

# BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 15

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we approach the festive season, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the successes we've experienced so far this academic year. The children have shown incredible growth and resilience, embracing new challenges with enthusiasm and determination. For a full recap on our recent Primary Phase Inspector visit, including insights into what this means for our school's continued progress, please refer to the detailed letter sent earlier this term.

We want to extend our gratitude for the thoughtful cards and gifts shared with our staff. As we step into the Christmas holidays, we encourage all families to take this opportunity for a restful break filled with joy. All the staff at Boorley wish you a very Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with health and happiness. We are looking forward to the adventures that lie ahead in the Spring Term.



## INSPIRING MINDS

On Monday our children thoroughly enjoyed the Christmas pantomime led by Open Box Theatre! The performance was not only entertaining but also engaging, with children laughing and participating enthusiastically throughout the show. The cast was genuinely impressed by the brilliance of the children's involvement, highlighting how wonderfully they engaged with the storyline and characters. It was fantastic to see all the children across the school included and enjoying the experience as they immersed themselves in the magic of the pantomime. A huge thank you to the funding raised by the PTA to enable this experience for the children.



# NURTURING FUTURES

A reminder that the date for the Promoting the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) workshop with Rosie, one of our SEND advisors, has been rearranged to **Thursday 23rd January at 9am**. 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.



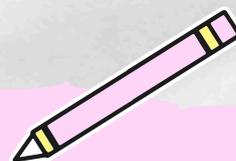
# STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

On Wednesday our whole school community came together for a fantastic Christmas Carol event held on the playground. The sense of togetherness and community spirit was truly uplifting, reminding us of the joy and warmth this season brings.

A special thank you goes out to Miss Ozanne and Mrs Gray for their coordination and leadership in organising this lovely event. Their hard work and dedication ensured that everyone could participate in the fun and celebrate the spirit of Christmas. We are also incredibly grateful to all the families who joined us in the singing – this made it a wonderful and memorable event for our whole school community. We look forward to more shared moments of joy in the new year!



[WWW.BOOKLEYPARKPRIMARY.ORG/](http://WWW.BOOKLEYPARKPRIMARY.ORG/)



# SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

As we dive into the festive season, many of your children might be unwrapping new devices like tablets, laptops, or gaming consoles! While these gifts can bring lots of joy and entertainment, it's important for your children to stay safe while using them. Remember to set up parental controls to help monitor what content is appropriate for your child. Teach your children to always stop and think before clicking on links or download apps, and teach them to never share personal information online. Make sure to have regular conversations with your children about online safety and the importance of being kind to others on the internet. Let's enjoy our new gadgets responsibly this Christmas, and make sure our online adventures are safe and fun!

## KEY DATES



### December

Friday 20th December - Last Day of Term

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

### January 2025

First Day of Spring Term - Monday 6th January

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

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

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

### February 2025

Tuesday 4th February 2:45-3pm Year 3 Parent Workshop - In the Hall

Wednesday 5th February 9:30-10:00am Year 2 - Fox Class - In the hall

Thursday 6th February 9:30-10:00am Year 2 - Hedgehog Class - In the Hall

Thursday 6th February 3:00-3:15pm Year 4 Parent Workshop - In the hall

Friday 7th February 3:00-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop - In the hall

Monday 10th February 3:30pm-7.00pm Parents Evening

Wednesday 12th February 3:30pm-5:30pm Parents Evening

Thursday 13th February Year 4 Trip to Winchester Cathedral

**Friday 14th February INSET day - School closed to all pupils**

**Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February Half Term**

Monday 24th February – First Day of Term

# 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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# STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!



Be suspicious of new information

SHOW RESPECT TO OTHERS

TELL A TRUSTED ADULT IF SOMETHING UPSETS YOU

DON'T CHAT WITH STRANGERS

BE HONEST WITH PARENTS & CARERS

TAKE BREAKS FROM BEING ONLINE

ASK PERMISSION before downloading anything

AVOID SHARING PRIVATE PHOTOS

Don't give away personal information

Stick to trusted apps

TAKE NOTICE OF AGE RESTRICTIONS

DOUBLE CHECK YOUR NEWS SOURCES

NOS National Online Safety® #WakeUpWednesday