



# Friday Flyer

16th December 2022

## Head of School Update

What a wonderful Christmas-filled week we have had in school. Thank you to everyone who attended our nativity performance of Hosanna Rock on Monday. I was so impressed by the collaboration and commitment the children displayed in rehearsing for the nativity and felt very proud of how they performed on the day. We have had some lovely feedback from families who thoroughly enjoyed seeing the children perform and it seemed the Christmas spirit was well and truly ignited by the end of the morning.

On Tuesday, a group of children collaborated with children from Ponteland Primary School to spread Christmas cheer at The Courtyard at Kirkharle. It was a beautiful, frosty winter morning and the setting couldn't have been more perfect for the children to perform their carols.

Claire from Kirkharle wrote to thank the children:

*"I had some wonderful feedback about how the children really made The Courtyard festive with their beautiful singing. So, thank you so much for all the effort that went into making it a super special performance."*



Our fabulous Mrs Hayes prepared a delicious Christmas lunch for all the children and staff to enjoy together on Wednesday. The hall was filled with Christmas music, crackers and lots of happy people!

Ordinarily, schools would have broken up by this point in the year but we have one last week to go which takes us right up to Christmas Eve! We have our Christmas pantomime at the Tyne Theatre to look forward to on Tuesday which everyone is very excited about. Each class will also have their own party and letters will have been shared with you about this from each teacher. School will break up for the Christmas holidays at 1.30pm on Friday - I think we will all be ready for Christmas by then!

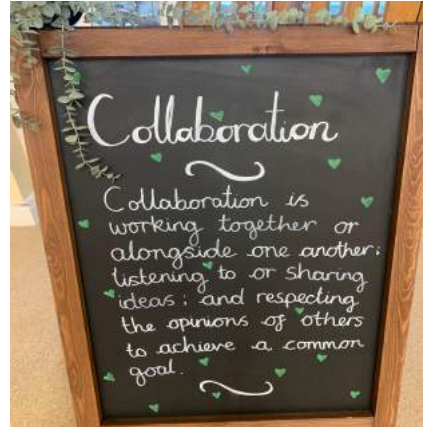
Best wishes and I hope everyone has a lovely weekend preparing for Christmas.

Claire Johnson



### Value of the Month:

December's school value is collaboration. It is not by accident that we opted to cover collaboration over the festive period! There have been so many opportunities for the children to work together this month, both through the Christmas performance and also within the curriculum. I think the staff would all agree that the children have worked hard to develop this value.



### Upcoming events:

19th December	Year 3 and 4 Christmas party
20th December	Whole school trip to the pantomime, am
21st December	Year 5 and 6 Christmas party
22nd December	Reception and KS1 Christmas party
23rd December	School closes at 1.30pm for the Christmas break
9th January	Return to school
15th January	Closing date for Reception applications

All dates may be subject to change.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

## TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at [videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games](http://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games).



## 'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

## DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

## CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like [systemrequirements.com](http://systemrequirements.com) can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

## MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voices chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

## BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

## APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.



## CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

## WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.



## LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

## IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

## STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.





## The week in Reception

I was so impressed with everyone on Monday during our performance, not only did we show respect by sitting so well and listening to the Christmas story, it was lovely to see the children trying their best with the singing. A big thank you to our Reception parents who all joined in to help the children sing our song!

This week we have started our Christmas crafts, the children are very eager to keep them as a surprise for their families. I have been so impressed with how hard the children have tried with them and it is clear to see it is the children's own work. Here are a few previews of our craft afternoons!



Miss Houghton



## The week in Key Stage 1

KS1 have been working hard in Maths to solve tricky problems this week. Year 1 have been learning to count in 2s, 5s and 10s and Year 2 have been using arrays to make number sentences. In Science, we have been learning the importance of exercise and how our bodies respond to it. We completed an investigation to see which exercise increased our heart rates the most by recording heart beats per minute. It was our last week of Art with Pip and Francesca, Fine Art students from Newcastle University. We finished our final art pieces inspired by *The King Who Banned the Dark* using mixed media to show light and darkness.



We enjoyed eating a wonderful Christmas lunch together with our friends, thank you Mrs Hayes!

"Christmas lunch was delicious!" Mathilde.

"I enjoyed the gingerbread man pudding!" William.

