

Family Updates Newsletter

Working together to

inspire nurture empower

20th December 2024

Updates

Hello Everyone,

What a fantastic two weeks of festivities we've had! From the joy and excitement of our Christmas Fair to the heartwarming Winter Inspire Sessions, the holiday spirit has truly been alive in our school. We are thrilled to share that our **Christmas Fair raised an incredible £1,394** - a huge thank you to Friends of Ivy and everyone who supported us by attending, donating, or volunteering. Your contributions will make a big difference, and we couldn't have done it without you.

Our **Winter Inspire Sessions** were also a huge hit, bringing families together to enjoy creative crafts, sensory play, and festive fun. It was wonderful to see so many of you there, and we are grateful for your involvement in making the sessions such a success.

We're excited to share that the **new electric gates** will be fully operational starting Monday 7th January. The gates will be open in the morning until 10:00am to allow for transport to freely access the site and will open again at 3:00pm for transport to park up. The gates will remain closed from during the hours of 10:00am until 3:00pm, you will need to use the buzzer to gain access during this time. This system is in place to ensure the safety and security of everyone at school, and we appreciate your co-operation as we adjust to this new process.

Additionally, we would like to invite you to the **Health Coffee Morning** on Monday 20th January. All families are warmly invited to join us for updates regarding the Health situation at Ivy. Please read the latest letter [here](#).

As we close out this term, we want to wish all of our Ivy House community a wonderful Christmas break, full of joy, relaxation, and everything lovely. Thank you for being part of what makes our school so special. We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Your Leadership Team

Contact us

Headteacher: George Turner (George.Turner@ivy.set.org)

School Telephone: 01332 777920

Reception email: admin@ivy.set.org

Chair of Academy Council, Peter Cade: chair@ivy.set.org

Website: www.ivyhouseschool.org.uk

X: [@IvyHouseSchool](https://twitter.com/IvyHouseSchool)

Instagram: [@ivy_house_school](https://www.instagram.com/ivy_house_school)

Facebook: [@IvyHouseSchool](https://www.facebook.com/IvyHouseSchool)

Bobby the Police Mascot

Bobby the Police Mascot came to visit school on 18th December. The students got to meet and greet him, a local officer and explore the police vehicle.



Winter Inspire Session

On Friday 6th December, our school hosted the “Winter Inspire” session for both the primary and secondary departments, and it was a fantastic success! Students had an incredible time engaging in a variety of activities. The Secondary students enjoyed a wonderful carousel of activities, including a winter sensory story, creative crafts and fun games. The primary students explored sensory play, festive crafts and exciting games. It was heartwarming to see so many families join us for the event, and we are truly grateful for their support and involvement. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the day so special.



Christmas Dinner Day

Our Christmas Dinner Day was a joyful celebration filled with festive spirit for all of our students! Everyone enjoyed the festive atmosphere, with some students enjoying their Christmas dinner, others were able to dress up in their festive outfits. Students got to engage with different friends and shared in this celebration together. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to come together and celebrate!



Christmas Fair

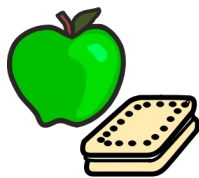
On the 12th December, Ivy House hosted our Christmas Fair. A huge thank you to all who helped to prepare, set up and deliver the most magical event. Our students helped to run stores, play games and some got the chance to go onto the “Ivy Express” to meet Mrs Claus and Santa Claus. The event raised an enormous **£1,394**.



Snack Reminder

A reminder that the snack contribution is £1 per week (20p per day) for each child for whom it is appropriate. This helps us ensure that all children enjoy nutritious and varied snacks throughout the week. This can include but is not inclusive to yoghurts, crisps and juice. Additionally, we'd love to hear your feedback on how snacks are provided. If you could take a moment to fill out the form linked below, it would be greatly appreciated. Your input helps us make snack time even better for the children

<https://forms.office.com/e/hMnCgwr7Fz>



Food Donations

A massive **thank you** to everyone who generously donated to our food bank collection – it was a tremendous success! We have had an overwhelming response that is sure to make a big difference to others this Christmas. All food has been donated to 'Food 4 thought' a charity that aims to tackle poverty and deprivation within Derby.



Key Contacts



George Turner
Headteacher



Hanah Birks
Deputy
Headteacher



Bali Kaur
Primary Department
Assistant
Headteacher



Amanda Shipley
Secondary
Department Assistant
Headteacher



Claire Porter
Safeguarding &
Pastoral Lead



Tara Gaskin
Pastoral &
Operations Co-
Ordinator



Steph Hickling
Office Manager

Important Dates

First Day of Spring Term – Monday 6th January
Physio and OT Coffee Morning – Tuesday 14th January
Health Coffee Morning – Monday 20th January
Chinese New Year – Wednesday 29th January
Children's Mental Health Week – 3rd -7th February
NSPCC Numbers Day – Friday 7th February
Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 11th February
Valentines Day Disco – Friday 14th February
Last Day of Spring 1 – Friday 14th February



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, toppling 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

The National College

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



Shaw
Education
Trust

Family Coffee Morning

**OT &
Physio
drop in**

**Tuesday
14th
January
2025**

**9:30am
until
11:00am**



We're excited to welcome NHS Occupational Therapists (OTs) and Physiotherapists, who will be on hand to answer your questions and offer helpful advice. Don't miss this opportunity to relax, connect, and learn!

For more information please contact Claire or Tara
01332 777920