



Wallace Fields Junior School Newsletter

13th December 2024



KEY DATES

Last Week of Term

- **Monday 16th December 2024**
 - Rehearsal for **Christmas Concert** at Epsom College - 9.00am -12.00pm. Parents volunteers helping teachers walk with children
 - **Carol Concert** at Epsom College 6.20pm for 6.40pm start until 7.45pm - **Everyone attends**
- **Wednesday 18th December 2024** - Christmas Carol **Singing at the Café** Alexandra Park 12.45pm - **Parents Welcome**
- **Thursday 19th December 2024** - Children's **Christmas Lunch** served for all School Dinner children plus those that signed up. Children can wear Christmas head wear, tinsel or **Christmas jumper** with school uniform (not a Mufti day). All children will receive a Christmas cracker
- **Friday 20th December 2024**
 - **Early finish for winter break** at 1.25pm/1.30pm
 - **JAG** will be running **breakfast club ONLY** on this day.



[Click Here¹ for Upcoming Events](#)

[Click here² for School Calendar and to Subscribe to Calendar](#)

HEAD'S UPDATE

Christmas Fun All Week and Rehearsals

My thanks to the PTA for agreeing to fund the **Christmas Panto** on Wednesday 11th December 2024 - it was 'A Christmas Carol', performed by the Cat's Grin Theatre. The production was very good - very age appropriate, enchanting, serious and also fun. Performed to the whole school and the children (and staff) thoroughly enjoyed it.

On Thursday 12th and Friday 13th December we have had the **Christmas Fair mornings** where the children had lots and lots of fun on the stalls and bouncing inside a bouncy snow globe . Thanks again to the PTA and all the parent helpers who helped make it happen. See photos below.

¹<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/events>

²<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/calendar>

This week we also saw the last of the school based rehearsals for the **Christmas Concert**. My thanks to Mrs Johnstone for the huge amount of effort she has put into preparing the Christmas Concert and the children were sounding wonderful in the rehearsals this week. One more full rehearsal at the Epsom Chapel and then the real thing on Monday evening. We look forward to seeing you there for this traditional annual event. Please be patient collecting your children afterwards as it is steady and safe rather than rushed. I will be announcing the winners of the **Christmas Hampers** at the end of the concert.

Smartphone Ban Working Well

We are pleased to hear that many of you are in support of our recent measures to ensure the safety and well-being of our children, particularly the ban on smartphones. Your positive feedback has been invaluable, and we appreciate your continued cooperation in creating a safer, happier environment for our pupils.

It has come to our attention that some parents are using tracking devices on their children, which may serve as a substitute for smartphones. While we understand that these trackers are often seen as a helpful tool for micro-monitoring children, we would like to clarify our stance regarding their use at school and during school activities.

Trackers are acceptable during regular school hours. However, we must stress that these devices **will not be permitted on trips, visits, or residential trips**. This is due to privacy concerns, as both children and adults could be tracked without their explicit consent. Additionally, the use of tracking devices may activate anti-stalking software on staff phones, which is a concern we need to avoid.

As we prepare for trips and visits in the upcoming spring and summer terms, we will conduct bag checks for all school pupils before departure. This process will include the use of an app to identify and remove any unauthorised tags, ensuring that no trackers are taken on these trips.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation. Your continued support helps us maintain a safe and respectful environment for all children and staff.

WFJS PTA

Friday 13th December 2024

PTA ANNOUNCEMENT



After 4 fabulous years of looking after the Wallace Fields Junior School PTA, the time has come for Jade and Kelly to hang up their boots. We hope we have bought lots of joy and lovely memories to the children and parents.



With all your help we have been able to install an outdoor classroom, air conditioning units given over half of the cost of the all weather pitch, chrome books, many experience days, pantos, geography orienteering projects, music equipment, dance workshops, benches, many subscriptions and much much more!



We would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who has rolled up their sleeves, bought a ticket, poured a wine, created a hamper or chased things on a WhatsApp!



