



# St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

16.12.22

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping warm and well in this cold weather! This time of the year is particularly special for us as a Catholic School. Advent is one of the most important times of the liturgical calendar and over the past three weeks, we have joined Christians all over the world in preparing for the birth of Jesus. During Advent, our wonderful Pupil Chaplains have been leading assemblies which have focused on preparing our hearts to welcome Jesus on Christmas day. They've done a great Job in leading creative and well-constructed prayer and liturgy and have used this opportunity to also teach their peers about the 4 Sundays of Advent and the symbolism of the Advent Wreath and its 5 candles.

Unfortunately, we had to make the difficult decision to postpone our Christmas Nativities and Carol Concert due to the adverse weather conditions this week. Our pupils have worked extremely hard to learn their songs and will be able to share these with you when we return in January:

- Thursday 5th January – Nursery Nativity 2:00pm (School Hall)
- Friday 6th January – Reception/ KS1 Nativity – 10:30-11:30am (St Dominic's Church)
- Friday 6th January – Key Stage 2 Carol Concert – 2:00 – 3:00pm (St Dominic's Church)

These will now be part of our Epiphany Celebrations. The Feast of the Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th each year and remembers the visit of the Wise Men to worship the baby Jesus. We look forward to celebrating with you!

I wish every family a happy and peaceful holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone at the start of the new term (Thursday 5th January 2023).

Merry Christmas,

Mr Ashburn.

### ECO-SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our Eco-School Councillors have been meeting this half term to help make pupil voice and sustainability an integral part of school life. This week they used their pupil voice surveys to decide the issues they will be tackling this year. Working with the Headteacher and UNICEF Rights Respecting Lead, the council members have agreed on 5 actions:

**Action 1:** To fundraise for a variety of charities including those supporting animals and the homeless.

**Action 2:** To work with the local community to develop spaces and areas.

**Action 3:** To work with Havering Catering to provide a lunch-time menu that is healthy and appealing to all.

**Action 4:** To run workshops, lessons and assemblies on being environmentally friendly.

**Action 5:** To work with the school leadership team to create and provide a greater range of extra-curricular clubs.

As you will see from the actions above, the responsibilities of these pupils include addressing environmental issues in school, supporting the wider community, fundraising and being the voice of their peers. These actions are linked to the principles of Catholic social teaching and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

### PARKING

We kindly ask that think about where you park, how you park and your conduct outside our school gates. Please do not park on the zig-zag lines outside our school – these are there to keep our pupils safe. Illegally parked cars can be reported via the following link: [https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20004/parking/121/parking\\_tickets\\_and\\_traffic\\_fines/8](https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20004/parking/121/parking_tickets_and_traffic_fines/8).

### Attendance

#### TOP FIVE - AUTUMN TERM

1	St Philomena's	96.57%
2	St Martin's	96.52%
3	St Jude's	96.42%
4	St Matthew's	96.39%
5	St Catherine's	95.99%
5	St Edmund's	95.37%

Congratulations to St Philomena's and St Martin's, who were the attendance winners this term. Both classes have won a class party!

### COFFEE MORNING

We will be hosting a coffee morning on Friday, 27th January from 9.15 to 10:15am. Parents can bring their toddlers and babies. There is lots of time to ask questions, share experiences and find out first-hand what is happening in school. Mums, Dads and extended family are ALL welcome.

### FUNDRAISING

This Advent season we have been fundraising for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS). Not only is BCCS a charity associated with our Diocese, it also supports many of the Catholic schools in our local area.

Thank you for your donations! The BCCS will be using your contribution to help support the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people. We will still be collecting donations after Christmas so please bring them in if you have forgotten.

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

£410 was raised through our Christmas Raffle. Thank you to the Staff of St Ursula's for donating prizes and thank you to our families for purchasing tickets. Congratulations to our 2 lucky winners!



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

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nesting 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](http://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games).

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## '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.

## 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.

## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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 *Computeractive*. 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 writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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