



NEWSLETTER

15th December 2023

Kingswood Payment date:

A king reminder to parents who have signed their child/ren up for the year 6 Kingswood trip next year. **The deposit for this place is required by Wednesday 20th December.** If your child has return a sign up sheet, you will have the deposit payment available via the school gateway app.

Christmas Fayre:

It was so lovely to see our parents and children enjoying the Christmas Fayre on Thursday. All of our stalls received so much support and we had a record turnout! All our staff really enjoyed watching the children create their Enterprise items and we were delighted that the parents appreciated these! A big thank you to all who donated towards this, we are forever grateful for the help and support from our community.

Christmas Parties:

Next week we will host Christmas Parties for all our children. We ask the children attend the school day in their uniform and bring some party clothes with them to change into. **Football shirts and cropped tops are not permitted at school events, so please don't send these in as they will not be allowed to be worn.** If any children don't have clothes to change into or don't want to change, they will still have full access to the party in their uniform. The Christmas Party will take place within the school day and to reduce food-wastage and support families with costs over the festive period, we will provide party food and refreshments to enjoy. If you would like to send in a £1 donation this week, that would be lovely, but there is no cost for this.

The dates are:

EYFS: Thursday 21st December

KS1: Wednesday 20th December

Year 3&4: Tuesday 19th December

Year 5&6: Wednesday 20th December

EYFS children to attend in their party clothes all day.

Children's Mental Health Week

Next half term, Birley Spa Primary Academy will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters' - view the video below for more details.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=G1gvP09JLm0>

270th Scouts (Intake) Places Now Available

From January, places are available at 270th Scouts (Intake) for children of all genders aged 10+ years. The group meets on a Wednesday evening and is a fantastic way for young people make new friends, have amazing adventures, and learn new skills. Don't miss your child's spot! Contact local Scout Leader, James Fieldsend, for more information: 07967 902 870.





Birley Spa Primary Academy School's

Christmas Concert

EYFS:

*Wednesday 20th
December at 9:30am*

*Wednesday 20th
December at 1:30pm*

KS1:

*Tuesday 19th December
at 2:00pm*

*Wednesday 20th
December at 5:30pm*

*Thursday 21st December
at 9:15am*

KS2:

*Tuesday 19th December
at 9:15am*

*Thursday 21st
December at 2:00pm*

*Thursday 21st
December at 5:30pm*

Tickets are available for purchase through the Gateway app. If we have spaces left nearer the time, these will be offered to parents who have already purchased two tickets. A text will follow to confirm this.

Tickets will be available to collect from the school office on Monday 11th December.



Attendance

Parent feedback:

We asked our parents whose children have good attendance and are on time each day to share their tips for making sure their children access all their learning. Thank you so much to those parents who have shared their thoughts on this.

Arriving on time (school starts at 8:40am):

- ✓ Get everything ready the night before.
- ✓ Get up with plenty of time to reduce stress.
- ✓ Have a routine each morning, including timings for using the bathroom, getting dressed and eating breakfast.
- ✓ Have coats, gloves, shoes etc. easily accessible so that the child can get them themselves.
- ✓ Make packed lunches and refill water bottles the night before.
- ✓ If getting public transport, don't get the last possible bus.
- ✓ If driving, leave with plenty of time to park.
- ✓ If walking, avoid going elsewhere on the way, e.g. to the shops.
- ✓ Make it into a game, such as racing each other when arriving at school.

Ensuring good attendance:

- ✓ Give the child medicine such as Lemsip/Calpol then send them to school.
- ✓ Send them with lozenges such as Locketts, which they can access if needed at breaktime, to support with sore throats.

Parking:

Staff, parents and residents have of a number of concerns about parking outside school. Please accept this as a reminder to be considerate of where you park around the site. To the front of the main entrance, there are double yellow lines in specific areas. There should be no stopping or parking in any of these areas. Please show children good examples by following these rules in order to keep everyone safe.