We will be on the committee until July 2025 and have an extensive handover pack for the new team... so... could it be you? You will also have the support of our fabulous Treasurer, Sarah and Nicolette our fourth committee member. Let us know if you are interested in taking the reins as Chair or Secretary to lead a new PTA team



- the school and children need you!

Love, Jade and Kelly xx

GET IN TOUCH: Got an idea or want to get involved? Drop us a line

 wfspta@gmail.com  facebook.com/groups/wfspta

THIS WEEK

Winning Rugby Team Again

Huge congratulations to the Year 4 girls who took part in a tag rugby tournament at Auriol School and came home with another win. they return with the trophy yet again! These girls have done so well and we are extremely proud of them. Well done to the whole team - our former pupil Claudia Macdonald (England Rugby player) would be so proud of you too! Thanks to Mr Sellars for coordinating the team. We will be celebrating your victory in next week's celebration assembly.



Year 3 Photos Xmas Fun Day







Year 4 Photos Xmas Fun Day















Year 5 - Xmas Fun Photos







Year 6 Photos Christmas Fun Day













PTA Christmas Panto Photos 'A Christmas Carol'.









Stars of the Week



This week's Stars of the Week are above. Only one per class is nominated in our Celebration Assembly every Friday. They receive a certificate and five house points for showing one or more of the school BELIEVE values -**B**rilliance, **E**nthusiasm, **L**earning, **I**nspiration, **E**quality, **V**ision and **E**very pupil matters. Well done to this week's winners.

EVENTS COMING UP

Christmas Concert - Monday 16th December 2024

The Christmas Concert service at the Epsom College Chapel and all parents and siblings are welcome.

This event is a long-standing tradition and we come together to celebrate the festive season. Our Christmas Concert provides an opportunity for the whole school community to join in a shared celebration of the Christmas holiday. It focuses purely on the joy of music and the festive spirit, with a selection of Christmas songs and Christmas stories that are enjoyed by the children and parents alike.

Your child will take part in the rehearsal (on the morning from school) and the evening service unless we hear from you. If for religious reasons your child is unable to attend, please email office1@wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk³

Timings and details

- Parents/carers please arrive **no earlier than 6pm** and unfortunately there is no parking on site.
- **Please walk to the chapel if possible.** If you do park on the neighbouring streets please park respectfully. We have already received an email from the residents of neighbouring road Kilcorral Close asking us to remind parents to not park on their narrow road for the concert as previous years residents have been blocked in.
- Staff arrive 6.10pm in side door
- **Pupils in full school uniform** - drop off at 6.20pm through the side entrance on the (roadside) left hand side of the chapel and their teacher will register them.
- Parents/Carers/Siblings will need to enter through the main entrance to the right of the front door. Please queue to the right of the door (uphill) allowing space for disabled access on the ramp.
- Guests and Governors who give their time freely to the school will be offered reserved seating as a thank you.
- There are plenty of seats including behind the choir stalls and on a balcony at the back. TV screens mean that everyone should have a good view of the performance.
- Concert starts 6.40pm
- Please note there are **no** toilets in the chapel.
- You can take photographs and videos of the event for your personal use. Please do not share on social media
- We will be raising funds for "Save the Children" at the end of the concert. Some children will be shaking a collection bucket as you depart so **please bring some cash.**
- Concert should be finished by approximately 7.40pm
- **Parents/Carers leave out of the main doors of the church only**
- Pupils are collected from teachers/staff from area at the side of chapel - **please be patient. See below for more details about pick up.**

If you need disabled access and disabled parking please inform the School Office by emailing Office1@wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk⁴

³<mailto:office1@wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk>

Please complete the google form by clicking here⁵, if you have arranged for another parent/carer to collect your children. **No child is permitted to walk home alone.** Safeguarding is our key concern so we would appreciate your patience at the end of the concert.

