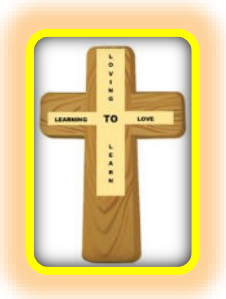
NEWSLETTER

20th December 2023



My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15: 12-13)

OUR CHRISTIAN THEME THIS HALF-TERM IS

TRUST

This week has only been 3 days long, but it has been packed full of fun for all the children!

On Monday 18th December 2023 the children in EYFS / KS1 (Red Squirrels & Hedgehogs classes) took part in a **"Santa Workshop"**. This was the exit point for our Autumn Term theme of Lives Near & Far.

The children had a very exciting, but messy, morning in the School Hall taking it in turns to complete different crafting activities!

Also, on Monday afternoon Otters class received their reward for **winning** the **Autumn Term Reading Challenge**. They all enjoyed watching the film My Neighbour Totoro along with popcorn & crips. Once again well-done Otters for all your efforts this term with your reading – Mrs Bishop is expecting you to keep up the excellent work in the Spring Term!

On Tuesday afternoon all the classes held their Christmas parties – by the noise around the school they all must have had a fantastic time.

Thank you to the Teachers & Teaching Assistants for organising games & prizes!

Today it was announced that YELLOW House were the Autumn Term point winners. As a reward all the members of YELLOW House received a cake to enjoy during breaktime – congratulation to you all!

This has been a very long term & all the children & staff are ready for a well-deserved rest! We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our families a very Happy Christmas & a Peaceful New Year!

The Spring Term for the 2023-2024 Academic Year starts on:
Thursday 4th January 2024

We look forward to welcoming all the children back in the New Year!

Today we have said Goodbye to Mr Fowles.

He is our current SCITT Student & as part of his training has been working in Otters class 3 days a week since September.

He might have only been with us for a short while, but he has made a very big impression on the children in Otters! We wish him all the very best as he moves on to continue his training at another school.

In the Spring Term 2024 we will be welcoming a new SCITT student into Otters class – details to follow in the New Year.

Gymnastics Badge

Congratulations to Sophie A & Emily from Foxes class who, last Thursday 14th December 2023, were both awarded their next Gymnastics Badges.

Emily received her Level 6 Badge & Sophie her Level 5 Badge.

Well done girls keep up the excellent work!

#LatchingdonLovingtoLearn

Book Worm Badge

A massive congratulations to Freddie in Badgers class who has become a Badger Book Worm. Freddie has read 10 books since the start of term and completed a book review for each one.

He has received a special Book Worm Badge.

To earn his next badge, he now has to read a further 12 books and again complete a book review for each one.

Well done Freddie!

#LatchingdonLovingtoLearn

School Council

The environment is very important to us here at Latchingdon C of E Primary School & we have, therefore, signed up to UK Waste Directs Christmas Card Recycling Scheme.

An indoor recycling bins has been delivered to the school this week & we would like all our families to recycle their Christmas cards after the holidays.

All cards need to be with us by Friday 26th January 2024 when UK Waste Direct will collect the bin.

Once back at their depot they will weigh the bin & let the school know how much we have saved from going into landfill & send us a Certificate!

We might be a small school, but we have very supportive parents/carers so come on Latchingdon let's get all your family involved & see how much we can collect!

Please send your Christmas cards into school between:

4th January 2024 to 26th January 2024

Thank you for your support!

Please send your Christmas cards into school between:

4th January 2024 to 26th January 2024

Letters sent home / info on website for w/e 20th December 2023

The following letters have been sent out and/or put on the school website (under Key Information/ Information Hub/ Letters Home).

- NONE

Headteacher Stickers

This week Mrs Kemp has given Headteacher Stickers to the following children:

Thea – Hedgehogs
Hugo – Red Squirrels
Teddy – Red Squirrels
Travis – Foxes
Logan – Otters
Reuben - Otters

Book Swap

We now have a rack of books in the school office foyer for our parents/carers to take a book to read and, if able, to replace with a book you have already read and no longer have need of.

Thank you for the donation of additional books!

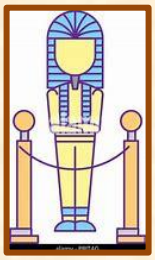
Happy reading!

