

FORT ROYAL FLYER

Newsletter 13/12/2024

Message from Mr Francis

At the end of November Cllr Chambers, who is the WCC cabinet member for education, visited the school. He was extremely impressed and now has a better understanding of the needs of our children and also those who we cannot now accommodate.

It was great to see so many parents at the KS2 Christmas fayres. I think this was the best turn out we have seen, and classes raised a lot of money. I am looking forward to seeing parents of pupils in KS1 at church on Thursday next week for our nativity service, this always starts the festive season for me.

Yesterday we held the first showing of the KS1 interactive Christmas performance and we cant wait to see the rest of the Parents for the second showing Monday!

We are also expecting a visit from Santa and his reindeer on Monday, which the friends have organized for the children.

We had to close the reception mobile classrooms for two days last week because of a leaking roof, but that has now been fixed. Many thanks to reception parents for your understanding and patience. We were mostly unscathed by storm Darragh, however, two of our neighbour's trees have come down over the fence into our orchard area behind KS2 classrooms.

We have had to close that area while we await the tree specialists, who are all very busy at the moment. I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas holiday; the children return to school on Tuesday 7th of January 2025.



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Christmas Fayre



Winner!!



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Dates for your Diary

- ★ 16th December – Classes 8,9,10,11 and 12 Interactive Christmas performance
- ★ 18th December – Christmas Dinner day – Party Clothes/ Christmas Jumper optional
- ★ 19th December – KS1 Christmas church service



Click here to go
to our School
Calendar



Christmas Jokes!



**What do Elves
learn at school?**

The Elf-abet!

**What is Red & White
Red & White
Red & White?**

Santa Claus rolling down a hill!

**What do you call a
snowman in the
summer?**

A puddle!



Other information

We have attached a sheet of Christmas Communication images, if you would like to print and laminate them for your personal use.



Last day of term: 20th Dec

First day back: 7th Jan 2025

Policy updates

Please click here to see the most recent changes to our policies.

RELATIONSHIPS, SEX AND HEALTH EDUCATION POLICY

CLICK HERE



ATTENDANCE POLICY

CLICK HERE



Click here to go
to our Insta page!



Attendance

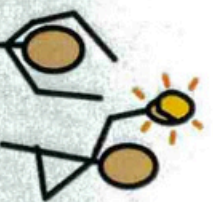
Attendance Matters!

Our Target attendance is 94%

Last week our attendance was:
87 %



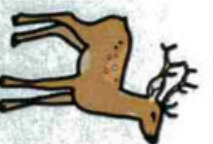
I



want



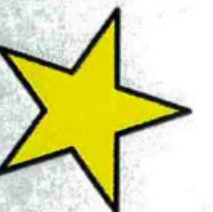
santa



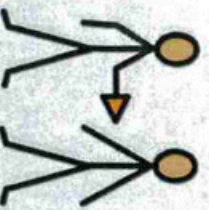
reindeer



snowman



star



you



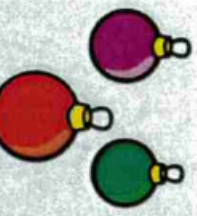
stop



jingle bells



elves



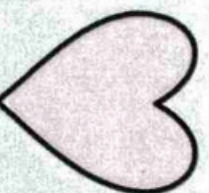
baubles



jesus



good



like



gingerbread man



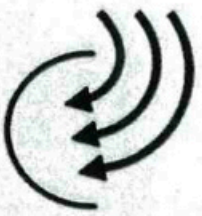
christmas tree



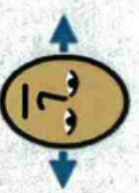
tinsel



lights



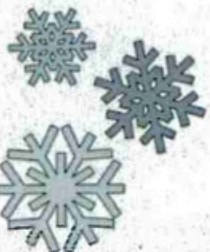
more



no



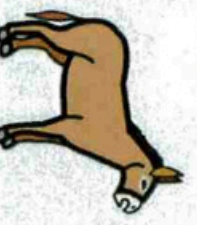
gingerbread house



snowflakes



angel



donkey

FORT ROYAL FLYER

Fort Royal Family Support Worker

Christmas tips for SEND families!

