



School News

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No. 12

30th November 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Friday 1st December - PTFA Gift Shop Open in the School Library at Lunchtimes

The PTFA will be running the last of their Christmas Gift shops tomorrow, Friday, 1st December. They are selling and wrapping small gifts costing between 50p to £3.50 in the school library during lunchtime for children to purchase for parents, grandparents and other family members. Please can children bring money in a labelled purse or wallet.

Friday, 1st December - Year 6 Class Worship at 9.00am in the School Hall

Parents, Carers and family of children in Year 6 are invited to join us for their family worship.



Friday, 1st December - PTFA Christmas Disco

3.30 to 4.30pm - Fledglings, Year 1 & 2

4.45 to 5.45pm - Year 3 to 6

The PTFA Christmas Disco's will be on Friday, 1st December. The Fledglings, Year 1 & 2 disco will run from 3.30 to 4.30pm and Year 3 to 6 from 4.45 to 5.45pm. Children in Fledglings, Year 1 & 2 may come to school in their party clothes but please make sure they are warm enough for this time of the year and that they bring a change of clothes if they have Forest School or PE. Tickets cost £2.00 which includes unlimited drinks. There will be festive stalls, face painting and a tuck shop at the disco. Please can children bring any money in a labelled purse/wallet. Further details and the reply slip to book a place were sent home recently. If you are able to help at either or both discos please email eastrypta@gmail.com or let the school office know.

Tuesday, 5th December - Year 1 & 2 St. Nicolas Day Service at St. Mary's Church Eastry at 11.00am

Parents, grandparents, family and friends of children in Year 1 & 2 are warmly invited to join us for our St. Nicolas Day service at 11am on Tuesday, 5th December at St. Mary's Church, Eastry.

Tuesday, 5th December - Boys League Match home to Lydden, Kick off at 3.30pm



Wednesday, 6th December - Christmas Jumper Day

Children may come to school dressed in a Christmas Jumper (no donations are required).

Wednesday, 6th December - Christmas Dinner

Children whose parents have returned the slip for a Christmas Dinner will enjoy our special Christmas dinner for lunch on Wednesday, 6th December. All children, including those who have chosen to bring a packed lunch, will receive a Christmas cracker supplied by the PTFA.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY CONT'D



Thursday, 7th December at 2.15pm & Friday, 8th December at 9.15am Fledglings Christmas Show

Parents, grandparents, family and friends of children in Fledglings are warmly invited to join us for their Christmas show. The children are busy practising and very much look forward to you joining them at the special Christmas show.

Friday, 8th December - Harmony Group singing at Eastry Village Hall Coffee Morning at 11.00am

You are invited to Eastry Village Coffee morning on Friday, 8th December where our Harmony Group will be singing.



Monday, 11th December at 2.00pm & Tuesday, 12th December at 9.15am

Year 1 & 2 Nativity Play

Parents, carers, family and friends are invited to join us for their Nativity plays on Monday, 11th December at 2.00pm and Tuesday, 12th December at 9.15am. The children have been practising hard and we are sure you will all enjoy their special performance.



Thursday, 14th December - Christmas Parties

Children may come to school dressed in party clothes ready for their Christmas parties during the afternoon on Thursday, 14th December. Please make sure clothes are warm enough for this time of the year. Children may bring a treat item to eat during the afternoon such as a small chocolate bar, small packet of crisps or similar item. Please ensure any treat does not contain nuts - thank you.

Thursday, 14th December - Last Day of Term 2

Friday, 15th December - INSET Day - School Closed

OTHER SCHOOL NEWS



The Children's Society Christingle Collection Candle

Thank you to everyone who has already returned their collection candles to raise money for The Children's Society who do amazing work to support those children who are less fortunate. If you haven't already returned yours, please return this by Friday, 8th December so that we can send the money to them in time for Christmas. Thank you for your support.



BlueBerry Bounce and Skipping Rope

If you have a child in Years 3 to 6 I am sure they will have told you about the Skip2Bfit visit to school on Monday. During the day children took part in lots of fun, challenging activities. Part of the session included the use of Skip2Bfit's BlueBerry bounce and the adjustable counting skipping rope. These can be purchased from the school office up to the 8th December costing £7.00 each.

PTFA News

Name the elf
Purchase a Christmas Bauble For £1



£1 a guess

Take it home decorate it as you wish

Bring back to school by Friday 8th
Come see it hanging on the Christmas tree outside the pub
on Monday 11th December for carols round the tree with free festive treats!
Baubles can then be collected to take home for your own tree.

Decorate a Bauble

The Five Bells have kindly purchased baubles for the PTFA to sell for £1.00 each to take home and decorate as you wish. Then please return them to school by Friday 8th, December. They will be displayed on the tree in front of the pub. The Five Bells invites you to Christmas carols around the tree on Monday 11th December at 6.30pm. Free drink and a festive chocolate for children and mulled wine and a mince pie for adults. The children's bauble will be returned so please place their name on it somewhere. Baubles will be available to purchase at tomorrow's Christmas gift shop, and from the school office up to Thursday, 7th December.

Name the Elf!

Our newest PTFA member (Elf) pictured above, is looking for a name and home this Christmas! Children can take part in a 'Guess the name of the elf' competition running until 7th December with the winner being announced on Friday, 8th December. Entries can be purchased at tomorrow's Christmas Gift Shop or from the school office up to 7th December. Entries cost £1.00. Good Luck!

