



Newsletter - 16th December 2022



**Newland
St John's**

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

*Living Together,
Learning Together
and Shining Together
in the Love of God.*



From the team at Newland St John's

What is coming up ...

- Friday 16th December - School closes for Christmas at 3:15pm
- Tuesday 3rd January - School closed to pupils for staff training day.
- Wednesday 4th January - School re-opens to pupils.
- Thursday 12th January (5pm) - Year 6 SATs meeting for parents
- Friday 6th January - Spring term curriculum posters sent home
- Friday 10th February - school closes to pupils - half-term starts

Spring Term Curriculum

As we enter the spring term, we will be sending home your child's curriculum overview. This will show you what they will be learning in each subject area during the term. We will also send some knowledge organisers with important facts and words for you to help your child learn - we hope they are useful to you. Our children love learning new things and the spring term projects are certain to excite them.



Help for Families

The cost of living crisis is having an impact on all families in our community. We would like to signpost some sources of support that may help.



Food Banks:

[Hull Foodbank](#) [Food Bank - Hull Vineyard Church](#)

To Apply for Free School Meals click here: [My School Portal - Sign in](#)

Warm Spaces: Find a local warm space this winter: www.warmspaces.org

Winter Weather - Staying Safe

Please speak to your child about staying safe during cold weather. It's especially important that they know to be safe around water at this time of year.

Here is some guidance for parents/carers that may help:

[Winter Water Safety | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](#)

Christmas Music Concert

Our talented musicians made us so proud at the Christmas concert. If you were able to attend, we hope you enjoyed listening to the music. Over £100 was raised through ticket sales. This will pay for all of our children to take part in a music workshop in 2023 - thank you for your support.



Communication



From Friday 24th February 2023 we will be using email to communicate important information with you. This means you will no longer receive text messages from this date. Please make sure the school admin team have your up to date email address so you don't miss out on anything.

Compost Donations

In preparation for our gardening club starting in the spring of 2023, we are asking for any donations of compost for our new raised vegetable bed.

Anything you have left over or can spare would be appreciated - even half a bag or any home-made

compost - it will all add up. Please drop this off at the front entrance of school. If you can arrange a larger amount of compost, please let us know.



Safeguarding

This is our safeguarding team:

Our Safeguarding & Child Protection Leader is **Mr Neil Kenningham**. Our Deputy Safeguarding & Child Protection Leaders are **Mrs Brett, Mrs Williams and Miss Briggs**.

What to do if you have a concern about a child: During School Hours:

- Contact the school and speak to either Mr Kenningham or another member of the safeguarding team, via the main office on 01482 305740.
- Contact the Access and Assessment team for Hull on 01482 448879

Out of school hours and during school holidays:

- If your concern is urgent and there is an immediate risk of harm, then contact the police via 999

If your concern is less urgent but you are worried about the welfare of the child then contact Children's Social Care, Access and assessment team on 01482 448879 (Weekdays 8.30am-5pm) or the Immediate Help Team on 01482 300304 (After 5pm and weekends).



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.

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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.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

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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A Prayer for Christmas

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus. We praise You for His birth and the hope that He brings to our lives. As we celebrate His birth, help us to also remember Your great love for us. Let this Christmas season, be a reminder of all He has done. In Jesus' name, Amen.

A dark blue night sky with a large, bright white star in the upper right corner. A beam of light from the star illuminates a silhouette of a stable or manger. Inside the manger, the Virgin Mary is kneeling, and the infant Jesus is lying in a manger. To the left, a donkey and a cow are visible. In the background, there are silhouettes of mountains and a few more stars. The text 'Merry Christmas' is written in a large, white, cursive font with a blue outline, positioned in the lower half of the image.

Merry
Christmas

Contact us:

01482 305740 or hello@nsj.hslt.academy