

## Magical Moments

### Music Festival

Last week in school we participated in the Unity Schools Partnership Music Festival. As part of the festival, 20 children were invited to participate in the closing celebration assembly at St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds. The children sang a pre-learnt song together with other children from across the partnership, as part of a 'Unity Schools Choir'. It was an incredible experience for the children and parents, and they sounded amazing.



### China Class Performance

It was an absolute pleasure to watch the Reception children and KS1 Christmas performance. The singing and effort put in to learning lines and performing with such confidence was tremendous. We were extremely proud of all the children and thank staff and families for helping children to learn lines and song words.



Dear families,

It is always a pleasure being in school this time of year and as the end of term approaches, we want to share with you all the wonderful things that have happened in school. It has been a busy half term and the highlight for me has undoubtedly been the Christmas nativities, Christmas lunch and remembering this special time of year in church.

On behalf of all of the staff, we wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year ahead. We look forward to seeing our children return on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



## Christmas at Kedington

It was a pleasure to see so many families attend our Christmas church service at St Peters Church on Monday. The Year 6 children did a brilliant job with the readings and the singing sounded amazing.

On Tuesday, all children and staff had a delicious Christmas lunch prepared on site by Mrs Rintoul and her kitchen team. It was one of the best Christmas dinners we have had! We finished the afternoon with a Christmas disco, and we were super impressed with their dance moves. The karaoke wasn't too bad either!



## Role Model Status

On Wednesday's assembly, we celebrated new pupils receiving Role Model status. It is always a pleasure to hear of children who continue to demonstrate our 'Kedington way manners and conduct' (see below) so consistently across the school. Achieving this is not easy and once role model status has been achieved, it stays with children for their entire time at Kedington. You can see them clearly across the school as they will be wearing a special role model badge.

A huge congratulations to the following children for receiving role model status:

Year 3 - Lucus, Alex & Dolly

Year 4 - Emily

Year 5 - Annie & Indie

Year 6 - Lyssa

At Kedington Primary Academy, we:

1. Say "hello" or "good morning/good afternoon" if someone greets us
2. Say "good morning" to the adult when we come through the gate in the morning and "goodbye" when we leave
3. Acknowledge any adult when walking around the school
4. Stand aside if an adult is coming through a door
5. Check when we open a door if someone else is coming through and hold it open for them
6. Say "please" and "thank you" when requesting/receiving something
7. Always knock on a door before entering, even if it is open
8. Say "sorry" if we bump into someone, even if it is by accident
9. Cover our mouths if we cough or sneeze and use a tissue if we need one
10. Follow instructions without grumbling if an adult tells us to do something
11. Ask people if they need help if they look like they are struggling
12. Eat with a knife and fork, cutting up food
13. Tidy things away if we have got them out
14. Walk sensibly and quietly through the building
15. Keep our school site litter free, picking litter up even if we didn't drop it

## Fundraising success

Thank you to all our families that supported Children in Need this year. It was a pleasure to see children wearing something spotty. They all looked fab! I am delighted to share with you that school raised £158.97.



We also celebrated Mental Health Day by wearing odd socks to school and raised £168 for Hello Yellow. Thank you so much for all your fundraising support. These are excellent charities to be contributing to.

## &iLearn

What an incredible start to our &iLearn journey at Kedington! Our pupils have gained so much confidence in how to use the iPads to support them in lessons. Our iPads in Year 4 - Year 6 classes have now gone home so that children can have greater access to their learning and can share with their parents what they have been studying in the school day. Not only this, but our class teachers have also begun to incorporate the use of iPads into lessons further and are using the iPads to teach from. This allows them to model new content more explicitly to the children and to zoom in and mark up their learning to focus children's attention, motivate their learning and reduce children's cognitive load. Furthermore, children are able to use the range of accessibility functions to support them in class, such as the dictation tool and speak software. It is wonderful to see, even our younger children making use of the iPads in lessons too. Year 1 have been learning how to use some of the basic iPad skills, such as taking a photo and marking it up. We look forward to continuing our &iLearn journey as a school in the new term.

