



Two Rivers Primary School News

December 2023: Issue 5

2023 Diary Dates:

Friday 22nd Dec
Last Day of Term

Santa Party, Grotto
and Disco – Children
Only



2024 Diary Dates:

Monday 8th January
Inset Day – School
Closed

Tuesday 9th January
First Day of Term –
School Open

**Wednesday 31st
January**
Stay & Play – To book
contact Sue Forest

Tuesday 6th February
Parents Evening

**You will receive more
information about these
events nearer to the time.**

Headteacher's Message

Dear Two Rivers Primary School Families,

As we approach the joyous season of celebration and reflection, I extend my warmest wishes to each and every one of you. The holiday season is a special time when the spirit of kindness and togetherness fills the air, and it is with great joy that I reflect on the incredible learning and journey we have shared at Two Rivers Primary School so far this year.

Our school community has faced both challenges and triumphs, and it is the resilience and collaborative spirit of our children, parents, and staff that make Two Rivers Primary a truly remarkable place to be. I am immensely proud of the hard work and dedication displayed by our children throughout the term, and I want to express my gratitude to our parents for their unwavering support. We really appreciate all that you do, and how you allow us to work with you all to get the best outcomes for the children.

As we gather with loved ones during this festive Christmas season, let us cherish the moments of joy, reflect on our achievements, and look forward to the new opportunities that the coming year will bring. We hope you enjoy a different look at our December time through a series of photographs of all we have achieved and celebrated over this month. It has been a memory making time for all of us.

Thank you for being an essential part of the Two Rivers family. Wishing you a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year filled with love, laughter, and cherished memories.

If you need to contact us at school over the holiday period, please do ring the school phone number, as ever this will be forwarded to my work mobile – do leave me a message if I don't answer, and I will make sure I get back in touch with you.

We look forward to seeing the children back at school on Tuesday 9th January 2024! The school staff will be on site on the 8th January, receiving training, so the school is closed to children on that day.

Laura Slinn - Executive Headteacher



Enterprise Week

In November we all took part in Enterprise week. Each class was given £10 to spend on resources to make Christmas craft for the Elf Day Fair. We looked at using coins, exchanging coins and Blue 1 looked at profit and loss. We had a competition of who could make the most profit at the Elf Day Fair. Blue 1 came first, then Blue 3 in second place and in third place Yellow 4. Every class made a profit! Well done!





Elf Day Fair

On December the 5th we had our Elf Day Fair. We sold wonderful handmade Christmas craft and KS2 were stall keepers and took the money and gave change. Thank you to our families who visited. We made an amazing £345 for our school. We look forward to next years event.





Glow in the Dark Sports

On Tuesday 12th Progressive Sports visited us and we all had a chance to play and explore Glow in the dark sports. We loved the glow in the dark costumes, UV lights, fun games and especially glow in the dark Dodgeball.







Christmas Fun

Christmas has arrived at Two Rivers. All classes have been creating wonderful cards, calendars and Christmas treats! Elves at work!











Christmas Community Visits

During December lots of Classes have been going on trips in the local community. Here are just a few special memories.







We're Going on a Present Hunt

Red Phase, Yellow 2 and Blue2 performed 'We're Going on a Present Hunt' to our school community and families. The children were all super stars and we are sure you all agree it was a fantastic show!







KS2 Football Tournament

Children from Blue 1, Blue 3 and Yellow 4 took part in a football tournament. Our brilliant team won 2 of their 4 matches and were fantastic sports! We are very proud of them! GO TWO RIVERS!





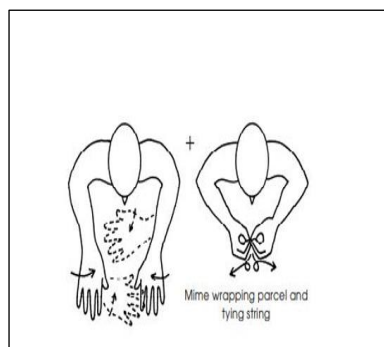
Purple and EYFS

The children have all been enjoying the Christmas festivities. We have been making Christmas crafts and writing letters to Santa. The classroom has been decorated and the children have loved exploring the tinsel, baubles, wrapping presents and dressing up in Santa hats! We have also been enjoying Christmas songs, rhymes and stories!





Sign of the Week



Present

Mime wrapping a parcel and tying with string.

You can see how to do the sign here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCCFq9XmVAg&list=PLI9Vwf4A9R2SWL4cbnWjloHy92tjxXmU9>

Whole Class Attendance

Group	% Attend
PURPLE	96%
RED 1	92%
RED 2	90%
RED 3	94%
YELLOW 1	90%
YELLOW 2	93%
YELLOW 3	97%
YELLOW 4	94%
BLUE 1	92%
BLUE 2	92%
BLUE 3	94%
BLUE 4	89%

Congratulations to:



Yellow 3



**You have the best
Attendance for the Month**





Safe and Well from Richard and Sue

Christmas is nearly here! For most families, Christmas is a joyful occasion, an opportunity to spend time together and enjoy a bit of overindulgence. For families of children with extra needs it can be a very different story. Their surroundings are full of noise and people, normal routines are abandoned, and our special children can be stressed by crowds, lights and unfamiliar sights and smells.