- ✓ **Put presents in one big box** and let your child open them at their own pace over the following days
- ✓ **Avoid surprises** by picking gifts from their list and wrapping them in clear cellophane (or not at all)
- ✓ **Add batteries** to toys before wrapping
- ✓ **No food rules.** Who says pizza and pot noodles can't be Christmas dinner?
- ✓ **You do you!** Don't feel guilty telling friends or relatives if something doesn't work for you
- ✓ **Don't put unrealistic pressures on yourself.** The holidays can be overwhelming for everyone, so stick to your regular routine if you want to

contact for families with disabled children

Helpful links for parents

WCC

Reception to Secondary

CLICK HERE



Early help offer

CLICK HERE



WCC

Virtual Family Hub

CLICK HERE



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

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Christmas Raffle

Thanks to everyone who donated prizes and bought tickets for this year's Christmas raffle. We sold a record amount of tickets and raised a whopping **£799** in total. We hope everyone is enjoying their prizes.

Reindeer

Santa's reindeer will once again be visiting the children at school on Monday 16th December, thanks to funds from the PTA. Children from each class will have the chance to get up close to Santa's reindeer and if they are lucky, might even receive a visit from the big man himself. This will take place during class time with their teachers.

We want your ideas!

Please come along to our virtual meeting on 22nd January at 7pm (link will be posted in the facebook group). We'd love for more people to be involved with the PTA. We need your ideas, connections and network to help us pull off events throughout the year.

Donations

We have a permanent donation box in the school reception now and are always looking for donations of Tombola and raffle prizes, as well as teddies in great condition which can be used throughout the year. If you are having a pre or post Christmas clearout, please remember us and drop things off in the box.

Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to help with the refreshment at the Church service on Thursday 19th December. 1pm-2:30pm This is for parents of Key stage 1 classes 4 through 12 only but anyone can volunteer get a sneak peak. Please reach out if you are able to help.

Happy Christmas everyone!



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EYFS

Class 2

During our topic of 'Colour' the children have enjoyed sharing the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' and have taken part in mark making activities and creating collages using tools linked to the animals in the story. In communication and language, they have been responding to their name during activities and single words when finding the correct animals from the story. In expressive arts they have enjoyed exploring colour using paint. In Maths, the children have explored big and small animals exploring differences in size.



FORT ROYAL FLYER



KS1

Class 5



We have continued our learning about celebrations over the last few weeks. We have loved exploring wet and dry sensory play such as exploring jelly Christmas trees and mark making in dry biscuit crumb. As part of Expressive Art within Topic, we have been exploring instruments and the sounds they make. We have also been making vocalisations and singing linked to our Christmas nativity songs.

In Literacy we have been reading the story 'Stick Man', particularly enjoying turning the pages and listening to the sounds on the interactive whiteboard. We have been exploring making lists and mark making linked to the story using sticks and other mark making tools.

In Maths we have been exploring measure, using balance scales to explore heavy and light.

During PSHECC we have been learning to communicate and express ourselves using ICT. We have been using Grid on the iPads and interactive whiteboard to make choices and show the adults how we are feeling.

In PE we have continued to explore dance and expressing ourselves with the way we move. We have been using fabrics within our dance.



FORT ROYAL FLYER


LKS2

Class 14

In Class 14 we have been preparing for Christmas, during December the children have enjoyed exploring our Interactive Whiteboard advent calendar each day and finding out which pupil has received a chocolate from our father Christmas advent calendar.

They have been excited to make items for the KS2 Christmas Fayre, we made Christmas decorations, created a game of Snowman skittles, where prizes were given and made delicious Christmas treat bags.



FORT ROYAL FLYER

UKS2



Class 22



We have been having a great time with musical instruments playing inside the class and outside in our outdoor learning session.

As well as our usual music sessions with Nicola we have been playing along to sea shanties and pirate songs arrggh!

We have been recognising instruments, turn taking with a friend and following a graphic score to play loud, quiet, fast and slow (we are very good at loud)!

Next, we are going to have a go at making our own instruments.