## Attendance

School has been hit with many bugs and illnesses as we would expect this time of year. Despite this, our current attendance remains in line with national at 94.7%.

Thank you to our families for making sure children are in school on time and every day, or if they are unwell and off school, they are back in school as quickly as possible. You can see the attendance figures for each class at the end of this term.

Name ↑	Average This Year	National Average YTD
<a href="#">Reception</a>	96.2%	93.7%
<a href="#">Year 1</a>	92.6%	94.4%
<a href="#">Year 2</a>	94.7%	94.9%
<a href="#">Year 3</a>	94.7%	95.1%
<a href="#">Year 4</a>	94.6%	95%
<a href="#">Year 5</a>	95.4%	94.8%
<a href="#">Year 6</a>	95.8%	94.6%



## Online Safety

As Christmas is fast approaching, some lucky children may be receiving games consoles or electronic devices this year. It is important that parents are aware of any risks that children could face when online. Please see attached at the end of the newsletter a poster with some very helpful top tips for keeping children safe online.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one topic of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!

- ### 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It helps to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).
- ### 2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.
- ### 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

18+

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.
- ### 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never hand it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.
- ### 5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.
- ### 6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're tapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.
- ### 7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.
- ### 8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.
- ### 9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.
- ### 10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.
- ### 11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and webcams don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.
- ### 12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)
[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)
[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)
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## Zones of Regulation

At Kedington, we recognise the importance of promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing to our children and their families. We aim to create an open culture around the discussion of mental health and wellbeing and to empower our children to be able to regulate their emotions. Next term in school, we will be embedding our work on Zones of Regulation where we aim to remind our pupils to identify emotions in themselves and others and provide them with bank of strategies to help regulate their emotions and improve their wellbeing. There **will be a parent workshop on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024** to share our approach with families as we are hopeful that many will find this useful to use at home.

Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
			
<b>Low</b>	<b>Happy</b>	<b>Wobbly</b>	<b>Angry</b>
<b>Running Slow</b>	<b>Good to Go</b>	<b>Caution</b>	<b>STOP</b>
unhappy tired withdrawn tearful	positive proud calm focused	excited nervous frustrated annoyed	mad furious yelling aggressive

## The Big Ambition Survey

The Children's Commissioner has launched The Big Ambition survey to understand what children want ahead of the next general election. It would be good for many of our pupils to have their say. It only takes 5-10 minutes to complete. Please use the link to participate

<https://childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition>

## Dates for your diary

Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Staff PD day
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 4 swimming begins
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	Childrens' Mental Health Week
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Zones of Regulation workshop PTFA Valentines Disco (provisional date)
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>Half-term</b>
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Children return to school Keep Safe Week
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	TGS Trust school council Parents' evening
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents' evening
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term





# SHOULD I KEEP MY CHILD OFF SCHOOL?

Sometimes children are clearly too unwell for school, but sometimes it can be tricky to decide whether or not to keep your child off school when they are unwell. Since Covid, parents are finding the decision even more difficult to make. Attending school is vitally important for the long-term wellbeing and aspirations of children. Poor attendance can negatively impact a child's future, both socially and developmentally, as well as educationally. There are government guidelines that say when children should be kept off school, how long they should be kept off for and when they shouldn't be kept away from school.

## No they are ok to go to school

Cough, cold and flu-like illness (no temperature)

and make sure you let their school know about...

- |                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Hand, foot and mouth | Glandular fever |
| Head lice            | Tonsillitis     |
| Threadworms          | Slapped cheek   |



## Yes tell school immediately and keep them off until...

<b>Cough, cold and flu-like illness (with temperature), including Covid-19</b>	they no longer have a high temperature and fell well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for Covid-19
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<b>Chickenpox</b>	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
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<b>Diarrhoea and Vomiting</b>	48 hours after their last episode
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<b>Impetigo</b>	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
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<b>Measles</b>	4 days after the rash first appeared
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<b>Mumps</b>	5 days after the swelling started
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<b>Scabies</b>	they've had their first treatment
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<b>Scarlet Fever</b>	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
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SCAN ME

Advice and guidance  
To find out more, search for health protection in schools