

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 14

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I would like to start by extending a huge thank you to all of our parents who attended the Key Stage 1 Christmas show performance. It was fantastic to see so many smiling faces in the audience, and we hope that you enjoyed the festive fun! The children worked hard on their performances and it was wonderful to see them shine on stage. I would also like to extend a special thank you to all of the parents for creating such amazing costumes for the children.

We are looking forward to the Year R Nativity performances next week alongside our Community Carols which we hope many of you can join us for on Wednesday afternoon. The children have got into the festive spirit in their practices and are particularly looking forward to sharing the 12 days of Christmas with you!

Today, we enjoyed a wonderful Boorley Christmas dinner together and we would like to extend our thanks to Billy and the kitchen team for their hard work in preparing this. A huge congratulations to our Christmas cake competition winners Charlie and Evelyn.



INSPIRING MINDS

Year 5 had a fantastic time creating mini rainforest terrariums using plastic tubs as part of their geography project. The students carefully layered soil, moss, and small plants inside their tubs, recreating the lush environment of a rainforest. This activity helped them understand the structure and appearance of a rainforest, while also sparking their creativity and teamwork skills. The finished terrariums brought a vibrant slice of the rainforest into the classroom, leaving everyone proud of their work.



NURTURING FUTURES

We would like to inform you that the date for the Promoting the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools workshop with Rosie, one of our SEND advisors, has been rearranged to **Thursday 23rd January**. This important session aims to provide a supportive and confidential space for parents to seek advice, discuss challenges and share experiences with one another. We encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to engage with Rosie and connect with fellow parents navigating similar journeys. Your voice matters and together we can foster a more inclusive environment for all our children.



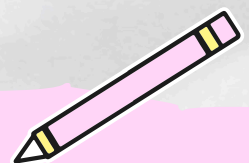
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

At Boorley, we believe that wearing school uniform is an important part of being a pupil here. Wearing uniform helps to create a sense of community and belonging, as well as promoting equality and respect among all children. We recognise that some children may have sensory needs or other challenges that may make it difficult for them to wear certain parts of the uniform. We are happy to work with parents and carers to find solutions that meet the individual needs of each child, while still ensuring that they meet the school's uniform expectations. For details of the expectation for school uniform, please visit the school website linked below.

Thank you for your support in ensuring children arrive at school in the correct school uniform.



[HTTPS://WWW.BOORLEYPARK.ORG/PARENT-INFO/UNIFORM/](https://www.boorleypark.org/parent-info/uniform/)



SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

At Boorley, we believe in fostering a positive and respectful environment for our children, both at home and in school. It's important to guide the children in understanding appropriate ways to express their feelings and interact with their peers. We recognise that some children may encounter swearing through various avenues, such as family interactions or digital content and we encourage all families to engage in conversations about the importance of respectful language. By setting clear boundaries and discussing why certain words can be hurtful, we can help our children develop strong communication skills and social awareness.

At Boorley, we take incidents of swearing seriously. Our behaviour policy is in place to ensure a safe and respectful learning environment. Let's work together to promote and model positive language and healthy interactions, guiding our children toward a brighter, more respectful future. Thank you for your continued support.

KEY DATES

December



Monday 16th December - 9:15am PTA Christmas pantomime for all children

Monday 16th December 4:00pm Choir Performance - In the hall

Tuesday 17th December 9:15am Year R Nativity Play - In the hall

Wednesday 18th December 2:30pm Christmas Carols on the playground

Thursday 19th December 2:30pm Year R Nativity Play - In the hall

Thursday 19th December PTA Disco - Year R, 1 & 2 at 4:15-4.45pm

Year 3, 4 & 5 at 5:15-6:00pm

Friday 20th December - Last Day of Term

Monday 23rd December 2024 – Friday 3rd January 2025 Christmas Holidays

January

First Day of Spring Term - Monday 6th January 2025

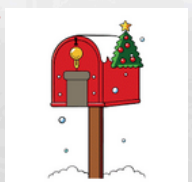
Monday 6th January 9:00-9:20am - Year 1 Parent Workshop

Thursday 16th January - 9:00-11:00am - Year R - Little Workshop in School

Friday 24th January - Year 2 Trip to Blue Reef Aquarium

There is a post box in the library where children can post their Christmas cards during the school day. The cards will then be delivered to the children by our elves. To help our post elves, please can you make sure that the envelope says the child's name AND class.

Last day for posting is Wednesday 18th December.



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 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 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, toppling 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.



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