Please remember that we are located in a residential area. It is an offence to wilfully obstruct the highway which can be enforced by police, but this will be used as a last resort. I appreciate that it can be very difficult to park near school, but parking unsafely is putting everyone's children at risk.

Please allow yourself extra time to park away from BSPA and walk a short distance with your child if necessary. Our carpark is not to be accessed by pedestrians or any drivers without prior permission. It is very noticeable that when parents see members of staff at the car park gates, they drive on or walk around. Entering the car park at these busy times puts everyone at risk so please park safely in the surrounding areas and walk through one of the pedestrian gates only.

Staying Safe Online!

Top 10 Tips to Stay Safe Online

1

Don't share your personal information



2

Only talk to people that you know



3

Don't meet up with anyone you have only met online



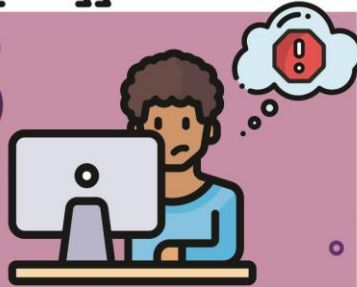
4

Only accept friend requests from people you know personally



5

Always think carefully about what you post



6

Make use of the privacy settings on all of your social media accounts



7

Remember that not everyone online is who they say they are



8

Report inappropriate content immediately



9

Only share images that you'd be comfortable with your friends and family seeing



10

Never share your passwords



Staying on new devices!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate accounts: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console, so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

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 writes regularly about internet safety issues.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Useful Link for Parents:

5. The Communication Trust and ICAN Talking Point

Talking Point helps parents who are concerned about their child's communication development. They also provide information and strategies to help with this at home.

<http://ican.org.uk>



6. Better Health Start for Life

Ideas to help children aged 0-5 years to develop speech and communication.

<https://www.nhs.uk/start4life/baby/learning-to-talk/1-to-2-years/#anchor-tabs>



4. South Yorkshire Talking Together

This is a website for parents and carers living in South Yorkshire to help develop vital communication skills in children.

<https://sy-talkingtogether.co.uk/>



3. Sheffield Parent Carer Forum

They are an independent group of parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Their main aim is to ensure the needs of our children are met. We bring together parent carers from across Sheffield to provide mutual support, exchange information, and influence policy and practice.

The SPCF have a dedicated Speech and Language groups for parents/carers which runs once every two months. There will be dedicated topics to discuss and support parents.

<http://sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk>



2. Sheffield Children's Speech and Language Therapy website

This is a website where you can find videos and information about developing your child's communication skills at home.

<https://www.sheffieldchildrens.nhs.uk/services/speech-and-language-therapy-new-homepage/communicating-kids/>



1. Sheffield Children's Speech and Language Therapy Patient Information Library.

This is a website where you can find information about activities, resources and therapy techniques to help your child's communication at home



STAR OF THE WEEK

11th – 15th December 2023

Class:		
A	Harlee – His kindness and Empathy and always seeing when someone needs help.	Ada – Her enthusiasm and Aspiration when singing our Christmas songs.
B	Marcie-Mae – Showing great Resilience using her Phonics knowledge in provision.	Ruby – Showing great Resilience using her Phonics knowledge in provision.
C	Isla – Being a positive Role model in class. Isla is always doing the right thing and shows Aspiration and Endeavour in all that she does towards her peers.	Hazel – Showing Creativity when dancing on the stage. Hazel has shown lots of confidence.
D	All of class D – For showing Resilience , Teamwork and patience when practicing their Christmas performances.	
E	Hattie – Being a super Role model for others. You show Endeavour and Aspiration in all your learning and display great learning.	Amelie – Showing Resilience and Endeavour in all your lessons this week and displaying super learning behaviours during carpet work.
F	Poppy – Teamwork . Working alongside others, encouraging, praising and leading them to be their best.	Lillie – Endeavour . She has thrown herself into enthusiastically signing and acting as a Role model.
G	Teegan – Endeavour and Resilience . Teegan has worked so hard this week to improve her handwriting, presentation and the quality of her writing.	Charlotte – Empathy and Tolerance . She has worked so hard this week to care for and support her classmates at all times.
H	Taylor – Aspiration . Taylor is always pushing herself and is always so kind and polite.	Elijah – Teamwork . Elijah is able to recognise and be supportive of his classmates strengths!
I	Leo - Showing Resilience and Teamwork while rehearsing for the Christmas performance.	Kavern- Showing Empathy and kindness towards his peers.
L	Harry – Working hard to improve your organisation and now getting into improved routines.	Daniel – Great Teamwork and reading of poetry lines for the key stage two Christmas concert..

