



# GROVE ROAD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER – 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023



# NEWSLETTER



- What a fabulous week here at Grove Road, throughout school our children are working so hard to make as much progress in their learning as possible.
- A highlight for all of us was seeing our younger children perform their Christmas Nativity. What an absolute treat – thank you to everyone involved.
- You will notice in this newsletter, we are looking for new recruits to our ‘Friends of Grove Road’ team and our amazing Governing Body in school. If you want an informal conversation about any of the roles, please get in touch.



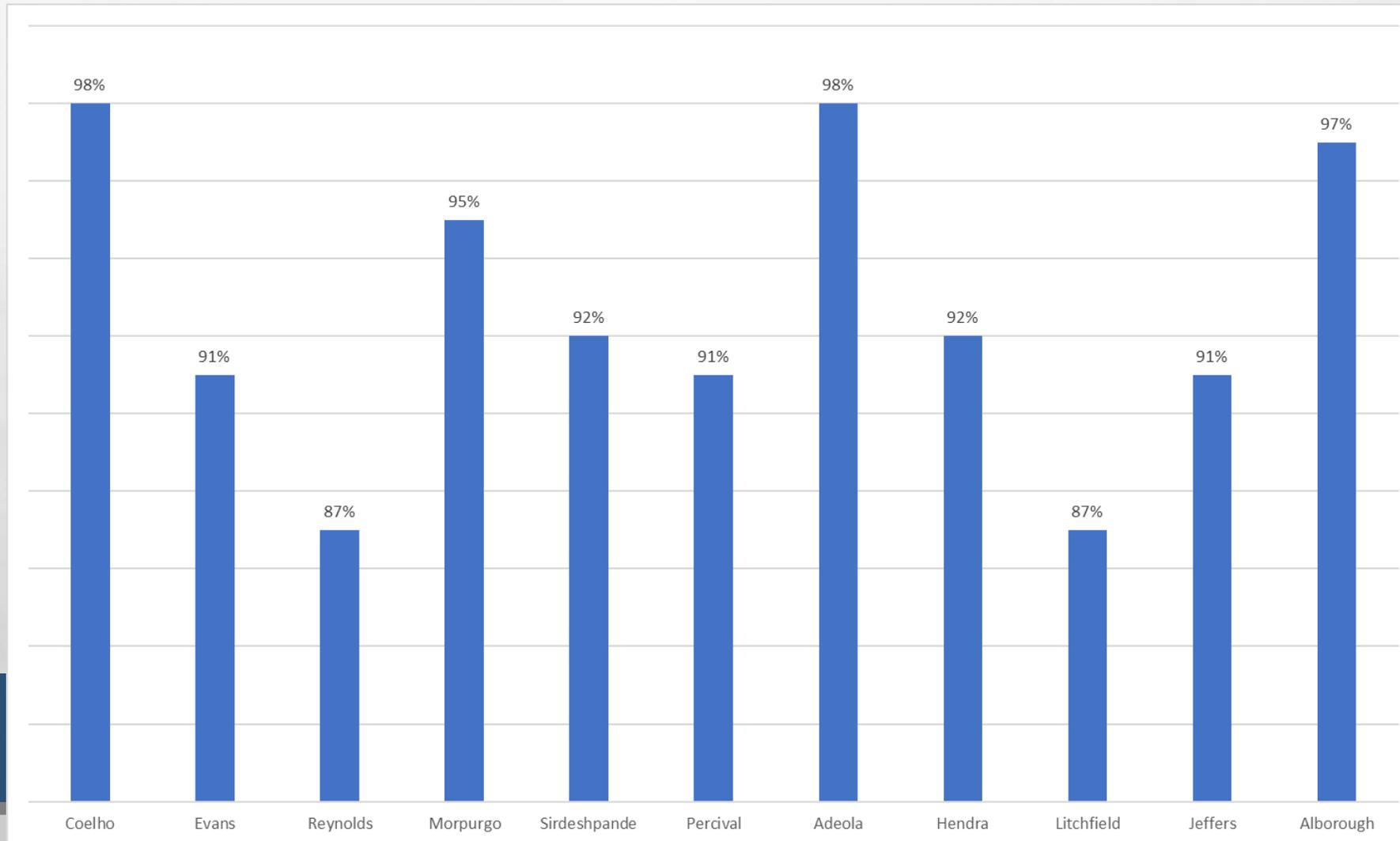
**horticap**   
*Growing Together*



# ATTENDANCE



Attendance totals for each class – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December