Collecting Children at the End of the Carol Concert

A swift departure is planned at the end of the concert and safety comes first. Your patience and cooperation is very much appreciated. After the concert: -

- Parents and visitors exit out of the same main doors and turn right.
- All children exit out of a side door. The Year 3 (and siblings of Year 3) leave first, then Year 4 (and siblings of Year 4) and so on. There will be marked out areas, on the grass, to the side of the chapel for each year group.
- The children wait with their class teacher in their group area. All children are dismissed directly by their teacher to their parent/carer.
- Please do not cross into the roped area.
- No children will be permitted to walk home alone.
- If someone other than the child's parents/carers are collecting your child following the Carol Concert please complete the Google form as soon as possible and before midday on Monday 16th December 2024.
- Please complete the Google form by clicking here⁶, if you have arranged for another parent/carer to collect your children.
- Safeguarding is our key concern so we would appreciate your patience at the end of the concert.



⁴<mailto:Office1@wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk>

⁵<https://forms.gle/Nq7GwKjtiWZEEXBP8>

⁶https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf4kbiSNQ9U_GV16R7JrJrz9itYmCm5W85nqxgtiXcGm4IS2g/view_form

Parents Walking to Christmas Concert Rehearsal

Thank you to the parents who have signed up to help walk the children to and from the Epsom College Chapel in the morning of Monday 16th December 2024 for the rehearsal. All those who have signed up have been contacted by email and allocated a class to walk with (it might not be your child's class). We are leaving school at 9.00am and returning at 11.45am. Parents do not need to stay for the whole dress rehearsal unless they wish to.

Christmas Carol Singing in the Park - Wednesday 18th December 2024

Christmas Spirit is on the way into Alexandra Park. The school choir will be carol singing in Alexandra Park Recreation Ground by the Park View Café on Wednesday 18th December 2024 from around 12.45pm until 1.10pm. Children should wear full school uniform (no PE kits) and bring a coat and can wear Christmas headdresses/tinsel. All parents are very welcome to come along and watch. The café will be busy so go early if parents/carers want to buy drinks/lunch to avoid queues. There will be a collection for the school nurture room, so if you do have any spare change, donations are much appreciated.

Christmas School Lunch - Thursday 19th December 2024

Thursday 19th December 2024 is the children's Christmas lunch day. All children will receive a Christmas cracker and are permitted to wear with their school uniform a **Christmas jumper**, headdress or tinsel if they wish. Children who have school lunches (and all those who normally have a packed lunch who signed up) will be served a Christmas dinner. Anyone having packed lunch is welcome to bring their packed lunch Christmas themed with maybe a few more treats than normal - please remember no nuts permitted.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Headphones for Music lessons next week

The children have been working incredibly hard learning the songs for the Christmas concert. Next week, as the concert will be over, I would like to give them a fun music tech lesson on the Chromebooks. All children will need to have headphones. I do have sets in school but not quite enough for a full class, some have unfortunately broken over time. If your child has a pair of headphones/old iPhone earphones which have a 3.5mm jack (see photo below) and you are happy for them to bring them in on the day of their music lesson that would be really helpful.

- Monday - Year 3
- Tuesday - Year 5
- Wednesday - Year 4
- Thursday - Year 6



Uniform Reminder

Over the Christmas holidays please check your child's school uniform is all in order. The key uniform rules are as follows:-

- Winter uniform is grey shorts, grey trousers, grey knee-length skirt or grey pinafore with white shirt or blouse, red V-neck pullover with school logo or red cardigan with school logo and school tie.
- Black shoes (not fashion shoes, trainers or boots) should be worn with grey or white ankle socks, or grey, black or red tights.
- No red gingham dresses or polo shirts during the winter please.
- Remember coats for playtime and lunchtime and put names in all coats and jumpers.
- Boots are not permitted in school. The uniform is smart sensible black shoes, no fashion shoes. On cold days children can wear boots to school on cold days and then change into their usual school shoes during the day.
- Additional trainers for use at playtime (and to go on the activity trail).
- PE/Games kit can still be worn on PE/Games days though please ensure appropriate for the weather e.g. PE logo jumper if needed. Plain non branded joggers, black or grey for very cold days.
- Ensure all uniform has a name label.
- Hair needs to be tied up if shoulder length.
- Stud earrings only. No hoops or loops.