OTHER COMMUNITY NEWS



Kent Library Winter Reading Challenge

Following the success of their summer reading challenge, Kent Libraries will again be running a Winter Reading challenge. Starting on 1st December and running until 19th February children are challenged to read at least 3 books. Books completed are recorded on their online Winter Mini Challenge website which can be found at; <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

Recycle Batteries

With Christmas just around the corner and no doubt batteries being used more over the Christmas period, we wanted to let you know that batteries can be recycled through your normal refuse collection. Batteries need to be put inside a bag supplied by refuse collection, or a clear plastic bag, and placed on top of the black bin. Thank you to a member of staff for bringing this to our attention.

INTERNET/ONLINE SAFETY SECTION

Shopping Online

Although Black Friday and Cyber Monday have officially finished, we thought it might be helpful to include the leaflet below which gives some good tips should you be shopping online this Christmas time. We hope you find it helpful!

Kind regards

Mr Neil Garvey
Interim Headteacher

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Week commencing 4.12.2023

MONDAY	
Home Learning Club (3.30-4.00pm)	Yes
Creative Station (3.30-4.30pm)	Yes
TUESDAY	
Netball Club (3.30-4.15pm)	Yes
WEDNESDAY	
Singing Club (8.00 to 8.35am)	Yes
Multi-Sports Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)	Yes
THURSDAY	
Football Club (3.30-4.30pm)	Yes
FRIDAY	

Top Tips for Safer Online Shopping on

BLACK FRIDAY AND CYBER MONDAY

Black Friday and Cyber Monday have become established as two of the year's biggest shopping events, giving consumers the opportunity to snap up a stash of stunning bargains. While this is generally good news, of course, the resultant retail frenzy can lead to people dropping their guard – especially online. In previous years, a seasonal surge in cyber-crime has seen schemes such as phishing emails and credit card scams being unleashed on unwary buyers. Our guide has some essential pointers on keeping your details – and your money – safe while you shop.

ENSURE A SITE'S SECURE

Before inputting sensitive information (like your card details) into a website, check that the site's secure. The key thing is to look for a padlock symbol in the address bar and check that the URL begins with "https://" – the "s" indicates that the web address has been encrypted with an SSL certificate. Without that, any data entered on the site could be intercepted by criminal third parties.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If a deal seems too good to be true, then it probably is. Be especially wary if a site offering unbelievable discounts doesn't look professional (for example, if it's covered with pop-up adverts or it looks particularly outdated) – this often serves as a red flag that the seller might not be entirely trustworthy. Minimise risk by sticking with well-known, reputable retailers instead.

REVIEW BANK STATEMENTS

Even if you've followed all our tips, it's probably worth checking your next bank statement for any unusual transactions. Criminals know that on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, lots of people make numerous purchases online: they're hoping that any stolen money will get lost in the crowd of other transactions. If you see a payment or payee you can't identify, raise it with your bank straight away.

BEWARE OF SUSPICIOUS EMAILS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday often bring a significant spike in phishing emails, as criminals use the events' sense of urgency as cover for stealing personal information. Even if they look legitimate, be wary of emails requiring you to do something unusual or suspicious: providing your personal details in exchange for access to last-minute deals, for example, or clicking on a link to an unfamiliar site.

CHECK IT'S THE REAL DEAL

It's not just cybercriminals you need to be wary of. Research has shown that some online retailers increase the price of certain items in the weeks before Black Friday and Cyber Monday – enabling them to then advertise "discounts" (which, in reality, have simply restored the cost to normal levels). Use an online price comparison tool to verify whether these "reductions" truly equate to a saving.

MINIMISE MICROTRANSACTIONS

Black Friday and Cyber Monday promotions extend to digital items as well as physical ones. Some gaming companies will offer discounts on in-app and in-game microtransactions such as loot boxes. If you're concerned about how much your child might spend on these upgrades, you can restrict their ability to make purchases (via their device's settings) or remove any linked payment methods.

SET STURDY PASSWORDS

A strong, unique password is one of the most straightforward ways to protect yourself from cyber-crime. As most of us have multiple online shopping accounts, it can be tempting to use the same password for them all – but this puts your personal data at greater risk. You could try using a password manager to create a different, robust password for each online retailer that you visit.

DITCH THE DEBIT CARD

Where possible, it's safest to shop online with a credit card (as opposed to a debit card) because it offers additional protection. If a purchase is made fraudulently on your credit card, there's a fair chance of your bank reimbursing you. Should criminals obtain your debit card details, however, they could empty your account in moments – and it can be difficult to recover your money.

RESIST THE INFLUENCE

Recommendations from social media influencers are another thing to remain vigilant for on Black Friday and Cyber Monday. While many of these will be legitimate, remember that influencers are often paid to promote products – and to publicise deals that aren't quite as amazing as they might seem. Don't feel pressured into buying purely on their advice; look at everything with a critical eye.

TAKE CARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media scammers are more active on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, as they know people are hunting for deals online. These scammers tend to concentrate on platforms such as Facebook and Instagram, posting malicious links that can compromise shoppers' personal details. Other scammers, meanwhile, falsely advertise products in an attempt to trick users out of their hard-earned cash.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Insider, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



**National
Online
Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday