

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 5th Dec 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Christmas

It's definitely December....! I am spotting more and more tinsel as the days pass, and I know that the children are busy rehearsing carols and performances. This is a wonderful time of year and we're excited to celebrate the season together as a school community.

Mrs Pugh has put our school Christmas tree up at Shaw Church – so if you get the opportunity, do pop along and have a look at the beautiful decorations made by the children. It's open Friday to Sunday (details are attached).

A huge thank you to FOCs and staff for giving up your time for the Christmas film and popcorn night on Thursday! I know the children really enjoyed the event.

And next week, the fun continues with the key stage performances, and the trip to the theatre!

Attendance:

There were a couple of queries around the absence policy, which has changed this year in line with government guidance, so I thought it would be useful to clarify. You can find a copy of the absence policy on our website.

Children's academic progress is linked with attendance, and whilst we understand that illness is unavoidable, some things like dental appointments can be arranged out of school time, or with the minimal amount of time out of school. If children arrive after the registers have closed in the morning, this is also classed as an unauthorised absence so being prompt in the morning is important. All holidays are also unauthorised and if pupils accumulate 10 unauthorised sessions (a session is half a day) within a 10 week period, parents can be issued penalty notices by the Local Authority, who monitor our attendance.

To clarify timings at the two bases:

Monkton Farleigh: The gates open at 8.20 and the register is taken at 8.30

Atworth: The gate opens at 8.35 and the register is taken at 8.45

If children arrive after the register has been taken, they will be marked as late. If pupils are 15 minutes late or more, it is classed as an unauthorised absence.

This week we had our open day with Christmas crafts at both bases – thank you so much again to our wonderful FOCs for supporting us with this and helping all our visitors with glitter and providing cups of tea and coffee. It was a lovely day; there was gingerbread being made in my office, creative and active learning going on everywhere and a lovely Christmassy feel. The best thing was, that this is just a typical day at Churchfields! It was such a pleasure to be able to show our school off to so many people. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in your child's education. Together, we create a vibrant and nurturing community where every child can thrive.

Please remember that our doors are always open – whether you have a question, feedback, or simply wish to share a success story about your child, we are here to listen.

Best wishes,

Heather

Heather Saunders



Thank you for your support we raised £217.70 for the royal British legion Poppy appeal

Contact details:

E: admin@churchfields.wilts.sch.uk

T: 01225 703026

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Reminder next week
CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

**Tickets have gone out this week.
Please check your child bag.**

**Nativity nightmares! Tuesday 10 December KS2
(Yrs. 3-6)**

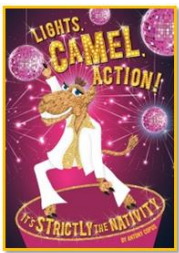


**St Michael & All Angels
Church Atworth**

**Dress Rehearsal: 1:30pm
open to siblings and
grandparents only**

Performances at: 4:00pm & 6:00pm.

Lights, Camel, Action Thursday 12 December R & KS1



St Michael's Church Hall, Atworth

**Dress Rehearsal: 1:30pm open to siblings
and grandparents only
Performances at: 4:00pm & 6:00pm.**



A busy week on the mathletics front, with nearly 50 children earning a certificate. In a nice piece of symmetry, exactly two children have earned their first certificate of each colour this week - brilliant to see everyone moving up through the ranks.

This week also sees us passing a grand total of 500 certificates since the beginning of the year, and Nightingales becoming the third class to pass the 100 mark. Well done!

Bronze : Asahi, Matilda, Oscar B, Ryley, Bodhi B, Henry B, Quinn, Ezra, Maggie, Julia, Ella

Silver : George P, Anna, Hector, Alexis M, Bodhi C, Scarlett, Freddie, Ted E, Oscar BH, Ellis, Henry H, Oliver H, Coralie, Josiah, Rufus, Quita, George R, Christina, Jude

Gold : Vinnie, Anouk, William J, Joseph, Emily J, Hattie, Henry J, Jasper, William CJ, Rosemary, Jason, Leighton

Platinum : 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 10 Dec	KS2 Production 4pm/6pm
Wednesday 11 th Dec	Egg Theatre trip(pm)
Thursday 12 th Dec	R/KS1 Production 4pm/6pm
Friday 13 th Dec	NCMP nurse Reception and Year 6 Health screening
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

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*Please go to our website for more detailed information.

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Level 1:	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
Level 2:	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Level 3:	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

Please go to our website address above, for more information.

*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that **MUST** be attended to complete this full time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria.

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Crib Service

St Peter's Church
Monkton Farleigh

Tuesday 24th December 2024
at 4pm



All welcome
Children are very welcome to dress up

Braeside Explorers

For 2-5 year olds!