MUSIC LESSONS

Mr Pritchard, our Music Teacher, holds music lessons on a Tuesday morning for children in Year 2 or above.

He currently has spaces so if you are interested in your child/ren learning to play the piano, keyboard or guitar then please contact him directly on:

steve.p.musicteacher@gmail.com



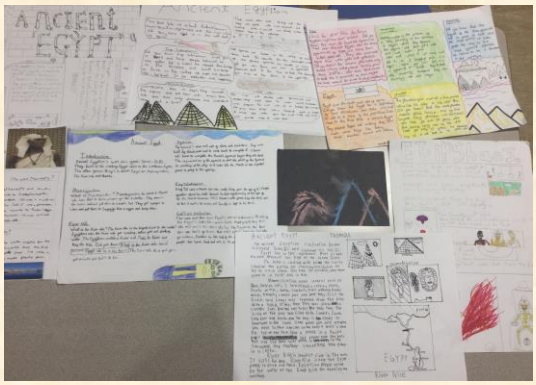
EGYPTIAN MUSEUM

Thank you to all the parents/carers that came to view the KS2 Egyptian Museum last Friday.

This was the exit point for our Autumn Term theme of Lives Near & Far.

We hope you agree with us that all the children in Foxes, Otters & Badgers have worked very hard during the Autumn Term & produced some fabulous artwork – well done to you all!

Thank you to all the staff & children who worked very quickly to ensure that the Museum displays were in their correct places ready to be viewed in time.



Primary (Reception) Admissions for Academic Year Starting September 2024

As you may be aware, the Primary School (Reception) admission round opened on 6th November 2023, for parents of children to apply for a Reception school place for the academic year that starts in September 2024.

The statutory national closing date for applications is 15 January 2024.

From 6th November 2023, applications can be made online via:

www.essex.gov.uk/admissions

99% of parents in Essex applied online last year. All of the application information is available on the website above.

The website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions also has a copy of the Primary Education in Essex 2024-25 booklet and the Schools Admissions Policies Directories contain details of all admission policies.

Latchingdon C of E Primary School would be pleased to show prospective parents around our school.

Please call the School Office on 01621 740328 to arrange a tour.

Helping Hands Box

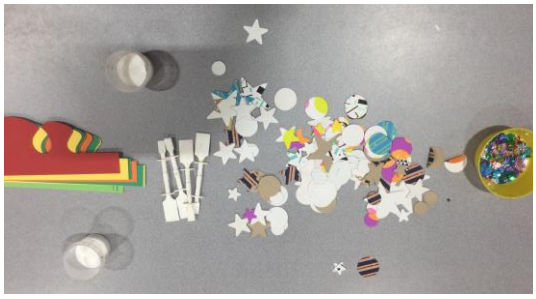
Life is continuing to be expensive, with prices still high everywhere.

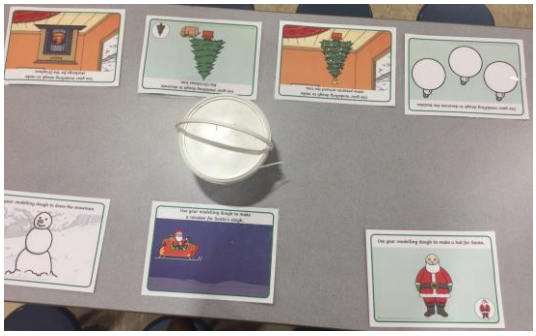
We all have days where we need some extra help and so we will continue stocking our "Helping Hands Box" which can be found in the school office foyer, with essential food items etc..

If you can donate the odd item great, if you need something then please feel free to come and take it.

We all need to look out for each other.

Santa's Workshop





The Winter Reading Challenge is back!

Join Lyra as she travels around the world, finding out about endangered animals. Children can choose six out of 12 challenges.

Once complete, they will be rewarded with a certificate and a prize (while stocks last).

Lyra has started her travels and will return on Saturday 3 February. Sign up to the winter reading challenge by visiting one of 74 libraries local libraries.

If any children take part please let us know as we love to share their success!

