

December NEWSLETTER



Dear Families,

As we approach Christmas I would like to share with you our plans over the next few weeks.

Christmas performances

Our Nursery/Reception Xmas performances will be taking place on Thursday 12th December at 10.30am and 2.00pm. Our children have been practising hard to make sure it's a really special performance for everyone. We look forward to welcoming our parents to watch and celebrate with us!

Christmas Dinner

The Infants will have their Christmas meal on Wednesday 18th December and the Juniors on Thursday 19th December. The children may wear their Christmas jumpers if they so choose to do so on this day for their Christmas meal, if not then normal school uniform.

Christmas Cards

Some children have asked to bring in Christmas cards this year. They may do so but please make sure first names/ last names and the class are clearly written on the front of the envelope to avoid confusion.

Pantomime Visits

Our KS2 children will be going to Derby Arena on Friday 13th to watch the pantomime 'Cinderella' returning to school for approximately 4.30pm (traffic permitting). All children will come into school to collect their things on their return, all parents will be able to collect their child from the school hall. Our Reception and KS1 children will be visiting the Brewhouse on Tuesday 17th December to watch 'The night before the night before Christmas' and will return to school in time to be collected from the playground as usual. All the children (and staff) are really excited to see the performances!

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Admissions

If you have a child that will be starting in Reception in September 2025 please complete the online application by **15th January 2025**. if you need any help or support with this please contact the office who will be happy to assist you.

Christmas decorations

All of our classes have been making their own Christmas decorations ready to add some festive cheer to our school ready for our Xmas Fayre today, Monday 16th December (2.15pm start).

Christmas Bauble competition

This half term Arts council have run a Christmas bauble competition in school. To celebrate Christmas within our community the Arts Council went to Elim Church to decorate the tree with all the bauble entries. It was tough choosing 3 winners from all of the amazing baubles made! The tree looks amazing and is up in the entry way at Elim Church. Please take some time to have a look at the wonderful work the children have been doing to help our community celebrate!

Kindest regards,

Mr Archer.



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N6 Class assembly

In N6, we had our class assembly to share our learning with our parents. We talked about everything we were learning about last half term: English, maths and more. For maths, we demonstrated long division. In history, we learnt about Ancient Greece and we re-enacted the story of 'Theseus and the Minotaur'. We enjoyed singing a song called, 'Refuge' which we learnt in our Music lessons. We really enjoyed showing our Greek pottery art work and explaining how we did it. We were a bit nervous and excited all at the same time, but we really enjoyed it in the end!" Nancy, Eleanor



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Carol Concert

On Sunday 8th December our school choir were invited along to Burton Town Hall to take part in the Mayors Christmas Concert alongside a number of other local schools. In front of parents, families and local councillors, the children performed 2 Christmas songs on the stage and sang them beautifully. A wonderful festive afternoon was had by all!

'It was really fun! I really enjoyed challenging myself to sing in front of an audience!' - Milana

'It was great to get to go to the concert this year and all my hard work in practising paid off!' - Ava



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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 switches 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, topping 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 18 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.



The National College

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School finishes on **Friday December 20th 2024** and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well back in the New Year on **Monday 6th January 2025..**

Finally we wish you all a very

'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!'

From all at Christ Church

