



Ox Close Federation Newsletter Friday 15th December 2023 – Volume 13

Spectacular Performances

Last night, Years 5 and 6 brought down the curtain on our season of Christmas shows as they impressed the audience with an all singing, all dancing performance of "It's Christmas". Well done Years 5 and 6.

The previous day saw our youngest learners in Nursery, perform their 'First Nativity'. They were all shining stars and to stand on the stage and perform like they did was truly exceptional. Well done Nursery.

Earlier in the week, Year 1 and 2 did an outstanding job of performing 'Jesus's Christmas Party'. Watching the show, you could tell how excited the children were to display their amazing talents through. For those of you at the morning performance, you will have also seen the amazing resilience shown when we had a few issues with the sound system. Well done Years 1 and 2.

We started the week with a Carol Concert with the children in Years 3 and 4. I know that the high level of singing blew everyone away - the sound echoing around the hall was remarkable and caused a few of you (including me) to fill up. Well done Years 3 and 4.

Last but by no means least, we cannot forget the opening to our Christmas performances by our Reception children last week. The children really opened the performance calendar fantastically well and were so confident on the stage. It made everyone feel Christmassy and I know the audience were very proud of the children. Well done Reception.

So, it is fair to say that, we have all endured that our final Christmas performances at Ox Close were memorable ones that we will all remember. We have talented, enthusiastic and confident children who we are all very proud of and should be very proud of themselves and what we have achieved. I can't wait to see what they have in store for us next year when we move to Springmoor Grange School with our new lighting and sound system!

Fabulous Staff

None of the performances would have been possible without the efforts and commitment of our staff. Their dedication and hard work, both at Christmas and throughout the year, ensures that the children get these fabulous opportunities to perform to you all. There is also a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes at all of the Christmas events and not all of the staff's efforts are visible to you all, especially the Chartwells catering staff and the site premises staff. A huge thank you to all of the staff – all of your hard work and efforts are appreciated.

Thank you to Parents and Carers

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers in school for the performances. As mentioned in the performances, we love creating partnerships with you and showcasing the talents of our children to you all. Feedback from parents and carers was extremely positive – a great big thank you from us all for your ongoing support.

Happy Christmas

The Federation closes for the Christmas break on Tuesday 19th December so this will be our final newsletter of 2023. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the children, staff and Governors, to wish you all a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Thursday 4th January for what, I have no doubt, will be a very special and exciting year.



Christmas Jumper Day – Tuesday 19th December

This year at Ox Close, we will be holding our own Christmas Jumper Day on Tuesday 19th December. Children can come to Nursery or School wearing their Christmas Jumper and/or non-uniform. We will not be asking for donations for this.



Surviving Christmas!

- C** Catch-up on some much-needed sleep!
- H** Help someone in need with a kind gesture!
- R** Read a Christmas story!
- I** Involve yourself with something new!
- S** Spend time with friends and family!
- T** Take a break...when it gets busy, step away for a minute!
- M** Make lots of new and exciting memories!.
- A** Active - keep yourselves moving!
- S** Stay in touch and tell us what you have been up to over the Christmas break!

Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 95.3% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 6 with 97.9%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 95.7%.

Punctuality

The Primary starts at 8:45am. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 1091 late minutes – this is the highest number we have ever had in a week.

Dates for the Diary

Monday 18th December	Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December	Christmas Jumper Day 3:15pm – Nursery and School close for Christmas
Thursday 4th January 2024	Children back to Nursery and School
Wednesday 14 th February 2024 2:15pm	Reception: Cuddle up with a book
Thursday 15 th February 2024 AM and PM	Butterflies Stay and Play
Monday 4 th March 2024 2pm	Reception Mother's Day crafts
Monday 25 th March 2024 2pm	Reception - Egg Decorating
Thursday 28 th March 2024 2pm	Nursery Easter Bonnet Parade

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 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'll help 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

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 lend 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 zapping 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 walking 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