#LatchingdonLovingtoLearn

Latchingdon Pre-school

Breakfast Club

Between 8am and 8.35am
Cost £3.50 per day

Due to the lack of children using this facility Latchingdon Pre-school may have to stop offering this service to our children.

If you feel that a Breakfast Club would be useful for your child/ren then **please contact Nikki Wiseman, Manager on 07731107725** or ask the School Office for an application form.

Thank you for your support.

AUTUMN TERM READING CHALLENGE WINNERS

OTTERS CLASS

Enjoying their reward of watching the film My Neighbour Totoro with popcorn & crisps.

AUTUMN TERM House Team Winners

YELLOW

The winning House Team for the Autumn Term was announced during assembly this morning.

Congratulations to all the members of the YELLOW team.

They all received a cake to enjoy at breaktime.

Sofia – Red Squirrels
Tacey – Red Squirrels
Theo – Red Squirrels
Summer – Red Squirrels
Leila – Hedgehogs
Daisy – Hedgehogs
Ellie-Mae – Hedgehogs
Katara – Foxes
Bonnie – Foxes
Esme F – Foxes
Michael – Foxes
Emily – Foxes
Roman – Foxes
Travis – Foxes
Elijah – Otters
Oliver B – Otters
Judith – Otters
Ralph – Otters

Phebe – Otters
Tilly – Otters
Eddie – Badgers
Ella-Mae – Badgers
Bella-Rose – Badgers
Amelia – Badgers – Captain
Mrs Lottering
Mrs Tate
Mrs Harkett
Mrs Radmall

If you have any questions or ideas that you would like the members of the Parent Forum to discuss at any of their meetings, then please feel free to put a note in the box in the school office foyer.

Book Worm Badge

A massive congratulations to Zac in Badgers class who has become a Badger Book Worm. Zac has read 10 books since the start of term and completed a book review for each one.

He has received a special Book Worm Badge.

To earn his next badge, he now has to read a further 12 books and again complete a book review for each one.

Well done Zac!

#LatchingdonLovingtoLearn

Raiders & Invaders Day

5th January 2024

The KS2 children will be having a Raiders & Invaders Day on Friday 5th January 2024.

This is the entry point for our Spring Term theme of Conquerors & Heroes.

The children in Foxes, Otters & Badgers class are invited to come into school on this day dressed as Anglo-Saxons.

The same costume can also be worn on Friday 22nd March 2024 at our Anglo-Saxon afternoon which is the exit point for the Spring Term.

Math Workshop

EYFS Maths Workshop

10th January 2024 at 2.30pm

The parents/carers of the Reception children in Red Squirrels class are invited to an EYFS Maths Workshop being held by Mrs Deacon on **Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 2.30pm** in the School Hall.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide information on how maths is taught in our school as well as providing guidance & advice on how parents/carers can assist their child with maths at home.

We look forward to welcoming you.

AUTUMN TERM ATTENDANCE

Today the following children have been awarded a sticker for achieving 100% attendance for the Autumn Term – very well done to you all!

Yasmin – Red Squirrels
Adam – Red Squirrels
James – Hedgehogs
Ellie – Hedgehogs
Logan-Jack – Hedgehogs
Amber – Hedgehogs
Rowan – Hedgehogs
Amelia – Hedgehogs
Dolcie – Hedgehogs
Katara – Foxes
Dounya – Foxes
Abigail – Foxes
Oliver K – Otters
Ralph – Otters
Erin – Badgers
Holly – Badgers
Bella-Rose – Badgers
Zac - Badgers

High Class Sports Multi Sports Club Spring Term 2024

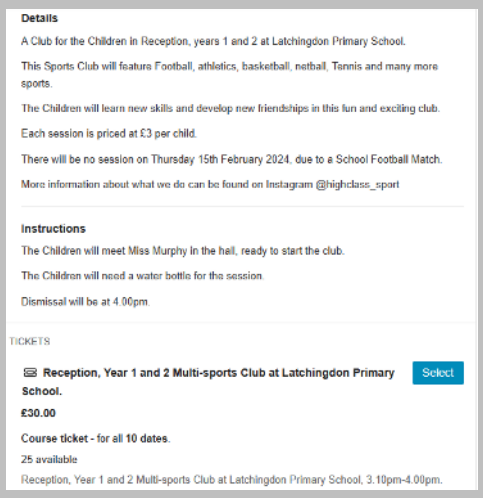
After the Christmas Holidays our Sports Coach Miss Murphy will be running a Multi Sports Club every Thursday from 3.10pm to 4.00pm.

