



# St Ursula's Catholic Primary School

## HEADTEACHER'S NEWSLETTER

05.01.24

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you all had a joyous Christmas, spent with family and friends. This week was a very short week but our return allowed us to celebrate Epiphany as a whole school. 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.

As we look ahead to the new term, the school calendar is full with assemblies, trips and Easter activities. Please see some key dates below:

- Friday 26th January: Coffee morning
- Thursday 8th February: Christian Unity Mass (Year 2 & 5)
- Monday 12th – Wednesday 14th February: Face to Face Parents' Evenings (Year 1-6)
- Wednesday 14th February: Ash Wednesday Service (Year 1 -6)
- Friday 16th February: Inset Day (School Closed)
- Monday 19th February –Friday 23rd February: Half-term Break
- Friday 1st March: Coffee Morning
- Thursday 7th March: Lent Penitential Mass (Year3 & 1)
- Friday 8th March: World Book Day Dress up
- Thursday 21st March: Easter Mass (Reception –Year 6)
- Thursday 28th March: Coffee morning (Easter Crafting)
- Thursday 28th March: Curriculum Celebration Afternoon and End of Term reports (Year 1-6)
- Friday 29th March: Bank Holiday (School closed)
- Monday 2nd – Friday 12th April: Easter break

Please continue to check the calendar on our school website which is updated regularly by our Website Officer, Mrs Carragher.

### PUPIL PREMIUM FUNDING—YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE

With the ongoing challenge with the cost of living, we want to make sure that our parents and carers are aware of the funding that may be available for their children at St Ursula's Catholic Primary School.

The School receives an extra £1,455 for every eligible pupil who is registered for Pupil Premium funding. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer and will also support families financially as in-school costs will be subsidised. For example, if your Pupil Premium application is successful, your child will receive a £100 School Uniform Voucher and support with funding school trips.

You can apply for Pupil Premium funding at any time. Parents of children from Reception to Year 6 can apply. A simple check can be quickly completed at school to see if your child is eligible. Come and speak with Mrs. Walsh and she will make an online application. The only information you will need to provide is your National Insurance number and date of birth

### New WEBSITE

Over the past few months, Mrs Carragher has been hard at work developing our new school website. This has now gone live so please go take a look!

<https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk>

### BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club is open. To book a place for your child/ren please use our Schoolcomms booking system. If you require any help or guidance with this booking system, please contact the school office on 01708 345200.

### PUNCTUALITY

A reminder that the school gates now open at 8:35am and close at 8.45am.

Thank you to all the parents that have supported us in getting our pupils in and learning for 8:45am.

We only had 5 late pupils today - a big improvement!

Children arriving after 8:45am are greatly disadvantaged as they can often be unsettled and confused about tasks that have already been explained and started. In addition they cause disruption to the learning taking place in class. On particular days, those arriving late will also miss our weekly assemblies.

### CHILDREN'S RIGHTS'

Article 3 – Best Interests of the Child.

The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children. At St Ursula's we have considered who makes decisions that affect the lives of our pupils and have ensured that pupils themselves are involved in decision making through our pupil voice groups.



# Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

## IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

## ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

## PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At [my.account.sony.com](http://my.account.sony.com), create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

## IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

## XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

## NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

## WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

## CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

## MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

## SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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