Miss Dixon



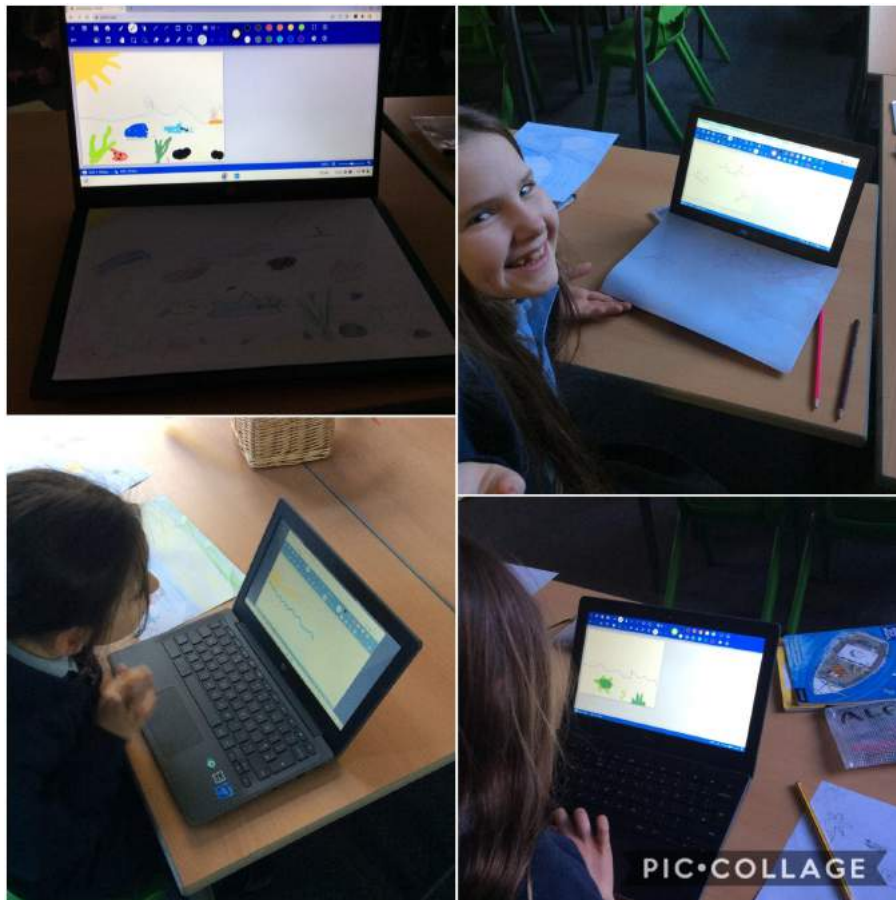
## The week in Year 3 and 4

Another amazing week in Year 3 and 4 filled with pride. We were all very pleased with ourselves on Monday after our performance and Miss Cruse was extremely impressed with everyone's bravery and performance skills during our nativity.

In computing we have been focusing on creating drawings on paper and then comparing how this can be transferred to drawing on our computers. Miss Cruse was so impressed that we have developed this skill further with a small christmas surprise ready for next week.

Everyone in our class has shown amazing resilience during our assessment week and have made themselves proud with how hard they have worked but also how focused we have been with all the excitement around us and it was great to finish off our week getting into the Christmas spirit before our party on Monday.

Well done Year 3 and 4, you have been amazing!





## The week in Year 5 and 6

We have had an incredibly busy and exciting week in school.

The start of the week began with the children taking part in the Christmas production. Well done to the whole class who stepped up to the plate and took their narrator parts seriously and retold the nativity story with great expression and impact. There were many happy faces all round in the hall. We hope many of them will volunteer to take part in our Shakespeare Club from January and bring their acting talent and loud voices to the Northern Stage!

In Science this week we have looked at the similarities and differences between amphibian and insect life cycles. We had a great class discussion focused on the various animals who go through a metamorphosis stage during their life cycle and just how wonderfully exciting nature can be.



During our PSHE lesson this week, we tackled a really big issue - gambling. We had some very mature debates about the risks around gambling and the negative impacts this can have on families, often leading to serious consequences. The children said they are exposed to so many gambling adverts and that they thought companies should do more to make sure they are protected from this.

How many gambling related activities can you think of?

**Some gambling-related activities include:**

Gaming  
Advertising  
Social media  
Betting shops  
Arcades  
casinos



We are really looking forward to our Christmas party afternoon next **Wednesday (21st)**.  
Mr Harvey



### **Vacancy - Lunchtime Supervisor**

Are you, or a friend or relative, interested in a role in school? We are looking for additional Lunchtime Supervisors to support the supervision of children at lunchtime, between 12pm and 1pm Monday to Friday (we can be flexible around days if you would prefer not to work every day).

You will:

- Provide support and guidance to children in the school setting during lunchtimes.
- Work as part of a welcoming and supportive team of staff, parents and governors
- Have excellent communication skills and a commitment to working within a team
- Be a positive role model for all of our pupils and uphold our school values.

Salary details:

£9.50 per hour (equated to account for term time working)

Access to the Local Government Pension Scheme

This school is strongly committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. The successful applicant will be required to obtain an Enhanced Certificate of Disclosure from the DBS and a range of other recruitment checks.

Please contact Claire Leightley at [c.leightley@peletrust.org.uk](mailto:c.leightley@peletrust.org.uk) or 01661 864426 if you wish to apply, or for a further discussion about working hours.