



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Friday 5th December

Dear Parents,

Right of the Fortnight

We are all definitely in the spirit of the season here at school. Children are getting their fair share of **Article 31** - 'Children have the right to join in a wide range of activities'.

Please keep a close eye on our app and website and newsletters to make sure you are fully up to date with events.

A reminder about applying for a school place

If your child is due to start school in **September 2026**, please make sure you have applied for their school place before **midnight on the 15th January 2026**. Please note that if your child attends our nursery, they do not automatically get a place in our Reception class.

Parking and Speeding Concerns

Unfortunately, I have once again had a number of concerns raised by residents and parents about the parking in front of school and in the residential areas surrounding the school. This is more noticeable at this time of year when you are attending events at school. We need to make sure we are respectful and do not block any of the residents in or stop access for such things like emergency services. Equally, we cannot park or drop off outside of the school. It is a clearway, with signs at either end indicating this. This is again a safety concern as cars are now speeding through the chicanes to get passed the parked cars. **This includes the grassed area opposite the school car park.** Please be respectful and considerate when parking. We do encourage walking to school and this is a good way to get some extra steps in, if we parked a little further away.

I have contacted the police for their support with this matter but please ask that you support us as well.

Works continuing in Nursery

Hopefully, the works in the nursery garden will be completed early next week and thank you for your patience with this. I will keep you informed of when things will return to 'normal'. One thing that we are going to keep doing is all of the KS1 children (including Reception) will still enter school by the KS1 entrance. We have found that children get into class more quickly and they can start their learning. Can I please ask that when you are bringing children, that you don't cut across the car park with them. We ask that you stick to the path when you are with them. This will ensure that they remain safe.



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.** There are still some tickets available for the Tuesday performances. Wednesday performance tickets have sold out.

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'

Our very youngest children are looking forward to performing their retelling of the first Christmas.



Performances will be 9:15am and 2:15pm on Thursday 11th December. There are still some tickets available for both performances.

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.

Christmas Crafts sessions starting Monday 1st December

It was lovely to see so many grown-ups at our Christmas Crafts afternoons and Nursery Stay and Play. The children really enjoyed working with you all and everyone created some beautiful crafts. Some adults even got a Head Teacher's Award!!

Carols in the Market Place Friday 12th December

This year we will be in Ferryhill Market place singing our Carols on Friday 12th 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.

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!

Christmas Parties

Children can come in their party clothes on the day of the party or bring them in to change into after lunch. We will have party style food at lunchtime and then enjoy a drink and ice cream later in the afternoon. We will be having a special visitor at each of our parties and parents are invited to join us at 2.50pm.

Monday 15th December - EYFS Party (Nursery and Reception)

Tuesday 16th December - Year 1 and Year 2



Wednesday 17th December – Y3 and Y4

Thursday 18th December – Y5 and Y6

Dates to remember so far:

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 & 2.15pm

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



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