# SAFEGUARDING



## Grove Road Community Primary School Safeguarding Team



Designated Safeguarding Lead  
James Grayston - Headteacher



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead  
Dawn Winkley – Deputy Head  
& SENDCo



Deputy Designated  
Safeguarding Lead  
Sue McGrogan – Parent  
Support Adviser

Lead Governor for Safeguarding – Margaret Beagle

For further advice / referral information, please contact:  
North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership  
<https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk>

- Please visit our school website for more information and links to safeguarding websites.
- [Grove Road Safeguarding Page](#)
- For more information about keeping children safe please click here:
- [NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online](#)
- These websites have wonderful advice about children keeping safe on Instagram and other social media sites
- [NSPCC – Share Aware](#)
- [CEOP Police Safety Centre](#)



# STARS OF THE WEEK



JEFFERS	-	Odin
LITCHFIELD	-	Winston
HENDRA	-	Bella
ADEOLA	-	Oscar
PERCIVAL	-	Ethan
SIRDESH-PANDE	-	Eli
MORPURGO	-	Kieron
REYNOLDS	-	Maks
EVANS	-	Martyna
COELHO	-	Grace

*congratulations*



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# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

**CHRISTMAS CRAFTING**

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

**NATURE QUEST**

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

**CAROL KARAOKE**

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

**WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE**

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

**TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING**

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

**WRAP IT UP**

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make percelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

**WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND**

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

**BE A SEASONAL CHEF**

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

**ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY**

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

**SNOWY SCULPTURES**

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

**GAMES NIGHT GALA**

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

**GOODWILL TO ALL**

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

**Meet Our Expert**

Minda Ahead designs and delivers the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is protected.





# National Online Safety®

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## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# DISNEY+

The Walt Disney Company's streaming service, Disney+ combines entertainment from the famous animation studio itself with Pixar, Star and National Geographic, plus the Marvel and Star Wars franchises. With access to the latest releases, Disney classics and original series, there's plenty of content to explore. While parents may have noted that adverts have now been introduced on some versions of the service, the platform is – unsurprisingly for a Disney product – designed to be appropriate for the whole family.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### LESS SUITABLE CONTENT

While Disney+ is predominantly family friendly, there are some movies and shows in its library which are aimed at an older audience: these may scare younger ones or contain themes or language that you'd rather your child wasn't exposed to. You could avoid such situations by enabling Junior Mode (see 'Adjust content settings', below) or specifying a content age rating for your child's profile.



#### BINGE WATCHING

With the option to view content on any internet-enabled device and a growing catalogue of movies, cartoons and documentaries, Disney+ can make managing screen time difficult. This could result in children binge watching content, distracting them from activities like homework or socialising. Too much screen time has also been shown to negatively impact mood, sleep patterns and weight.



#### PHISHING EMAILS

Be especially cautious if you receive emails or text messages purporting to be from Disney+. There have been numerous reports of online scammers impersonating Disney+ staff in an attempt to gain access to subscribers' personal information. Disney+ states it will never email or call customers asking for their payment details, their private information or their password.



#### ENCROACHING ADVERTS

Disney+ has introduced a new subscription package – Disney+ Standard with Ads – which plays commercials before movies and during shows (like many TV channels). There are no adverts in Junior Mode, but profiles with a content rating of 8+ years will see ads appropriate for that age category. Adults who give consent will see personalised adverts based on their location and viewing history.



