



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Friday 21st November

Dear Parents,

Right of the Fortnight

Our Rights Respecting reference this week is **Article 14** of the UNCRC which reminds us that **'Children have the right to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping others from enjoying their rights too.'** I know that with all that we have planned ahead, our children will definitely enjoy themselves doing so.

Well, Christmas preparations are definitely starting and I'm sure that you will see from the calendar dates and the Christmas Information leaflet that it's a hectic run up over the next few weeks. Please keep a close eye on our app and website and newsletters to make sure you are fully up to date with events.

Rights Respecting Gold Award

I am delighted to say that we continue to be a Gold Rights Respecting school. We recently had our re-accreditation visit and we were commended on our continued contribution and commitment to RRSA and that we sustain our rights-based practice in school and the positive impact rights are having on our children. I want to thank Miss Daglish, who is our Rights Respecting lead, for leading us so well, not only through the re-accreditation but across the whole year. I also want to thank all the staff and the children. As the assessor said, we are very committed to our rights work and it is embedded in every aspect of school life. I have added our new logo to the top of this newsletter.



This continues to be very successful year for us here at school. At the end of the summer term, we were re-accredited with our International Schools Award and the and we awarded Gold for the School Games. Again, this shows our commitment to the work we do in these areas that we feel are important for our children. Thank you to Mr Hornsby and Mr Blood for leading the school in these areas and again, a big thank you to all staff and the children as well.

Scamps bookings and cancellations

Scamps wraparound care is very popular and is run by our teaching assistants in school. Grown-ups book children onto Scamps through the Compass app. On our old system, adults were unable to cancel bookings themselves and had to contact school if they wanted to do this. This had to be done by a certain time or you would still be charged. This is because we need to know in advance because we have to ensure supervision and adult: child ratios are correct. At the moment, you are able to cancel your child's place as this function has not yet been disabled on the Compass app. We kindly ask that you don't do this and that you go back to contacting school if you want to cancel your child's place. **Unfortunately, if you do not follow this guidance and continue to cancel your child's place yourself, then you will still be charged.** We base our ratios on the numbers booked the day before

the session, so we still have to pay for the adult supervision. We are working with the development team at Compass to try and get this function switched off as soon as possible. Thank you for your support with this.

Contacting class teachers

On the last email I did say that we no longer have class emails but we have made the decision to go back to using them as it is difficult for staff to respond through Compass and some grown-ups now have access to staff's email which is not the right way to contact teachers. Our new class emails are

Online Safety

Keeping our children safe online is of the utmost importance for all of us. It can be really difficult to monitor what our children 'go on' on their devices, even when we've added parental controls. We educate the children about how to be safe online and they know exactly the right thing to say but they don't always follow this guidance as they don't think anything will happen to them. We are becoming increasingly concerned that children are accessing social media or playing computer games that aren't age appropriate. Some children are doing this either early in the morning or very late at

night. Age ratings and restrictions are there for a reason and it is important that we keep our children safe and away from harmful content. There is also lots of medical research about the affects of using devices on our well being.

"Wake Up Wednesdays" provides schools, parents and carers with the tools to better understand the digital world and to advocate for online safety for children and young people as well as mental health, wellbeing and climate change, to help keep you better informed.



We will be sharing with you some helpful "Wake Up Wednesdays" posters and factsheets. These relevant and expertly written resources will be attached to the fortnightly newsletters and shared through our Facebook page.

Christmas Performance (Year 1 - Year 6) - 'Santa's on strike'- tickets on sale Tuesday 25th November

We hope to see you all at one of the four Christmas performances. **Dates and times are - Tuesday 9th Dec - 2 pm and 5.30pm and Wednesday 10th - 9.15am and 5.30pm.** Please remember that to try to give everyone an opportunity to get tickets for one of the evening performances, on the first day of sale, evening performance tickets will be limited to 2 per family. Tickets are £2.00 each and will be available in the main hall from **8.45am Tuesday 25th November**. You can also send in your ticket request with your child, in a named envelope, and tickets will be supplied. For those parents who are new to school please note, evening tickets sell quickly, so please ensure you get them on the first day of sale if you are restricted to evening performances. Remaining tickets are on sale without restriction from Wednesday morning. We are strictly limited to numbers in the hall for safety reasons, which I am sure you will fully understand.