This club will be for our EYFS/KS1 children (Red Squirrels & Hedgehogs) only.

The club commences on Thursday 11th January 2024.

Full details of how to book & prices can be found here:

www.bookwhen.com/highclasssport



Maths Challenge

Maths Problem of the Week

KS1 (EYFS – Year 2)

The Problem

Mr Drake needs 20 metres of ribbon.

Red ribbon costs £5 per metre.

Green ribbon costs £2 per metre.

He buys 12 metres of red ribbon.

The rest is green.

How much does he spend in total?

KS2 (Year 3 – Year 6)

The Problem

Here is a rule for generating a sequence.

> Multiply the previous term by 3 and subtract 4

The second term of the sequence is 5

Find the difference between the first and fourth terms of the sequence.

If you would like to solve your KS problem, please put your completed answer, labelled with your name and class, in the **'Maths Challenge' box in the main School Office Foyer by 8.40am on Friday 5th January 2024.**

A 'Maths Champion' of the week, will be announced in Celebration Assembly each week. Good luck!

Please see our website for full details of Dates to remember. Details of any events will be sent out nearer the time.

Please note that all events are for the children/staff only unless specified.

Academic Year 2023-2024

December 2023

21st Dec to 3rd Jan 24 - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
24th Dec – 5pm – Christ Church – Village Crib Service – letter 16/11/23 refers

January 2024

4th Jan – First day of Spring Term
5th Jan – KS2 (Foxes, Otters & Badgers) Anglo Saxon Day – KS2 children invited to come to school dressed as an Anglo Saxon – letters 16/10/23 & 14/12/23 refers
8th Jan – EYFS/KS1 (Red Squirrels & Hedgehogs) Mary Seacole Workshop
10th Jan – 2.30pm – EYFS Maths Workshop – Advert in Newsletter
23rd Jan – 8.45am – Parent Forum Meeting

February 2024

19th to 23rd Feb – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
26th Feb – NON-PUPIL DAY

March 2024

4th March to 8th March – BOOK WEEK
7th March – World Book Day – All children invited to come to school dressed as their favourite book character
12th March – 8.45am – Parent Forum Meeting
13th March – Young Carers Action Day
22nd March – KS2 (Foxes, Otters & Badgers) Anglo Saxon Feast & Games – KS2 children invited to come to school dressed as an Anglo Saxon –letters 16/10/23 & 14/12/23 refers
28th March – 2.30pm EYFS/KS1 (Red Squirrels/Hedgehogs) Conquerors & Heroes Museum – Parents invited – letter 16/10/23 refers
29th March to 12th April – EASTER HOLIDAY

April 2024

15th April – First day of Summer Term
17th April – EYFS/KS1 (Red Squirrels & Hedgehogs) Seaside Experience Day
26th April – KS2 (Foxes, Otters & Badgers) Trip Colchester Zoo – Details to follow
30th April – 8.45am – Parent Forum Meeting

May 2024

6th May – BANK HOLIDAY
27th May to 31st May – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

June 2024

13th June – Dengie Sports Training Day – Details to follow
18th June – 8.45am – Parent Forum Meeting
24th June to 28th June – CONTINENTS WEEK
24th June – Year 6 Transition Day – Ormiston Rivers Academy
25th June – 3.30pm to 6pm – Parents Evening – Parents invited details to follow
27th June – Dengie Sports Day – Parents invited details to follow
27th June – 3.30pm to 6pm – Parents Evening – Parents invited details to follow

July 2024

3rd July – EYFS/KS1 (Red Squirrels & Hedgehogs) Trip to Southend – Details to follow
4th July – 12.30pm – Sports Day – Parents invited details to follow
11th July – 12.30pm – Reserve Sports Day – Parents invited details to follow
12th July – 2.30pm - KS2 (Foxes, Otters & Badgers) Animal Art Gallery – Parents invited – letter 16/10/23 refers
19th July – Last day of Academic Year 2023-2024
22nd & 23rd July – NON-PUPIL DAYS
24th July to 30th August – SUMMER HOLIDAY

