. Well done to all involved. On the afternoon, it was Reception's turn to perform their Nativity. Again, this was outstanding, with all of the children showing their fabulous talents. On Wednesday, we had our Christmas dinner day; it was fantastic to see lots of our children tucking into their Christmas lunches. We also welcomed many of you into Nursery to join in with our sing-a-long sessions. Again, this was a wonderful event with lots of fun had by all. At the end of the week, Key Stage 1 took to the stage to perform their Christmas show, Hey ewe. What a fantastic way to end the week. Thank you to everyone who came into school this week to support the children with the various performances. Next week, our final event is our Key Stage 2 carol service, where again we are looking forward to seeing lots of you there.



I can't believe we only have one more week left at school until the end of this term!

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Chard

STAFFING:

As you all know, Mrs Latimer has one week left with us before she travels on her new adventure. We wish her lots of luck in her new role. We welcome back Miss Watson to Parkhead. Last year, Miss Watson worked with our Key Stage 2 children. She will be starting back with us in January to work mainly within Early Years. She will be popping in next week to get to know our younger children.



VISIT TO ST PAULS CHURCH:

Our Year 3 and 4 children enjoyed popping up to church this week to take part in Christmas activities. A massive thank you to Reverend Alison for welcoming us into the church and taking the time to help us develop our understanding of what Christmas means to Christians



WINTON COURT:

Some of our wonderful Year 3 and 4 singers had the opportunity to go to Winton Court today to sing some of their Christmas songs for the residents. They were very impressed with their lovely singing and fantastic behaviour.



WINTER RUNDERLAND:

We are into our second week of the Winter RUNDERLAND challenge and lots of carrots are being earned with all of the physical activity taking place in school. Well done to the Seedlings who were in the lead at the end of week 1.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES:

Next week is Christmas party week in school. Please remember to send in party clothes on the day of your child's party. There will be lots of dancing and games and a few treats to eat. We are sure that everyone will have a fantastic time.

CHRISTMAS DINNER:

What a fantastic Christmas dinner day we have had on Wednesday! Thank you to Mrs Foster and her amazing team Mrs Rodgers and Ms Thompson for making over 250 dinners today! We really enjoyed them.



SPRING TERM CLUBS:

After school clubs will start in the second week back of Spring term. Sign-up forms will be available from next week on Operoo and we will notify you if your child has a place when we return in January.

WINTER RAFFLE:

❄️ We hope you've all enjoyed seeing our snowman this week! ❄️

If you would like to enter the Winter raffle, look out for our snowman or santa at various events. Or you can call to the office. £1 per strip. Prizes include

- Newcastle match tickets for Boxing day
- £50 Amazon voucher,
- An Alexa
- Two day passes for Beamish
- One game of bowling for a family of 4
- One free ride for Go Karting,
- Tattoo voucher,
- Ring door bell
- Hampers
- Chocolate and cuddly top hampers
- And many more



FunClub



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SAFEGUARDING:

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.



CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.



CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computactive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tues 17 th Dec	9.15	KS2 Carol Service
	2.00	Y3/4 Christmas party (come in uniform and change)
Wed 18 th Dec	2.00	Nur/Rec Christmas party (come in uniform and change)
Thurs 19 th Dec	2.00	KS1 and Y5/6 Christmas party (come in uniform and change)
Fri 20th Dec		Last day of term
Mon 6th Jan		Back to school



Term dates:

Spring Term		
Start of Term	Half term	Last day of term
Mon 6 January 2025	Mon 24 February - Fri 28 February 2025	Fri 11 April 2025
SCHOOL CLOSED: training day Friday 21 February 2025		
Summer Term		
Start of Term	Half term	Last day of term
Mon 28 April 2025	Mon 26 May - Fri 30 May 2025	Fri 18 July 2025
SCHOOL CLOSED: Bank holiday Mon 5 May 2025 and Occasional day Mon 2 June 2025		

Important dates to note for next year:

KS2 SATs dates:	Monday 12 th May – Thursday 15 th May 2025
Year 4 Multiplication tables check:	Mon 2 June – Fri 13 th June 2025
Year 1 Phonics screening check:	Mon 9 th June – Fri 13 th June 2025

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KLUBZ After School Focussed Activity Timetable – Week Commencing Monday 16th December 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Rudolf hand print decorations	Christmas bells	Stained glass window decoration	Decorate your own star	Christmas colouring sheets

**** Please note that after school Klubz will only be open until 4.30pm on Friday 20th December ****

Star of the week

Class	Star
Seedlings	Rosie
Acorns	Thomas R
Saplings	Rocco
Beech	Seleana
Elm	Dylan
Willow	Hunter B
Cherry	Connie
Spruce	Marley
Maple	Evie-Rose
Birch	Jake
Cedar	Lily-Mae
Pine	Kacie

Mrs Chard's Stars of the week	
Early Years	Sana
Key Stage 1	Geordie
Key Stage 2	Zoey Olivia L



Parkhead Community Primary School is a safeguarding school and we have a duty to pass on any concerns to Children's Services.