Monday 20th and 23rd January
Monday 3rd and 10th February

Bow & arrow making Nature painting
Outdoor kitchen Den Building
Pond dipping Bug hunting
Fire lighting

10am-12.30pm
Hot lunch provided

Book online or call 01380 722637 for more info

Limited numbers. Payment in advance. £18.50 per session or £60 for all 4 sessions. Price is for 1 child and 1 adult. Additional children £5

Unlimited Tea & Coffee!

Grab your wellies and prepare for a fantastic, outdoor experience!

Braeside Education Centre, Bath Road, Devizes, SN10 2AP
www.braeside-education.co.uk



Carol Service

St Peter's Church
Monkton Farleigh

SUNDAY 15TH DECEMBER
6PM

Please join us for our Christmas Carol Service led by Rev. Tessa Mann
Followed by refreshments

Everyone Welcome



Churches of North Gloucestershire & Villages

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All 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 digital change. Formally delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING APPS

When looking at options for supporting a child's mental health, the sheer volume can be overwhelming. There are many wellbeing apps available, but unfortunately not all are trustworthy. It's important to evaluate which resources are suitable, reliable and effective. This guide lets you know what to consider before installing such an app, to determine just how useful it's going to be.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

QUALITY & RELIABILITY

Mental health apps can be a useful starting point when looking for wellbeing advice and strategies and can be a useful extension to the in-person services available. However, they aren't a substitute, information on the quality of some of these apps is scarce. They may look cute and child-friendly, but have they been designed by a mental health professional? Furthermore, do they have research to back up their content?

PLACE RESPONSIBILITY ON CHILDREN

Some apps add the words 'kids' or 'children' to their title or use cartoon icons to make them more appealing to young people. When signing up for some of these apps, some will speak to the parent directly, saying something along the lines of "Your child is good to go. Let them take it from here". It's important to remain involved in the child's mental health journey, so regular check-ins are recommended.

DISREGARDING APPROPRIATE SUPPORT

Young people who feel anxious and have trouble sleeping may download a mindfulness app to help. While this is a good strategy initially, it's not addressing the root of the problem. A child could simply try managing these symptoms themselves (as opposed to speaking out and seeking professional help), which could potentially worsen their anxiety in the long run.

LACK OF PERSONALISATION

Mental health or wellbeing apps are useful tools for the short term, teaching users several helpful habits to manage their condition – such as keeping an illness diary, improving nutrition and practising mindfulness exercises. As every person is unique – and children especially will grow and develop in different ways – these apps struggle to tailor themselves to users' individual needs. For example, many apps don't distinguish between the signs of users and can offer extremely generic advice.

DATA SECURITY

As with any other app – not just those for mental health and wellbeing – it's wise to check out the privacy policy before downloading it. Some of these applications may share data with third parties for numerous reasons (such as targeted advertisements), and if a user is sharing personal and sensitive information within the app, they probably don't want it ending up elsewhere without their consent.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Many apps will provide their most basic features for free but will require you to pay for other aspects – such as a more tailored experience or access to additional resources. This could be a one-off fee or a regular subscription. Consider whether this is actually required, is it benefiting the child, or could they receive the same support from a medical professional?

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHECK THE CREDIBILITY OF THE APP

Before you download a mental health and wellbeing app, investigate the developers. Have they consulted with qualified mental health professionals to create their resource? Also check whether the app is utilised with any government or mental health organisations, as these are solid indicators of legitimacy. Reviews can also be a useful signpost to the app's quality. There are many good apps out there, but there are just as many that miss the mark.

SEEK PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT

Trusted mental health and wellbeing apps designed by qualified, reputable organisations can be used alongside the personalised advice and support of fully trained professionals. These apps should never be considered a substitute for counselling or other tailored medical help. If you have real concerns about a child's mental wellbeing, you should seek appropriate advice from a suitable source, such as their GP or Childline, who can be contacted by calling 0800 1111.

READ THE PRIVACY POLICY

Look into the app's terms of service – especially its privacy policy. Do so by yourself first, then go over it with the child who is considering using the app, to ensure they know what data will be collected and how exactly it will be used. Use all of this information to make an educated decision on whether or not to download that particular app.

ENCOURAGE OPEN COMMUNICATION

Mental health and wellbeing apps can be useful for writing down feelings, tracking your own health and other such activities. These can help if the problem is short-term and temporary – such as a child getting stressed about exams – or if you're currently waiting for professional support. Nonetheless, it is important that children aren't solely reliant on the app and have a safe space to talk about their feelings and experiences in the real world.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and texting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday
The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/mental-health-apps>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.12.2024

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