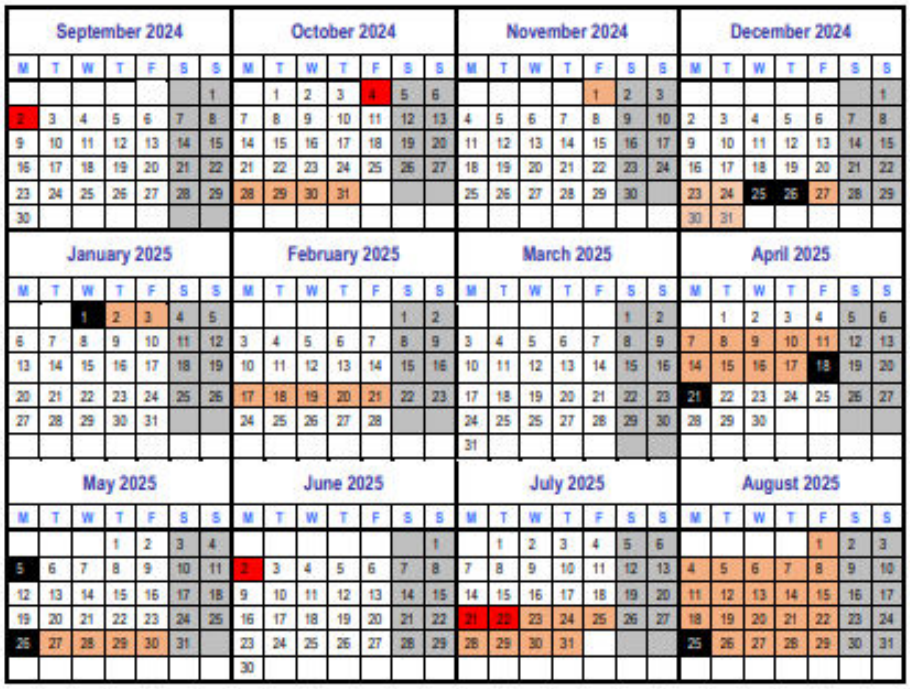
Academic Year 2024-2025

2nd Sept 24- NON-PUPIL DAY
3rd Sept 24 – First day Autumn Term
4th Oct 24 – NON-PUPIL DAY
28th Oct to 1st Nov 24 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
23rd Dec 24 to 3rd Jan 25 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
6th Jan 25 – First day Spring Term
17th Feb to 21st Feb 25 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
7th April to 21st April 25 – EASTER HOLIDAY
22nd April 25 – First day Summer Term
5th May 25 – BANK HOLIDAY
26th May to 30th May 25 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
2nd June 25 – NON-PUPIL DAY
21st & 22nd July 25 – NON-PUPIL DAYS
23rd July 25 – SUMMER HOLIDAY

The School Governors have now approved the non-pupil days for the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

Latchingdon C of E Primary School

School Term Dates - Academic Year 2024-2025



= Schooldays = School holidays = Bank holidays

= Weekends = Non-pupil days

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 2 September 2024 – Friday 20 December 2024 *Half Term 28 October – 1 November*	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 6 January 2025 – Friday 4 April 2025 *Half Term 17 February - 21 February*	60 days
Summer Term:	Tuesday 22 April 2025 – Tuesday 22 July 2025 *Half Term 26 May – 30 May, and May Bank Holiday - 5 May*	60 days
		195 days

Please note:
The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies.
You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.

Well done Latchingdon C of E Primary for all your support!

THANK YOU

LATCHINGDON SCHOOL

YOUR POPPY SUPPORTS THE ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY PAST AND PRESENT

Thank you for supporting The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised:

£ 274.35

To find out more about how your donation helps, visit **rbl.org.uk**

Registered charity number: 219279

SAFERESSEX roads partnership

KNOW YOUR E-BIKES

Did you know?

Only some e-bikes are road legal

The official term for a legal e-bike is an EAPC (Electrically Assisted Pedal Cycle).

What makes a legal e-bike?