Whilst no amount of preparation can make the Christmas celebrations easy, there are many things you can do to make them easier. Here are some suggestions that should make the season more enjoyable for everyone.



1. **Maintain Routines – as much as possible.** There will be routines that are adjusted or forgotten. Try to maintain usual routines if you can. This is especially important for bedtimes and getting up times.
2. **Create a Christmas-free zone.** Leave one room in the house, perhaps your child's room, free from anything to do with Christmas, so that they can come back to the room as a safe space if necessary. This room should be accessible at all times.
3. **Decorate Slowly.** Don't put up the decorations when your child is sleeping -if possible, get them involved. Introduce new sights, smells, and sounds one at a time.
4. **Create a plan.** Make a visual plan. You could print off a week-to-view calendar page and add pictures of planned activities during the Christmas holidays.
5. **Make special time for your children.** It is easy to get overloaded with Christmas preparations so put time aside to forget about Christmas and do a familiar activity that interests your child.
6. **Prepare your extended family.** Talk to family members ahead of time. Discuss your child's specific needs and tell them what your plans are. Ask for their support.
7. **Simplify opening presents.** Break up present opening over Christmas Day and Boxing Day. For children who struggle with fine motor skills, reduce frustration by loosening ribbons, unsealing envelopes, and minimizing tape. For children with limited attention span, make sure that batteries are in gifts and that they are set up and ready to use as soon as they are unwrapped. Wrap up something familiar and comfortable as well as new gifts.
8. **Christmas Dinner.** Remember your child does not need to eat it. Give them some of their favourite foods at the table.
9. **New Clothes.** Don't worry if your child does not want to wear new clothes. Remind family and friends about any sensory issues if they want to buy clothes as presents for your child.
10. **Plan a calming activity.** This could be a walk outside or watching a familiar movie when things get too much. Fill a bag with things your child finds comforting or enjoys playing with. If they get overstimulated find a quiet place to take them to.



Richard Bryan
DSL



Sue Forest
Family Liaison

We would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year. Please ask to see us at school, call us or send us a message if you need our help and support.



Library

It has been lovely seeing all of the children visiting the library, exploring Christmas books and learning about the Nativity! We have had lots of snow in our sensory stories this month!



RECOMMENDED READS



The recommended read for December is Norman the slug who saved Christmas by Sue Hendra and Paul Linnet. Norman the Slug with the Silly Shell is BACK in this fabulously festive Christmas caper from the creators of the bestselling SUPERTATO series!

When a sack of presents lands – THWACK – right by Norman's stocking he is overcome with excitement. He really must have been a very good slug this year. But after a frenzy of unwrapping he spots a label – and realises that none of the presents were meant for him, but had in fact fallen off Father Christmas's sleigh. Norman knows he has to get the presents to the family they're meant for – but how can he manage it on time? Can one little slug save Christmas?

Head to the link below to watch a video of the story:

<https://youtu.be/a604QAwUAeE?si=hi54aRQ8vgxaPugm>

Reading Corner



The Bug Club Reading Corner recommended for December is Dare by Lorna Gutierrez. Dare to dream big, help others and speak out for what is right. An inspirational picture book full of messages of empowerment, encouragement and of daring to be the best person you can be.

This book is accessible to read via the link:

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/resource/1103465>

Or alternatively you can listen to the story via the link:

https://youtu.be/t07n_1-0ltU?si=1faPEDiJwPMadBAH





[Gina's Christmas Reading Challenge](#)

Gina has included a Christmas reading challenge, if you take part please do send Gina some photos!

Any questions about reading or the library please contact Gina ☺

Christmas Reading Challenge

3 in a row

Read a Christmassy book with someone	Read a poem	Read a book that makes you laugh
Read next to your Christmas tree	Snuggle up and read in bed	Read your favourite book to someone
Read the lyrics to your favourite Christmas song	Read a non-fiction book	Draw or write your own Christmas story

Can you complete 3 challenges in a row over the holidays? Why not try to finish them all?

@MisterBodd



School Council

Meet this year's School Council Representatives.



The Christmas shop was a success! Next Council Meeting Spring 1

This Month's Winning Houses

28 th December	Severn & Trent
4 th December	Trent
11 th December	Avon
18 th December	Severn





Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need to set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Nuts, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's reported regularly on tech, parents on television and more, including on BBC Newsnight. He's also the host of the TV show at Fun. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The National
College



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday




Merry
CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2024