It is also a good time to remind everyone that in order to be able to present the evening performances at their best, it is important that **all** children return to school to take their part in the show with their classmates - both nights please! We do realise that this may mean some children miss their regular out of school clubs, but it is only twice a year that we do these performances to give all parents the chance to enjoy the production, so your support is important. We do support children when they are performing at out of school club events. Please speak to your child's teacher or myself if this causes you any difficulties. Thank you.

EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Nativity - 'The Nativity' - Tickets on sale Tuesday 2nd December.

Our very youngest children are looking forward to performing their retelling of the first Christmas. Tickets will be on sale from **8:30am on Tuesday 2nd December** from the school office for £2.00 each. Tickets are limited to 2 per child in the first instance. **Performances will be 9:15am and 2:15pm on Thursday 11th December.**

To enable children to be prepared for their role, we ask that Nursery children arrive promptly at their usual start time and that all Reception children are in school at 8:45am. Thank you.

Ferryhill Christmas Fayre and Light Switch on - Friday 28th November

Ferryhill Town Council are once again holding their Christmas Fayre and Light Switch on next week. This year, we will be meeting outside the Town Hall gardens no later than 4.10pm. We will then sing some carols with the other Ferryhill schools before the lights are switched on at 4.30pm. Only school staff members will be able to go into the gardens to accompany the children. After the lights have been switched on, the children will be handed back to grown-ups and they can then enjoy the rest of the festivities with their families.



Christmas Crafts sessions starting Monday 1st December

It is lovely to be able to invite grown-ups to come along to our Christmas Crafts afternoons. Enjoy Christmas music, Fairtrade tea and coffee and mince pies whilst spending time with your child making a range of Christmas crafts. Nursery Stay and Play will take place in Nursery

School trips - annual Panto visit. Jack and the Beanstalk at Bishop Auckland **KS1 - Wednesday 3rd December KS2 - Thursday 4th December**

Just a reminder that payments can still be made for the panto. This year's Panto is Jack and the Beanstalk. The total cost including admission and transport will roughly the same as last year at £12 per child. You can pay this online using the **Compass** app. Payments can be made up until the 2nd December.



Carols in the Market Place Friday 12th December

This year we will be in Ferryhill Market place singing our Carols on Friday 13th December. Please join us to give the children your support. The infants will aim to sing at 10am and then the juniors will aim to arrive at the market place to sing at 10.15/10.20am.

Unfortunately, we will not be singing our Carols on the yard this year. We originally started this because we were unable to sing at the Town Hall one year due to the weather and then I think it became an expectation. We have found in the last couple of years that the children are a little reluctant to sing again and some children struggle with the event. I'm sure you understand the decision I have made and thank you for your support.

Christmas Jumper and Christmas Lunch Day - Friday 12th December

We will all enjoy Christmas lunch together on Friday 12th with crackers, paper hats and of course, turkey and all the trimmings. Even children who normally bring a packed lunch are encouraged to join us for the special day - and almost everyone does. The cost is the normal lunch price of just £2.80. We will have drinks provided too. Please pay dinner money as normal, or if your child usually has a packed lunch, £2.80 will show in the outstanding balance on the app and then you will be able to pay for that individual meal. Any problems, just ask in the office.

Any morning or afternoon nursery children who would like to stay are welcome - the cost of a nursery

lunch is £3.00. Children are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper on this day too.....and it's definitely a requirement for staff if they want their lunch!

Dates to remember so far:

