

*Caring, Sharing, Learning Together*

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

**On this day in history:**

**1431** King Henry VI of England crowned King of France (only English monarch to wear both crowns)

**1620** Mayflower Pilgrims come ashore in Plymouth Bay, traditionally thought to be at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts

**1950** Child star Shirley Temple announces her retirement from films aged 22



**Whole School Attendance  
Whole Autumn Term  
Attendance figures**

Reception = 77.0 %  
Year 1 = 87.0 %  
★ Year 2 = 87.5 % ★  
Year 3 = 79.0 %  
Year 4 = 89.2 %  
★ Year 5 = 92.3 % ★  
Year 6 = 76.9 %

**Congratulations**

Well Done Year 2 for the best attendance in Keystage 1 and Year 5 for the best attendance in Upper School across the whole Term.

## *Christmas Message*

A huge thank you to all members of our school community for getting through another challenging and successful year. Since returning in September, thanks to all the ongoing support of our families, staff, Governors and children we have been able to continue to move the school forward and provide our children with a whole host of activities and experiences they need and deserve. Here are just some of the things achieved this Term alone :

We have raised money for Children in need through our celebration days. We celebrated Anti bullying week and Odd Sock day as well as holding Non Curriculum days on both sites learning a range of skills from African Dance to African cooking and drumming. We raised additional charity funds by holding our annual Christmas Jumper Day We have had several weeks with our Year 5/6 children working with the Mental Health support team, over 50 additional hours of Dance lesson, over 50 hours of specialist Music Teaching across the whole school. Children across the whole school have enjoyed Forest School lessons and will continue to do so in the new year. Our Year 6 children really proved themselves when they went on this year's Residential visit.

We've had visitors from – Durham University and learnt about the Anglo Saxons, visits from the Police and Consett Fire Brigade Service, Durham Music service delighted Key stage 2 with a Music Concert, Richard Holden our local MP also visited this term.

Early Years have held 'Stay and Play' sessions with parents and carers, We've held a SEND coffee morning for parents, We have had numerous Nursery starter home visits. We've taken the children on 13 day visits from Consett Library and Beamish Museum to Hartlepool Marina and a Hindu Temple – to name just a few. We have participated in a range of sporting events from Rugby to athletics and competitions

And let's not forget the last 2 weeks, with 3 Christmas Parties, 1 Church Service, 1 nativity, 2 Christmas Coffee, Cake and crafts events for Key stage 1 Parents, 2 Donkeys came to visit Lower school and even Santa found time to drop in!

We also built and opened our new Sensory room in Year 1! All of this has been achieved through everyone's hard work, commitment and dedication on top of the 'regular' demands of the school day and week!

I remain immensely proud of the school community, its children and all its staff – and thank all of you again for seeing the potential in each other and our school. I wish you all a very well deserved Christmas break and...

*A Merry Christmas to Everyone.*

## **AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING CLASSES**

After school Tutoring at lower school will restart Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January

Upper School recommences on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January

## **Adam Davidson Dance Lessons**

Dance Lessons will restart in school on Lower school On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 and on Upper School Site on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January for years 3 and 5.

Next Half Term our after school Dance club will be for Years 5 and 6 starting on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> from 3.15 to 4pm – details will be shared on ClassDojo once the school reopens should you wish to book a place for your child.

## **Ongoing Music Service Lessons**

Music lessons will continue on Lower school Site for early Years classes and Year 1 on Monday afternoons. Years 3 and 5 will move from music skills lessons to start their instrument lessons on a Tuesday with Year 5 taking on the Clarinet and Year 3 the Ukulele!



## **Keystage 2 Forest Schools lessons**

A gentle reminder that Years 3 and 4 will be restarting Forest School Lessons in the new term - their first lesson is Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January through to the 13<sup>th</sup> February so children will need warm clothing, a waterproof coat, gloves and wellies. We have purchased a range of waterproof coats and trousers if you haven't already got them – so don't worry.



## **School Holiday Dates**

**The School closed for Christmas holiday today, Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December and will reopen on Wednesday January 4<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast clubs and Breakfast with a book**

**NHS**

## **Mop-Up Flu Clinics Coming to COUNTY DURHAM for PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN**

**Monday 19th December**

-Newton Hall Community Centre, DH1 5GU, 10:00am - 3:00pm

**Wednesday 21st December**

-The Louisa Centre, Stanley, DH9 0TE, 9:30am - 3:00pm

-Woodhouse Close Family Centre, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6QL  
9:30am - 2:30pm

**Thursday 22nd December**

Willington Family Centre, Crook, DL15 0EQ, 9:30am - 3:30pm

**All sessions are drop in and appointment:**

- **Book via email at: [hdft.sais@nhs.net](mailto:hdft.sais@nhs.net)**
- **Or telephone 0300 003 2554**

## **Author Visit to Keystage 2**

Upper school Children enjoy spending yesterday with Kylie Dixon, Author and Creator of The Magical World of Mushroom Marvellous. She emailed to say 'The children are an absolute credit and I hope they have all gone away feeling inspired. I have certainly enjoyed my visit today.'



# E-Safety Update / Information

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).

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### '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.

### 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.

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### 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 (Fortnite 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.

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### 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.



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