

# ***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 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 2.00pm and Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10.00am. 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 Juniors will have their Christmas meal on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December and the Infants on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> 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 Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> to watch the pantomime 'Dick Whittington' 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 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December to watch 'Captain Sprout and the Christmas Pirates' in the morning and will return to school in time for lunch as usual. All the children (and staff) are really excited to see the performances!

# ***December NEWSLETTER***



## **Admissions**

If you have a child that will be starting in Reception in September 2025 please complete the online application by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. 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 on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December (2.15pm start).

Finally, we will be welcoming some new members of staff with Ms Wheatley joining our fantastic team of teaching staff, taking over in Y3/4 and Mr Sami who will be joining our team of teaching assistants as well as taking on our site technician role. We are delighted to have them on board and know they will be a great asset to our Christ Church family. We will also be saying goodbye to Mrs Hawkins and our Chair of Governors, Mr Waris. I would like to thank them for all they have done for Christ Church and wish them success as they move on to their new ventures!

Kindest regards,

Mr Archer.



# December NEWSLETTER



## 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!



We opened all our beautiful handmade artwork and spread them out on the floor, we voted to find first, second and third places. We then put all the artwork on the Christmas tree. – Taaha- Y6

When we put all the decorations on, the Christmas tree looked so pretty! We had a photo with Pastor Chris and then left the Church.- Hana- Y4



# Safeguarding

[Click Here](#)

## 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 overload 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 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



# Mental Health/school values



## School values

This half term we have been focusing on the value of being aspirational. Children being seen to be mindful could receive a values leaf in our values assembly every Monday.

Christ Church Primary School Values					
M	A	S	T	E	R
Mindful	Aspirational	Supportive	Tolerant	Aim for Excellence	Resilient
I am kind to others I am considerate of other people's feelings I take good care of everyone's belongings I help to keep my environment clean and tidy I take pride in my appearance	I have high expectations of what I can achieve I am ambitious I believe in myself I am proud of myself when I achieve my goals I learn new skills	I can help others I can listen to others when they are sharing their thoughts and feelings I share with others I encourage others I am happy when someone else is successful I can empathise	I am able to respect and learn from others I value people's differences I accept people for who they are I understand that people have differences of opinion I stand up for others if they are being treated unfairly	I will always try my best I take pride in my work I work hard and take ownership of my learning I accept challenges to help push myself further	I will keep trying when I don't achieve something the first time I find ways to help me solve a problem I believe that I can get better/improve I learn from my mistakes I try to look at things positively I have a can do attitude

Christ Church Primary School Values					
M	A	S	T	E	R
Mindful	Aspirational	Supportive	Tolerant	Aim for Excellence	Resilient
The value we are focusing on this half term is being...					
<b>Supportive</b>					
I can help others I can empathise I am happy when someone else is successful					
I share with others I can listen to others when they are sharing their thoughts and feelings I encourage others					

Next half term, we will be focusing on being supportive.

## THE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM IN SCHOOLS ARE OPEN OVER THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

If your child is experiencing low level mental health difficulties, we may be able to help. Call us\* between 9am - 5pm (Monday to Friday), leave your name and number and one of our practitioners will give you a call back to see what support we can offer.

We can help with:  
 Low mood  
 Anxiety  
 Sleep difficulties  
 Worry  
 Panic

**Burton and Uttoxeter**  
 01283 504487

**Cannock and Lichfield**  
 01283 352113

**Stafford**  
 01283 352097

**Tamworth**  
 01785 301027



\*Please note that these contact numbers are not to be used in an emergency.

# Mental health & wellbeing

Try these activities at home with your children

## Find SOMETHING SPECIAL in Others!

Get to know your friends, classmates, and family!  
Write the person's name inside each square.

MY NAME \_\_\_\_\_

someone with  
a nice smile

someone who has a  
great handshake

someone who  
plays piano

someone who  
loves dancing

someone  
who loves  
snow

someone who  
loves to read

someone born in  
another country

someone who loves  
to help others

someone  
who loves  
dogs

someone who  
recently learned a  
new skill

someone who  
loves to travel

someone  
who loves  
to draw

someone who  
makes funny jokes

someone who  
loves to cook

someone who has  
a sibling

## KEEPING CALM

Calming and grounding techniques are a good way to help when we feel worried or anxious. It helps us to refocus our attention and overcome those unpleasant feelings, so we can feel better and do more.

### 5, 4, 3, 2, 1

Take notice of your senses by thinking of: 5 things you can see, 4 things you can hear, 3 things you can feel/touch, 2 things you can smell and 1 thing you can taste.

## FACTS

Think about and name facts that are happening around you right now. For example:  
My name is... My age is... My favourite colour is... The weather is... I am wearing...

## SEARCH THE ROOM

Think of a category and search the room for it. For example, look for: Everything that is a ... colour, everything that is a ... shape, things that feel of... things made of ...



# *December NEWSLETTER*



School finishes on **Friday December 19<sup>th</sup> 2025** and we look forward to seeing you all safe and well back in the New Year on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026..**

Finally we wish you all a very

***'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!'***

***From all at Christ Church***