For the full uniform click here on link below

<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/parents/uniform>

Many Clubs Have Finished for Christmas. Time to book for Spring Clubs

Most clubs but not all have now finished for Christmas. Please check the list below;

Below are all the finish dates for all the other school clubs in alphabetical order. Also note that the group Saxophone and Clarinet lessons finish on 17th December 2024.

It's now time to sign up for the spring clubs. Please see our website club section by clicking here⁷. Do sign up now as they are booked on a "first come first served" basis. Any questions please contact the club leader directly. Please see the club section below for the Book Club which I have just received.

Free School Meals children - as a reminder please note that the school will help fund places at clubs for those children who are on free school meals (FSM). Please contact the main office for details. If you are having financial difficulties and you would like to put your child in for a club then we have a very simple system for applying for financial assistance. Please call the office and they will give you details about how we can help.

Wallace Fields Junior School Christmas 2024 - End Dates for Clubs			
Club	Last Day of Term	Club	Last Day of Term
Arts and Crafts	2nd December 2024	French Club	12th December 2024
Book Club Year 5 & Year 4	11th December 2024	Gardening Club	Weather dependent
Book Club Year 6 & Year 3	10th December 2024	Gymnastics	11th December 2024
British Sign Language Club	13th December 2024	Hip Hop Club	16th December 2024
Choir - Lower School	11th December 2024	Judo Tuesday	10th December 2024
Choir - Upper School	9th December 2024	Judo Wednesday	11th December 2024
Code Camp	9th December 2024	Lego Club	11th December 2024
Code Camp	11th December 2024	Netball Squad	5th December 2024
Cooking Club	3rd December 2024	Piano Lessons	Check with Mrs Cratchley directly
Dodgeball	13th December 2024	Saxophone/Woodwind lessons	Check with Surrey Arts directly
Football Club Girls Yr 3 & 4 (lunchtime)	13th December 2024	Science Club Year 4	5th November 2024
Football Squad	13th December 2024	Science Club Year 6	7th November 2024
Football Year 3 & 4	3rd December 2024	Spanish	7th November 2024
Football Year 5 & 6	4th December 2024	Tag Rugby	3rd December 2024
		Tennis Club	18th November 2024
		Theatre Arts Friday	6th December 2024
		Theatre Arts Thursday	5th December 2024

Want to Order Bentley Photos But Lost Tickets?

Following the successful first ever Black Friday offer we had a surprisingly large number of parents contact us to say that they had lost their codes or the tickets never made it home.

In response we have set up a dedicated service on our site for your parents to request their children's codes.

<https://bentleyphoto.com/lost-childs-ticket/>

I would be very grateful if you would pass this link onto all your parents, so they can get a chance to see this years photographs.

Orders can be placed right up until **17th December 2024** and our Digital Download service is available 24/7 365 days and is almost instant.

Christmas Card Post Box

The Christmas Card Post Box in the hall. Year 6 helpers will collate the cards and deliver to classes. Please encourage the children to write the full name and class on the envelope. No treats or sweets inside the cards for allergy reasons. No cards for family members and no Father Christmas letters please - they will have to go via Royal Mail. Please do encourage the children to recycle the envelopes. Thank you.

⁷<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/parents/newsletters>

YEAR 5 and Year 6

Year 5 and 6 Swimming

Following your completed Google form, a letter was sent out this week to **selected children** to invite them for a swimming assessment lesson on Monday 13th January 2025. If you **did not** receive a letter, your answers indicated that your child can swim 25m in a recognised stroke and **will not be required** to take part in this assessment. Numbers are very restricted and priority is given to non-swimmers or weak swimmers.

For those invited children only there will be an **assessment lesson** during the school day on **13th January 2025**. Please remember that your child will require a named swimming costume, swimming hat if hair below the collar and a towel.

Free School Meals children - as a reminder please note that the school will help fund places at swimming for those children who are on free school meals. Please contact the main office for details. If you are having financial difficulties and your child is selected as needing to do swimming then we have a very simple system for applying for financial assistance. Please call the office and they will give you details about how we can help.

