



"Participate, excel, take pride!"

Newsletter and Diary Dates January 2023

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to the new school term; I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. It was lovely to see all our children return refreshed and ready for another busy term ahead.

Goodbye Miss Reed - At the end of last term, we sadly had to say goodbye to Miss Reed who had been volunteering with us for some time. We are delighted that she has got a job as a Teaching Assistant at Ashby School and we wish her the very best of luck.

Hello Miss Macfarlane - This term we welcome Miss Macfarlane, who is a trainee teacher, and she will be working in Swans class. I am sure everyone in Swans will make her feel very welcome.

PE Uniform Policy

A reminder of our school policy for PE:
All children should wear

- T-shirt in colour of house team (red/yellow/green/blue)
- Navy/black PE shorts or navy/black tracksuit bottoms
- Appropriate plimsolls/trainers
- Sweatshirt if required
- Gym bag to keep PE kit in

We noticed last term that there were a small number of children who were not dressed in appropriate uniform for PE. In particular, tracksuit bottoms should be navy or black, and sweatshirts should be largely plain without large logos etc.

If there is a problem with getting the right clothing, then please do get in touch with us and we shall see if we can help in any way.

Thank you for your support with this.

Celebration Assembly

Alternating with VIP Assemblies on Friday afternoons, we are starting Celebration Assemblies. This is an opportunity for our children to share their successes out of school. For instance, they might like to share a certificate they achieved in swimming, a medal in dance or a new belt in karate – any out of school achievement that they are willing to present to the school, so we can all celebrate together.

Children should let Mr Jewitt know a few days beforehand if they would like to share something – we shall make sure that the children get regular reminders in school.

Our Celebration Assembly dates this term are:

27th January 10th February
3rd March 17th March

Parents of children presenting their achievements are welcome to attend, 2:45pm start.

Consultation on Changing the School Timetable

Thank you to all the parents who responded to our consultation on proposals to change the school day timings. We had an extremely impressive 81 responses!

The most popular option was option 3, which was keeping the morning time the same, but extending the end of the day by 15-20 minutes. Here is how it would work:

School to open 8:45-9:00 (registration at 9am)
School to close 3:30 for Swans / 3:35 for Herons & Kingfishers

Our next step is to look further at the impact of this option, for instance on staffing and costs, and then the governing board will make a final decision.

In order to give parents enough notice, any changes will begin next academic year.

Academy Conversion Update

Just a quick update on our application to join the Rise Multi-Academy Trust. This has been approved by all relevant bodies, and we are targeting a conversion date of 1st March 2023.

There is still some work to complete to ensure that we meet this deadline, and we shall of course let you know once it is confirmed.



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Diary Dates

Please find below diary dates that we currently have for the spring term:

JANUARY			
Friday 13th	Young Voices at Resorts World Arena, Birmingham	all day til late	Years 3-6
Monday 16th	Reception/Year 6 heights and weights check	am	Years R & 6
Friday 20th	VIP assembly – all parents welcome!	2:45 start	Whole school
Saturday 21st	NWL cross country races at Hugglescote Primary School	10am start	Years R-6
Friday 27th	Celebration assembly	2:45 start	Whole school
Saturday 28th	Unity cross country races at Woodstone Primary School	10:30am start	Years R-6
FEBRUARY			
Friday 3rd	VIP assembly – all parents welcome!	2:45 start	Whole school
w/b 6th Feb.	Children’s Mental Health Week		
Wednesday 8th	‘Wombles’ litter-picking assembly for pupils	am	Whole school
Friday 10th	Celebration assembly	2:45 start	Whole school
Saturday 11th	NWL cross country races at Measham CE Primary School	10am start	Years R-6
w/b 13th Feb.	Community litter picking week	all week	Years R-6
Tuesday 14th	Internet Safety Day		Years R-6
Wednesday 15th & Friday 17th	Gareth Baker (Patron of reading) – reading workshops. Gareth will be selling signed copies of his books after school.	am	Years R-6
w/b 27th Feb.	Fairtrade Fortnight		
MARCH			
Wednesday 1st	Whole school forest school day – all children will need to come to school in their forest school clothing	all day	Years R-6
Thursday 2nd	World Book Day – children may dress up as a character from their favourite book, and bring the book into school to share	all day	Years R-6
Friday 3rd	Celebration assembly	2:45 start	Whole school
Tuesday 7th	Parents’ Evening	3:30-5:30	
Thursday 9th	Parents’ Evening	3:30-7:00	
Friday 10th	VIP assembly – all parents welcome!	2:45 start	Whole school
w/b 13th March	British Science Week		
Monday 13th	Cricket taster day for all year groups – all children will need their PE kit on this day	all day	Years R-6
Friday 17th	Red Nose day – fundraising activities to be decided!		
	Celebration assembly	2:45 start	Whole school
Saturday 18th	Unity cross country races at Snarestone Primary School – as we are hosting this event, it would be amazing to see as many of our pupils as possible take part!	10:30am start	Years R-6
Friday 24th	VIP assembly – all parents welcome!	2:45 start	Whole school
Tuesday 27th	Herons’ performance of Jack and the Beanstalk to parents	2pm	Year 3/4
	Herons’ performance of Jack and the Beanstalk to parents	6pm	Year 3/4
Thursday 30th	Easter Service at St. Bartholomew’s Church – all are welcome to attend!	10am start	Whole school
Friday 31st	Easter egg and bunny hunt around school! END OF TERM	all day	Years R-6
APRIL			
Monday 17th	First day of term		

There will also be a number of sports competitions and events taking place throughout the term. Miss Cunningham will send information about these separately.

Thinking ahead to the summer term, a reminder that Monday 8th May has been designated as a Bank Holiday for the King’s Coronation.



Just in case Santa delivered any new devices for Christmas, this month's guide is about setting these up safely!

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 account: 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.



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#WakeUpWednesday



Term Dates 2023-24

Autumn Term

Teacher Days	Thursday 24 th August / Friday 25 th August 2023
August Bank Holiday	Monday 28 th August 2023
School Opens to Pupils	Tuesday 29 th August 2023
Mid-Term Break	Monday 16 th to Friday 20 th October 2023
Schools Close	Friday 22 nd December 2023

Spring Term

New Year Bank Holiday	Monday 1 st January 2024
Teacher Day	Monday 8 th January 2024
School Opens to Pupils	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
Mid-Term Break	Monday 19 th to Friday 23 rd February 2024
Schools Close	Friday 22 nd March 2024

Summer Term

School Opens	Monday 8 th April 2024
May Day	Monday 6 th May 2024
Mid-Term Break	Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st May 2024
Schools Close	Wednesday 10 th July 2024