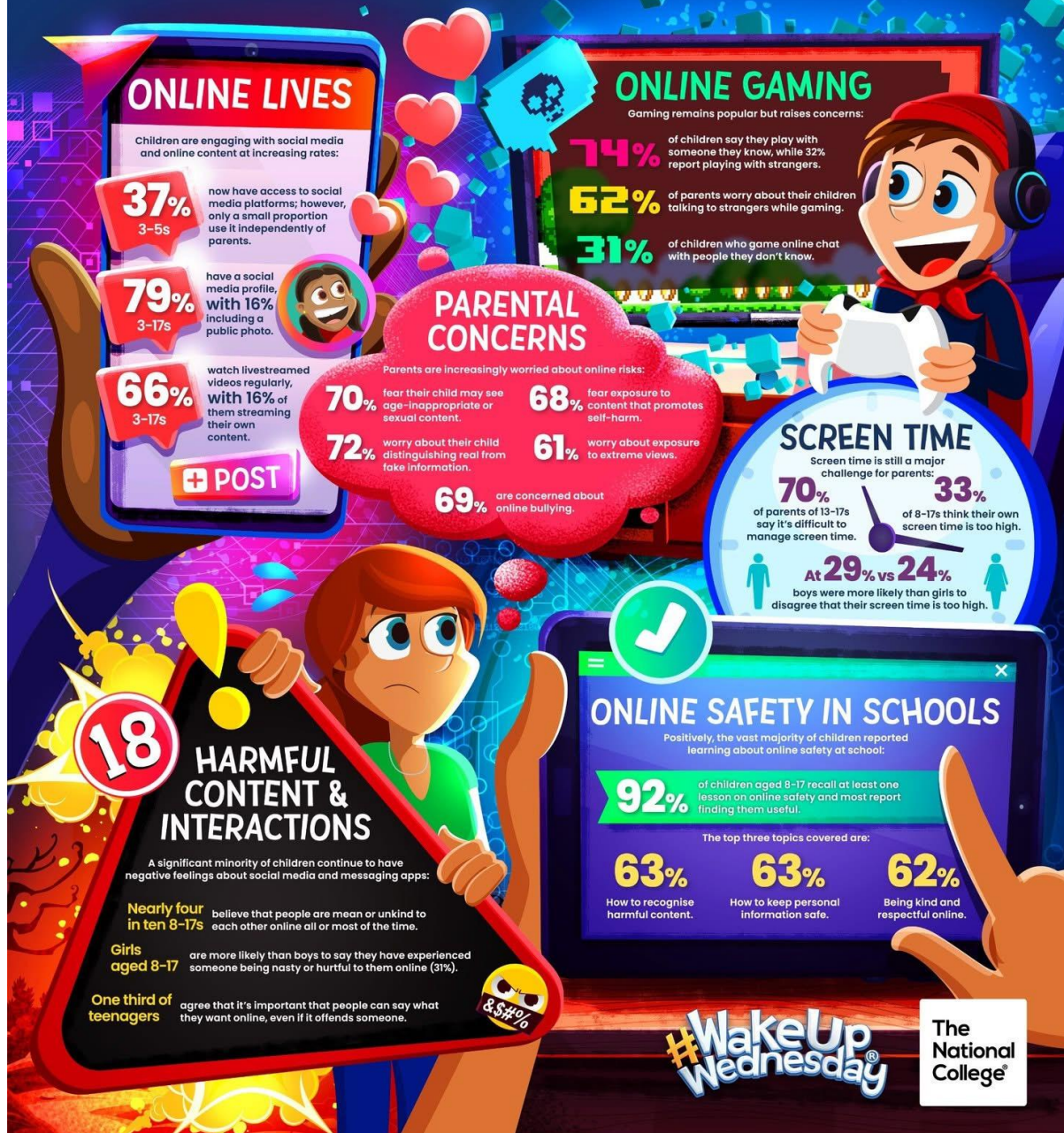
Monday 24th November - Reception Class Ferryhill Library Visit
Monday 24th November - Friday 28th November - Y6 Grinton Residential
Wednesday 26th November - Blaze Pods Taster Day
Monday 1st December - Y3 Ferryhill Library Visit
Tuesday 2nd December - Nursery special Christmas visitors
Wednesday 3rd December - KS1 Pantomime Visit
Thursday 4th December - KS2 Pantomime Visit
Friday 5th December - Y2 Ferryhill Methodist Church Visit - Christmas Story
Friday 5th December - Nursery Stay and Play 9.30am
Tuesday 9th December - Christmas Performance 2pm & 5:30pm
Wednesday 10th December - Christmas Performance 9:15am & 5:30pm
Thursday 11th December - Nursery and Reception Nativity performance 9.15am
Friday 12th December - Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 15th December - Nursery & Reception Christmas Party
Tuesday 16th December - Y1 & Y2 Christmas Party
Wednesday 17th December - Y3 & Y4 Christmas Party
Thursday 18th December - Y5 & Y6 Christmas Party
Friday 19th December - Celebration Assembly & Toy Day

These dates will be added to the calendar on Compass as soon as possible

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about OFCOM MEDIA REPORT 2025

Every year, Ofcom releases its Children and Parents: Media Use and Attitudes Report, offering fresh insights into how young people are using digital platforms. The 2025 edition highlights key safeguarding concerns as children's engagement with social media, gaming, and live streaming continues to grow. This guide pulls out the top statistics from the report, focussing on the main areas of concern for parents and educators.



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