YEAR 4

Year 4 Crewe Theatre Visit Forces Workshop Wednesday 8th January 2025

We are pleased to welcome back to school the Crewe Theatre Team of actors who through performances and workshops will reinforce the children's learning of **KS2 Science on Forces**. They are visiting on Wednesday **8th January 2025**, and they will demonstrate how gravity and friction need controlling and how ball balancing and tower building can create unbalanced forces! We believe this experience will be worthwhile to the children's learning, enjoyment and understanding of this topic.

In order to cover the cost of the visit this year we would appreciate a voluntary donation of **£5.00** from each child. Without your donation we would be unable to offer the children the opportunity of this valuable experience. To make your payment please visit Scopay our online payment portal.

YEAR 3

Year 3 Science Workshop "Human Machine"

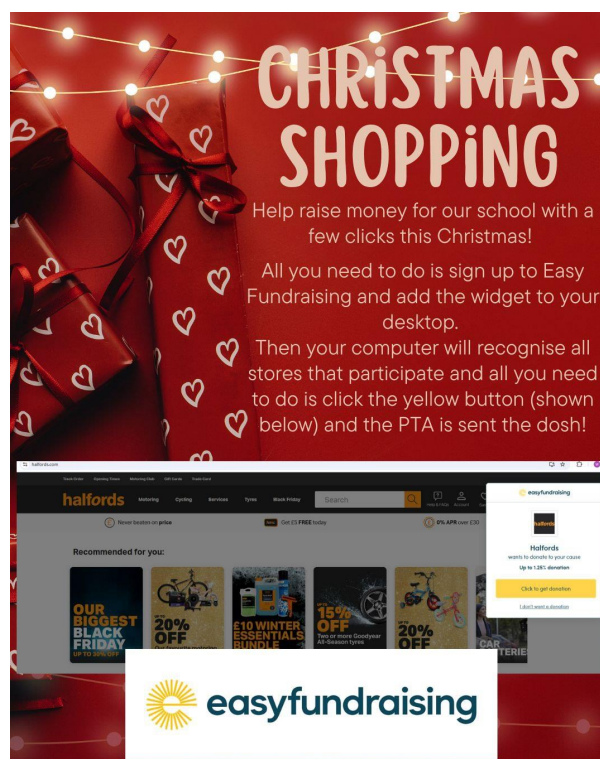
We are delighted to welcome 'The Human Machine' on Thursday 9th January 2025 to deliver '**You and the Mean Machine Game Show**' to year 3. This fast-paced workshop allows children to explore the world of growth and food, in line with National Curriculum guidelines.

Children will be using all their senses:

- To appreciate the importance of exercise and eating the right amounts of different types of nutrition.
- To be able to identify muscles and the ways in which they move.
- To learn about the different types of teeth and how they function for different purposes.

In order to cover the cost of the visit this year we would appreciate a voluntary donation of **£5.00** from each child. Without your donation we would be unable to offer the children the opportunity of this valuable experience. To make your payment please visit Scopay our online payment portal.

OTHER REMINDERS



Photos and Videos Permitted - Do Not Share on Social Media

You are welcome to take photographs and record videos of all the lovely school and club events, though we ask that you please ensure they are strictly for your personal use only. Do not share any photographs or videos on social media or any public platform as some children are not permitted to be included and their privacy and digital footprint must be protected. Thank you for your understanding.

PG Films

Children may watch a PG film on the last day of term in the class room. If you do **NOT** give permission for your child to watch a Parental Guidance film (PG) please contact the school

office by Monday 16th December 2024 on Office1@wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk⁸ who will make their class teacher aware.

Fruit / Vegetable Snacks at Break

Children are allowed fruit or vegetables for break time (cut up or whole). Buns, treats and biscuits are not permitted at break. Children are not permitted to take out part of their packed lunch items out early at playtime. please do not send any nut products in packed lunches due to serious allergy issues with many children.

CLUBS

Book Club Spring 2025

Please find here the club letter for our very popular school Book Club. If you have any questions then please contact Mrs Clarkson directly. The Book Club is a monthly fee paying lunchtime club.