- A maximum continuous power output of no more than 250 Watts.
- A motor that may only provide assistance while the rider is pedalling.
- The motor may not provide assistance over 15.5mph.
- Must be fitted with a plate showing manufacturer, maximum speed and maximum continuous power output.
- May only be ridden by persons aged 14 years and over.

The safety advice for traditional bicycles also applies to EAPCs, this means riding in a position that helps drivers see you, wearing a helmet and using lights and reflectors in low light conditions.

Don't block your exit when charging e-bike batteries. Store them in a shed or garage where possible. Keep an eye out for warning signs that your battery might be failing and becoming a fire risk.

An unsafe, illegal e-bike

Non-road-legal e-bikes often have power outputs of 500-1,000 watts, propelling riders to maximum speeds in the range of 25-45mph, without pedalling. These include imported complete bikes and kits for converting standard bikes.

While they may look like normal bicycles, these are classed as electric mopeds. However, these bikes are not constructed to a standard where they could obtain MOT or insurance, so it is not possible to make them road legal.

Know your e-facts

Non-road-legal e-bikes pose additional risks:

- Capable of speeds in excess of those attained by standard pedal cycles.
- These speeds are normally only experienced on two wheels by motorcyclists, who wear full crash helmets and (should) also wear protective gloves, boots, trousers and jackets.
- Handling, grip and braking of the bike is inadequate to cope with the power of the motor.

VISION ZERO

www.saferessexroads.org

SAFERESSEX roads partnership

KNOW YOUR E-SCOOTERS

Did you know?

It is illegal to ride a private e-scooter on a public road or pavement

What is an e-scooter?

Electrically powered scooters are classed as a mechanically propelled vehicle, which means the same rules apply to e-scooters as other motor vehicles. These rules also apply to other personal electric transporters, with the exception of mobility scooters. Electric scooters are treated the same as any other motorised vehicle, this means they must have MOT, Vehicle Excise Duty ("tax") and insurance.

Know your e-facts

In order to obtain an MOT and insurance to be used legally in public, an e-scooter must be approved by the Vehicle Certification Agency for its construction and use for transport on the public highway. No such approval exists for privately owned e-scooters.

If you are using a private e-scooter on public roads, or footways, the police can seize it and you could be liable for prosecution for traffic offences, and even receive points on your licence.

Risks include:

- Lack of maintenance affecting braking and tyre performance.
- Charging of devices in the home introduces fire risk, especially if batteries have became damaged or wet.
- Scooters can easily over balance on bumps or holes due to their small wheels.
- Handling can be unpredictable, especially when reacting to hazards.
- There can be a temptation to ride while intoxicated or distracted.

How to ride legally

A number of rental schemes have been set up in towns and cities in the UK, including Basildon, Chelmsford, Braintree and Colchester in Essex. These schemes allow people to use rented e-scooters legally.

To use these schemes, you must:
- Be aged 18 or over.
- Hold a UK driving licence.
- Only ride on roads and cycle-paths within the hire scheme areas, pavement riding is not permitted.
- Not carry passengers or allow others to use a scooter you have hired.

Wearing a helmet is highly recommended, and riders have the same responsibility to obey traffic laws as anyone driving a car.

E-scooters are motor vehicles, so must not be used by children.

VISION ZERO

www.saferessexroads.org

SAFERESSEX roads partnership

CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

F	L	E	H	O	S	L	A	N	C
S	R	R	C	G	N	I	N	A	O
A	F	E	O	K	O	G	W	S	L
M	U	P	N	B	W	J	S	P	O
T	C	A	R	D	B	O	A	R	D
S	N	P	D	R	A	C	N	O	Y
I	E	P	N	D	L	N	T	U	R
R	E	C	Y	C	L	E	A	T	R
H	M	H	Z	A	B	E	B	B	E
C	B	T	O	R	R	A	C	E	M

See if you can find the ten words below. Words can be forwards, backwards and diagonal. Good luck!

Recycle
Snowball
Christmas
Cardboard
Carrot
Merry
Sprout
Santa
Elf
Paper

OH NO!

Paul the Recycling elf has fallen into the bin whilst he was taking his cardboard boxes out!

Can you help his friend Graham work his way through the maze to rescue him?

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 nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.

The National College

National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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