

Churchfields' Weekly Newsletter

Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour. If either of them falls down, one can help the other up
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Friday 13th Dec 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Dear Parents

A-MAZ-ING! What wonderful performances we have been treated to this week! We have such talented children. Both Key Stage One and Two were outstanding in their performances; the singing and dancing were so good, and their voices were so clear. It was lovely to see how confident all the children were and how much they enjoyed it, as well as the audience! Thank you to our staff for all the many hours of preparation that they put into getting all of this ready and thank you families for all your support with this. And to our pupils...



On Wednesday the children were treated to the trip to the Egg Theatre and I'm delighted to share with you that a member of the public phoned Churchfields following the trip to say how impressed they were with the behaviour of the children.

Next week we continue the festivities with a visit from some animals Monday, which was due to take place on the day of the Atworth fair, but had to be called off due to the weather (please make sure you have signed the consent form), then carol services on

Tuesday and Thursday, with Christmas dinner on the Wednesday.

There has been a parent mail sent out in regarding some more good news from our Chair of Governors, Ed Latimer-Sayer. Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Best wishes,

Heather

Heather Saunders

Monkton Farleigh Base Fair

Thank you to everyone who came to support our fair after school on Friday 6th December. We were all amazed by how many attended from school, past pupils and our friends at the church. We would like to thank stall holders and raffle prize donations as we raise an incredible £500!



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CAROL SERVICE

Tuesday 17 December, 1:15pm, St Peters Church, **Monkton Farleigh**
Parents & carers are most welcome to attend our carol service, PTA will be and serving tea & mince pies afterwards in the school hall at Monkton Farleigh.

CAROL SERVICE

Thursday 19 December, 1:15pm, St Michael's Church, **Atworth**
Parents & carers are most welcome to attend our carol service, PTA will be serving tea & mince pies afterwards in the school hall at Atworth.



A bit of a gold rush this week with six more mathletes stepping up onto the gold podium and Leighton making it all the way to Platinum. Super work everyone - keep it up!

Bronze : Ezra, Ella B

Silver : Bodhi C, Ezra, Oliver H, Henry H, Coralie

Gold : Josiah, Rufus, Quita, George R, Christina, Jude, Vinnie, Anouk, William J, Joseph, Emily J, Hattie, Henry J, Jasper, William CJ, Rosemary, Jason,

Platinum : Leighton, Oliver CJ, Benjamin, Jazmyne, Alexis G, Maddox, Felix

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Term dates for 2023/2024

Term 2: Monday 4 November – Fri 20 December 2024	Term 3: Monday 06 January 2025 – Friday 14 February 2025
Term 4: Monday 24 February – Friday 04 April 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSET DAY Friday 21 March 2025 	Term 5: Tuesday 22 April – Friday 23 May 2025
Term 4: Monday 02 June – Tuesday 22 July 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INSET DAY Wednesday 23 July 2025 • INSET DAY Wednesday 24 July 2025 	

TERM 2	
Tuesday 17 Dec	Carols St Peters Monkton Farleigh 1:15
Wednesday 18 Dec	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 19 th Dec	Carols St. Michaels Atworth 1:15
Friday 20 th Dec	End of Term 2
Monday 6 th Jan	Term 3 begins
Wednesday 8 th Jan	Bikeability at Atworth
Thursday 9 th Jan	Coffee morning at Monkton Farleigh 8.30 – 10.00
Friday 10 th Jan	Coffee morning at Atworth 8.30 – 10.00
Monday 13 th Jan	Wow day KS1 at Monkton Farleigh KS2 at Atworth
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Tuesday 11 Feb	Dance club Bath Forum
Monday 17 Feb	Half term starts
Monday 24 Feb	Term 4 begins
Tuesday 25 Feb	Wow day KS1 at Atworth KS2 at Monkton Farleigh
Tuesday 4 th March	Author visit Catherine Barr
Monday 21 st March	Inset day
Friday 4 th April	Term ends Easter holidays
Tuesday 22 nd April	Term 5 begins

Family and Community Learning

Supporting My Teen With Wellbeing

Online Course
Friday 24 January 2025
10am - 12noon

Booking closes Friday 17 January



- Understand the changes in a teenage brain
- Learn techniques to promote wellbeing
- Explore positive psychology

Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk
call the FaCL team on 01225 770478
scan the QR code or visit
<https://workwiltshire.co.uk/family-and-community-learning/>

Our courses are free, if you are 19+ years old, resident in the UK/EU for over three years (some immigration status exempt), have a Wiltshire postcode and meet any of the following criteria: earn less than £25,000 pa, in receipt of benefits, military family, foster carer/care leaver/carer, have a disability.

Family and Community Learning

Supporting My Teen With Transitions to Adulthood

5 Online Sessions Fridays 10am - 12noon
Starting Friday 31 January 2025

Session Dates: 31 January 7, 14, 28 February 7 March

Book by 24 January



- Promote emotional wellbeing
- Explore post 16 opportunities
- Support life skills, online safety and decision making

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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, travelling 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 epinephrine. 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 mismanaged. Frayed wires, sagging 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 unwrapping 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 provide 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 modeling 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>

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