All other club letters were published in last week's newsletter. All club letters are available on the clubs page of our school website by clicking [here](#)⁹.

Free School Meals children - as a reminder please note that the school will help fund places at clubs for those children who are on free school meals (FSM). Please contact the main office for details. If you are having financial difficulties and you would like to put your child in a club then we have a very simple system for applying for financial assistance. Please call the office and they will give you details about how we can help.

⁸<mailto:Office1@wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk>

⁹<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/clubs>

BOOK CLUB – SPRING TERM 2025

Good afternoon,

I'm delighted to let you know that Wallace Fields Junior School Book Club will continue to run in the Spring term.

We meet once every month in the school library on a **Tuesday lunchtime for Years 3 and 6** (timings below), and a **Wednesday lunchtime for Years 4 and 5** (timings below).

Year 6 (Tues) and Year 5 (Weds) runs from 12.10 – 12.40 (so book club, then go for lunch)

Year 3 (Tues) and Year 4 (Weds) runs from 12.40 – 13.10 (go to early lunch, then come to book club)

This club is all about reading *FOR FUN AND PLEASURE!* As a published children's author and journalist, I aim to encourage and celebrate the love of books, stories and reading. I gently push children out of their comfort zones by introducing them to new genres and styles of writing, while ensuring they have the opportunity to share their thoughts and ideas.

This year we will be exploring loads of fantastic new books and authors. Each meeting I offer a choice of 3 – 4 books. Students choose one and you have month in which to buy it, borrow it from a library and read it. At the next meeting we discuss what we've read, whether we enjoyed it or not, what we liked about it, whether we would read other books by that author etc. Children can choose to share thoughts, or sit back and listen to others in the group - there is no pressure and there are no tests or reading comprehensions on what they read.

The cost per term is £20. If your child/children would like to join or attend again this term or please email me at steph.clarkson@btconnect.com.

Kind regards,
Steph Clarkson

Junior Adventure Group (JAG) - Breakfast Club Only on Last Day of Term

On the last day of term, 20th December 2024, there will be breakfast club only at Junior Adventure Group. There will be no wrap around care when school finishes at 1.30pm.

Exciting Themed Activities at Wraparound Care - JAG!



Christmas Celebrations

Join us to celebrate!

Week Commencing 16th December

December will be bursting with festive cheer! Children will immerse themselves in activities celebrating the season while discovering how different cultures celebrate the holidays!



BOOK NOW!



Antarctica Day

Join us to celebrate!

Week Commencing 2nd December

Antarctica Day celebrates the signing of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959, which helps protect the coolest continent on Earth for scientists and explorers.



BOOK NOW!





📍 Join us for festive fun & activities this December at JAG!

As December arrives, our wraparound clubs are gearing up to bring festive sparkle to your child's days. Every day will shine with seasonal games, activities, and crafts from our **Adventure Programme**, giving every child the chance to celebrate, create, and explore.

Here are some of the special occasions we'll be celebrating this December:

📅 **Antarctica Day (W/C Monday 2nd)**

We're diving into the wonders of the "coolest" continent! To celebrate Antarctica Day, children will explore the signing of the Antarctic Treaty through quizzes, games, and activities from our **Brain Boosters** category.

📅 **Christmas Jumper Day (Thursday, December 12th)**

It's Christmas Jumper Day! Children can wear their silliest, sparkliest jumpers and enjoy fun activities from our **Wellbeing Warriors** category, including selfies at the Christmas Jumper Station and mindful colouring.

📅 **Christmas Celebrations (W/C Monday 16th)**

The countdown to Christmas begins! Children will dive into festive activities from our **Creative Inventors** category, creating crafts and learning about holiday traditions from around the world.

Don't miss out on December's festive fun, discovery, and celebration!

📄 **Secure your spot here:**

<https://bookings.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/>

📄 **Parent Support:** <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/>

📄 **FAQs:** <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/frequently-asked-questions/>

📄 **Payment Options:** <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/payment-options/>

Come join the fun with JAG today!