#### ACCESSING ADULTS' PROFILES

If adults don't set a PIN for their profile, children could access it and encounter content which isn't age appropriate. In the settings, Junior Mode has a toggle titled 'Kid-Proof Exit' which requires the user to read four words (numbers, spelled out) and enter them to switch profiles. For older children who can read, though, this isn't secure enough – so using a PIN for adult profiles is recommended.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ADJUST CONTENT SETTINGS

When setting up an account, there's an option to create profiles in what's called Junior Mode. This generally covers material that's suitable for children up to age 8 and is therefore fairly limited. You can give older children a wider choice of viewing by building a standard profile, then going into the settings and choosing a content rating from one of the pre-set alternatives: 6+, 9+, 12+ or 14+.



### ADD PIN PROTECTION

Disney+ enables you to effectively lock profiles behind a four-digit PIN. In particular, some of the shows on the platform's Star content hubs are far more oriented to adults (including several hard-hitting dramas from US networks), so protecting parents' or older siblings' profiles with a PIN will help to prevent younger children stumbling across material which isn't intended for them.



### TURN OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a cartoon, show or movie finishes, Disney+ uses algorithms to identify content with similar themes, which it thinks your child will also enjoy. This suggestion will then automatically begin to play by default. There's an option to turn off this auto-play function in the profile settings, which will encourage your child to take a break from the screen and move on to a different activity.



### ENJOY AS A FAMILY

When your child watches a movie or show on Disney+ for the first time, you may want to sit with them to ensure it's suitable. You could do the same when introducing them to older films that you haven't seen for years: your perception of what's appropriate has very probably changed, and some of the language and attitudes in movies from your own childhood may seem quite shocking today.



### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



# National Online Safety®

## #WakeUpWednesday

Source: [https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp\\_article\\_content&sys\\_kb\\_id=1f68bd432bae4886f360c28309370](https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=1f68bd432bae4886f360c28309370) / [https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp\\_article\\_content&sys\\_kb\\_id=1f530a07abd441a0307e2bd39f1936](https://help.disneyplus.com/csp?id=csp_article_content&sys_kb_id=1f530a07abd441a0307e2bd39f1936)



Please click here to access more guides for parents



## 12 Smartphone Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

The Christmas season has finally arrived and soon many of you will be opening your presents in the hope that Santa has listened to your request for the latest mobile phone or smart device. Owning a mobile phone can be fun, but it's important to use it safely and responsibly. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that you set up your phone securely, keep your personal information private and enjoy using your phone in the healthiest way possible.

- 1 ALWAYS SECURE YOUR PHONE WITH A PASSWORD**

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your phone without your permission. Make sure your password is memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share it with your parents just in case you forget it.
- 2 DISABLE LOCATION SETTINGS**

This can usually be done from the device's privacy control settings. Disabling location settings means that your phone can't be tracked by others and strangers can't tell where you are when you're using it. It also helps to save battery.
- 3 ALWAYS USE A SECURE WIFI NETWORK**

When you use your WIFI at home usually it is a secure network that only you and your family know the password to. Public networks, like those in coffee shops, can be accessed by anyone which means that people could potentially hack into your device and access your personal information without you realising.
- 4 ONLY PAIR WITH BLUETOOTH DEVICES YOU KNOW**

A Bluetooth connection with another device means that you can send and receive data wirelessly. For example, you could listen to music wirelessly or receive pictures and videos from your friends. However, pairing your phone with a device you don't know means that you could be sharing personal information with a stranger or could leave your device open to receiving viruses.
- 5 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE**

Before downloading any new apps, always check the age-rating of the app. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain things that aren't safe for you to see.
- 6 BEWARE OF BECOMING ADDICTED TO YOUR PHONE**

Your phone can be fun to use and it's easy to become too attached, whether it's keeping in touch with friends, discovering new features or downloading the latest apps. Remember it's always good to talk in person, go out and have fun and get regular exercise. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just your mobile phone.
- 7 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME**

Using your phone for too long, particularly in the evenings, can make you feel tired at school, affect your concentration and make you lose interest in other things in life. Only use your phone at certain times of the day and don't use it close to bedtime. You can set a 'screen time limit' via the settings on your phone. This will help you stay fit and healthy and means that you will still be able to focus and perform well at school.
- 8 THINK OF OTHERS WHEN TAKING PHOTOS**