Weekly Attendance

11th – 15th December 2023

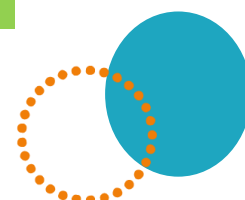
Whole School target: 96%



EYFS	A	87.5%
EYFS	B	91.7%
Y1/Y2	C	89.6%
Y1/Y2	D	91.4%
Y1/Y2	E	91.5%
Y3	F	95.0%
Y3	G	95.3%
Y4	H	88.3%
Y4	I	96.7%
Y5	J	92.1%
Y5	K	95.2%
Y6	L	92.2%
Y6	M	84.6%
Y3/Y6	N	91.1%
Whole School Attendance		91.4%

At Birley Spa Primary Academy we are committed to helping all pupils to achieve their full potential. Good attendance is a key factor in raising pupils' attainment and supporting their personal development. **In line with DfE and Local Authority policy, we do not authorise holidays taken in school time and we work with families to do everything they can to support their child to attend school every day.** Whilst it is appreciated that children are ill from time to time, please think carefully before allowing your child to be absent from school. The chart below provides an indication of how just a few days absence can significantly impact a child's overall attendance percentage and impede their learning:

Description	Attendance	Whole Days Lost	Lost Hours of Learning
Excellent	100 – 99%	0 – 2	0 – 10
Good	98 – 96%	4 – 7.5	20 – 37.5
Requires Improvement	95 – 91%	9.5 – 17	47.5 – 85
Persistent Absentee	90 – 86%	19 – 27	95 – 135
Critical	85 – 80%	28.5 – 38	142.5 – 190



Dates for the Diary

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Event:</u>
19 th December @ 9:15am	KS2 Christmas Performance
19 th December @ 2:00pm	KS1 Christmas Performance
19 th December	Year 3&4 Christmas Party
20 th December @ 9:30am	EYFS Christmas Performance
20 th December @ 1:30pm	EYFS Christmas Performance
20 th December	KS1: Christmas Party
20 th December	Y5&6: Christmas Party
20 th December @ 5:30pm	KS1 Christmas Performance
21 st December @ 9:15am	KS1 Christmas Performance
21 st December @ 2:00pm	KS2 Christmas Performance
21 st December @ 5:30pm	KS2 Christmas Performance
21 st December	EYFS: Christmas Party
22 nd December	Christmas Craft Afternoon
25 th December – 5 th January 2024 8 th January	Christmas Holidays INSET day – school closed
9th January 2024	School Reopens to children
12 th January 2023	Additional individual photo session
12 th – 16 th February 2024	Half term Holiday
19 th February 2024	School Reopens for children
19 th February 2024	Young Voices Trip for Year 5
29 th March – 12 th April 2024	Easter Holidays
15 th April 2024	School Reopens to children
6 th May 2024	Bank Holiday – School Closed
27 th May – 31 st May 2024 3 rd June	Half term Holiday INSET day – School closed
4 th June 2024	School Reopens for children
23 rd July 2024	Last day of the Academic Year
2 nd /3 rd September 2024	INSET Days – School closed