Come join the fun with JAG today!

- **Secure your spot here:** <https://bookings.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/>.
- **Parent Support:** <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/>
- **FAQ's:** <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/frequently-asked-questions/>
- **Payment Options:** <https://www.junioradventuresgroup.co.uk/parent-support/payment-options/>.

SAFEGUARDING and WELLBEING

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

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>

 @wake_up_weds
  /www.thenationalcollege
  @wake.up.wednesday
  @wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.12.2024

[Click here¹⁰](#) for More Information About Safeguarding at WFJS

ACHIEVEMENTS

Pianist Silver Medallist

Musa T (3D) has won the piano silver medal in the Sutton Music Festival in the 7/8 year group. Well done Musa!



BBC 500 Words - First Round success!

We are extremely excited to share that Lily in 3T's BBC 500 word story "Space Waste" has been selected into the second stage of the competition - the final 5000 in the country. Well done to Eddie in Year 3 as he has also been selected into this group.

¹⁰<https://wallacefields-jun.surrey.sch.uk/our-school/safeguarding>

COMMUNITY



Epsom and Ewell in WW2 find out what it was really like !

Saturday January 11 2025 1pm to 2.30pm

The Borough suffered heavily from bombing in World War 2 and from 1940 to 1944, 890 alerts were sounded, 384 people were injured by enemy action and 33 killed. There were more than 200 incidents with 12,234 houses slightly damaged, 413 devastated and 192 completely destroyed, while thousands of incendiary and anti-personnel bombs were dropped with 440 high explosive, 64 oil and 30 flying bombs falling on the Borough.



£6 per child . Contact: David Brooks, Bourne Hall Museum, Spring Street, Ewell, Surrey KT17 1UF Tel 020 8394 1734. Email dbrooks@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

THE STIRRUP HAND PUMP

The advertisement is a colorful graphic with a light blue background. At the top, it says 'LOOKING FOR A Maths or English Tutor?' in large, bold letters. Below this, it says 'FIRST CLASS LEARNING AT EPSOM METHODIST CHURCH'. To the left, a red speech bubble contains the text 'OPEN DAY ON SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 10AM-12PM'. To the right, a green speech bubble says 'BOOK A TUTOR QUOTING 'WALLACE PTA' AND THEY WILL DONATE £20 TO OUR PTA POT!'. At the bottom left, there is a circular logo for 'FIRST CLASS LEARNING' with 'maths and English tuition' written below it. At the bottom right, there is a paragraph of text describing the service and the website 'www.firstclasslearning.co.uk/epsom-central'. The graphic also features illustrations of a pencil, a notebook, and a clock.

First Class Learning is a nationwide network of after-school study centres, offering Maths and English support for students from early years to GCSE level. Our study programmes are tailored to individual needs and aligned with the UK National Curriculum, helping students improve their confidence and academic skills.

www.firstclasslearning.co.uk/epsom-central



Support for Parents to Access Their Child's UK eVisa

The UK Government is replacing physical immigration documents with eVisas, a digital proof of immigration status.

Parents and guardians of children who are not British or Irish citizens, and whose children have either a biometric residence permit (BRP) card expiring on 31 December 2024, or a passport with an indefinite leave to remain ink stamp or vignette sticker, should take action to access their eVisa now¹¹, and do so on behalf of their children too.

An eVisa cannot be lost or stolen and can be accessed online by visa holders at any time to prove their rights in the UK. It's free and their immigration status won't be affected.

¹¹<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/online-immigration-status-evisa>

Applying for a Junior School Place for September 2025

Do you have child starting school in September 2025

You can apply for a primary, infant or junior school place from 4th November 2024 if your child:

- was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, or
- is leaving Year 2 of an infant school in July 2025

The closing date for applications is 15th January 2025. Click here¹² for more information.

If you are a parent or carer living in Surrey, and your child has an existing Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and is due to start a new primary, infant or junior school in September 2025, you will need to follow a separate process by clicking here¹³.

¹²<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-junior-and-infant/apply>

¹³<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/child-with-an-ehcp>