Don't take embarrassing photos of other people on your phone. If other people get access to the photo and share it with more people, it could make that person really upset and treated as a form of bullying. Always be mindful of the photos you take using your camera and who you share them with.
- 9 MAKE SURE YOUR PARENTS SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'**

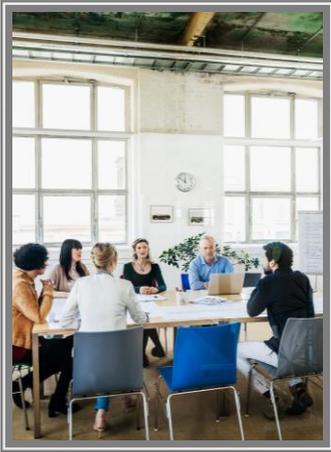
This means that you will be able to use your phone safely and securely and won't accidentally do things you shouldn't do. The best time to do this is when you get a new phone or device so that you're protected from the very beginning.
- 10 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR PARENTS IF YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE**

Sometimes, even though your phone is really secure, you might see something you don't like, or someone might contact you who you don't know. If this happens, always tell your trusted adult like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and advise you on what you should do next.
- 11 DON'T TEXT AND WALK**

This might seem like a strange thing to say but it can be dangerous to stare at your mobile phone whilst walking outside alongside busy roads or bicycle paths. In some cases, children have been knocked over by cars or cyclists because they haven't been aware of their surroundings whilst texting or playing games on their mobile devices.
- 12 DON'T SHARE YOUR NUMBER OR YOUR DEVICE WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW**

Never feel pressured into sharing your phone number with people you don't know and don't lend your phone to strangers or keep it where others could get hold of it. Look after your device and always keep it hidden from sight to avoid it being stolen or broken into.





# You could be a governor

Hi, I'm Alex, a parent-governor at grove road. In the new year, the school will send out a message asking for people to put themselves forward to be a parent-governor to fill some vacancies. You will almost certainly want to ignore that message. But please don't. Please take a few minutes to understand what a school governor is, and why you might want to be one.

- **What is a school governor?**

Basically, a school governor is a regular person, often a parent or carer, who supports the headteacher and leadership team to run the school. We do this by acting as a critical friend to the leadership team, supporting them in their work and challenging them to ensure their decisions are strong and well thought out so the children of grove road receive the best education possible.

- **What does it involve?**

There are meetings, I won't deny it, but they are really interesting meetings where you learn more about the running of the school, and can ask questions of the leadership team. And there are a variety of other ways of getting involved too, depending on your interests and your experience.

Governors play an important role in improving children's education. If this is something that you'd like to be part of, email me at [a.tomlin@groveroad.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:a.tomlin@groveroad.n-yorks.sch.uk) and ask any questions you might have.

Thank you.

Alex





**What do we do?**  
We run fundraising events to raise funds to support the school

- School discos
- Bake sales
- Xmas Fair
- Summer Fair

**Who are we?**  
FOGR is a group of parents/guardians with children who attend Grove Road

**Want to get involved?**  
We would welcome any help you can give e.g.

- event preparation
- Set-up
- Running events

So we can run these fun events for our children

It's also a great way to meet other parents!

Get in touch for more information

Email us at [Friendsofgroveroad@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofgroveroad@gmail.com)

or find us on facebook  
Friends of Grove Road C.P School



Friends of Grove Road are a group of Parent/Carer volunteers associated with Grove Road Primary School. We raise funds to support the school and enhance the education of the children

Please support FOGR raise vital funds for the school by signing up to the following online initiatives

**Easy Fundraising**

Sign up to support us  
Shop with your favourite brands  
We get a bonus £5 donation  
It's not magic, it's easyfundraising!

@easyfundraising

**Friends of Grove Road Fundraising Ideas**  
Help Friends of Grove Road raise free funds today by shopping online via [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). Shop at no extra cost and raise free donations for Friends of Grove Road!



Your School Lottery

Email us at [Friendsofgroveroad@gmail.com](mailto:Friendsofgroveroad@gmail.com)

or find us on facebook  
Friends of Grove Road C.P School



# PARENTPAY

Feedback about our new system ParentPay has so far been overwhelmingly positive. We are aware that there are some technical issues with booking for Sammy's den and we appreciate your patience while we iron these out.

