



2024/25 Term 2 Newsletter

1. News from the Head
2. Key events last term
3. Catering
4. Celebrations
5. Safeguarding and the local offer

Our Mission

We **Navigate** **Success** **Together** with **Ambition** and **Relevance**

1. News from the Head



It has been a really busy term and our children have really achieved some wonderful things in all areas of the curriculum. Each week our celebration assembly focuses on what has gone well and students show their best work.

One of our key priorities is children seeing themselves as successful readers, writers and mathematicians and it has been really positive to see the progress each child has made in these areas.

This term we have also welcomed new staff to our team. Mr Honeywell has joined us as our Engagement Lead. He promotes positive behaviour and supports students in reengaging in learning and supports them with their emotional and physical wellbeing. Mr Williams has also joined as our Intervention Tutor. He works with our children who need more support in and out of school. He will work in classes in the future delivering interventions in all areas.

As we approach the end of term I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Next week in school we have our Christmas Dinner on the 18th December. We will also be celebrating Christmas Jumper day on the 18th for Save the Children. We will have a £1 suggested donation, but we would like everyone to be able to participate and show off their best Christmas Woolly. We will be holding our Celebration Assembly on Friday 20th December we are looking forward to welcoming parents/carers for this.

2. Key events last term

We enjoyed a great visit to Cheddar Caves to investigate the rocks. We were really impressed with the calcite stalagmites and stalactites. We even tried to find a dragon in the caves, but we did find some big wheels of Cheddar cheese maturing. We did manage to find an ancient bear skeleton.



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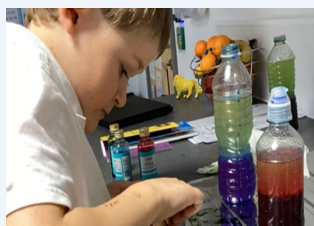


3. Catering We will from next week be moving to a new catering provider, Mini Meals Catering. Families should all have been given the new 4 week menu for this. This means we will now be serving meals on site.



4. Celebrations

We have had some really focussed learners during writing this term and Acorn class have made some Lava Lamps during practical work in Science



5. Safeguarding and the Local Offer

As the festive period fast approaches, it can often seem challenging to look after your family's mental health and wellbeing. Keep these numbers safe and share with anyone who needs some support:

Mental Health	Bereavement		Suicide Support	Domestic Abuse
CALM: 0800 58 58 58	Cruse Bereavement Support: 0808 808 1677	NSPCC: 0808 800 5000	PAPRUS HOPE-LINE247: 0800 068 41 41	Refuge: 0808 2000 247
Mind: 0300 123 3393		Childline: 08000 1111	Samaritans: 116 123	
No Panic: 0300 772 9844				
SHOUT Text Service: 85258				

All

Parents/carers should have been sent the latest Families in Focus Newsletter. Please do look through the support available and events highlighted in this.

Sleep - Our young people often struggle to build and maintain a healthy sleep routine. Please see the guidance for more information. We can refer to the school nurse to support with this.



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10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, topping Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>