Reminder - we will be moving payment for school meals over to the new platform from the 8th January. Please can you make sure that any balances for school meals are paid on iPay Impact before the end of term.



## What are the benefits to parents & pupils?

ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7

The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely - offering you peace of mind

Payments can be made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint

Full payment histories, balance alerts and statements are available to you securely online at anytime

**More information, including your activation/login information has been sent out via email if you have not received this, please contact the school office**

## What are the benefits to our school?

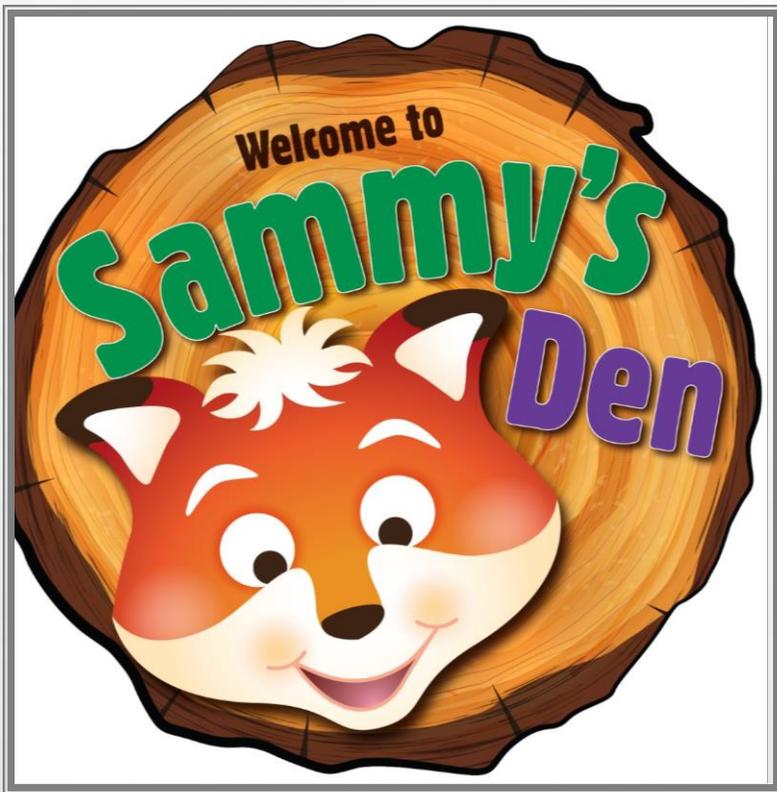
You can help us reduce workloads for all staff as no more counting cash, chasing debt and stop cash collection services

Creates more time to lend to educational support and the smooth running of the school

Improves school security

Using ParentPay also ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises

The more parents that use ParentPay, the greater the benefit is to our school.



## Reminder - Please Book Sammy's Den Sessions In Advance via ParentPay



- Breakfast club is very popular, and we are full most mornings which is lovely, however it does mean that it's extra important to make sure that you have booked a space in advance of attending.
- To help us with planning and so that we know which children will be joining us, bookings close 2 days before the session takes place. (If you need a short notice booking, please call the office and we will try to help)
- If the club is full, we might not be able to accept children who are dropped off without a booking.
- The same applies for afterschool club. All children attending must be booked through ParentPay.
- If you are having any problems booking spaces, please contact the school office

# IMPORTANT DATES



When	Event
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>Friends of Grove Road—Quiz Night</b>
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Rec/ KS1 trip to Kirkstall Abbey Museum
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Key Stage 2 visit the panto!
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair—3:15pm to 5:00pm (Please see poster in this newsletter)
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December—3:15pm	Carols on the playground with Singing Club
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December—6pm	Rec/ KS1 Nativity
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December—2:30pm	Rec/ KS1 Nativity
Wb. Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Week (More information to follow)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December – 2:00pm	End of Term - No Sammy's Den
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> January 8:40am	Start of Spring Term

