



# Newsletter

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## Message from Mr McCoy

I cannot believe we are in December! It has been a great week finished with an amazing Tree Lighting service. Thank you to Windle Parish Council for supplying the tree; Friends of Bleak Hill for supplying refreshments; the families that came to support the event; our talented and dedicated staff and to our amazing children.

It has been a very busy week this week. Year 5 had their first session of Debt Awareness, they loved learning all things money. Year 5 also visited Jodrell Bank this week and further enhanced their learning about Space. Reception also had Wonderdome in school on Wednesday, starting their learning journey linked to Space, it was great to see the children enjoy their learning outside of the classroom.

We have been to three sports events this week as well as carrying out festivals in school. Well done to the KS1 children who represented school at a Bocchia competition; Year 3 & 4 children attended a multi-skills event and Year 6 pupils attended Sportshall Athletics.

There is lots more happening next week and in the coming weeks. Please use the calendar on the school website as well as the Christmas Overview sent out last week.

Enjoy the start of the festivities and we look forward to seeing you next week.

## Merit Award - Children who show courage

	R.O.T.W	W.O.T.W	M.O.T.W	Bronze	Silver	Gold
RHE	Michael G	Teddy S	Una W	Tobias C	Lucas G	David D
RHU	Nia A	Mila C	Thomas S	Mia P	Cassidy M-S	Nyla E
RR	Aurelia L	Penelope K	Aaron K	Raya L	Matilda C	Reuben P
1A	Theo C	Charlotte A	Louis C	Luke C	Reuben B	Finley McC
1CS	Bobby H	Billy McK	Caleb W	Willow L	Alex M	Reuben C
1M	Rosie G	Alannah P	Miya L	Harper I	Carter K	Lydia A
2G	Sid S	Amelia G	Annabelle B	Sadie M	Freddie D	Alex E
2J	Annie M	Noah D	Ezri N-J	George McE	Thea H	Martha B
2W	Evie Y	Hallie W	Thomas B	Joe T	Emily T	Mason P
3D	Hugo T	Elise O	Nell C	Jack G	Emily A	Reuben M
3H	Amber C	Amber L	Robyn L	Kaleem T	Ivy P	Louie R
3M	Molly F	Arthur H	Milo G	Valentin R-K	Tiffany H	Nancie J
4C	Oliver W	Darcey T	Joel C	Michael O	Olivia G	Andriana C
4MC	Amber S	Charlotte F	Max R	Natalie S	Bethany H	Sky W
4MO	Annabelle S	Dean T	Hallie S	Bella S	Oliver F	Penny O
5B	Alex B	Emily C	Molly R	Eva M	Oscar C	Thomas O'B
5W	Dylan R	Niamh B	Evalynn M	Skyler A	Charlie McK	Evie S
6D	Alex S	Sophia J	Zak N	Finn F	Lily O	Theo C
6W	Reuben L	Aubree H	Mason H-B	Max N	Seren R	Diya S

## What's on w/c 04.12.23

04.12.2023	Before School	During School	After School
Monday		Y2 & Y6 PE <i>School Council to Town Hall</i> <i>Choir to Eccleston Court</i>	
Tuesday		YR & Y5 PE <i>Y4 Pantomime Trip—Uniform to be worn</i>	
Wednesday		Y1 & Y3 PE <i>Y4 Christmas Experience at St Andrews</i>	FOBH Tea with Santa / Christmas Extravaganza
Thursday		Y1, Y2 & Y5 PE <i>Altru Drama Performance</i>	Gymnastics Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - Future Gym (external provider) 4 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.20pm FOBH Christmas Bingo 6-8pm
Friday		YR, Y3, Y4 & Y6 PE <i>6W Swimming</i> <i>Choir to Ruskin Lodge</i>	

## Friends of Bleak Hill



### Tea with Santa & Christmas Extravaganza

Wednesday 6th December 3.30pm-4.30pm

Cost £5 payable on School Money.

### FOBH Christmas Bingo

Thursday 7th December 6pm-8pm

SOLD OUT



# All Day. Every Day.



## Attendance Matters



Attendance	
Whole School	94.9%
Reception	96.2%
Year 1	93.6%
Year 2	95.8%
Year 3	95.6%
Year 4	97.4%
Year 5	95%
Year 6	89.7%



Late arrivals have increased dramatically over the last couple of weeks. Please be aware that school starts from 8.40am for reception and 8.45am for the rest of school.

Arrivals after 9am will need to be booked in by an adult at the main office. This will be allocated a late mark which can lead to a fine.

If you require any support please speak with the pastoral team.

### Attendance Update

We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our **96% target** this will help us to succeed!

**Our attendance for 13—17 Nov was:**

**94.9% below target**

**Our attendance for the year so far is: 96.5%**



Smart devices promise to make our lives easier. In many cases - they do, however these new technologies present risks too. Whether you're using a digital assistant to record your shopping list or you're controlling your lights through a smart system, many smart functions can be 'hacked' and controlled by someone outside your home. This guide will help you identify some of the ways you can stay alert and protect yourself.

1

### KNOW THE RISKS

The success of any smart device relies on it communicating with other devices using the Internet. It's an unavoidable part of using smart devices, but it does expose you to numerous risks. Attackers could use the Internet connection to steal your data for identity fraud or to make unauthorised purchases through your devices. There is even potential for more sinister exploitation, such as child grooming or cyber-bullying.

2



### WHAT IS THE INTERNET OF THINGS?

This is the term given to all the devices connected to the Internet in your home. It includes a new digital doorbell connected to your smartphone, your kettle that boils when you tell it to on your tablet or your heating that comes on when you swipe on your smart watch. The Internet of Things (IoT) is designed to make life easier, but it also opens up your home network to potential cyber-attacks. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy the benefits, but it does mean being aware of the potential negatives.

3

### CHECK ENCRYPTION SETTINGS

Whenever data is sent over the Internet, it is 'encrypted'. This makes it harder to read if it's intercepted. You should look to use a strong encryption setting, such as WPA2, rather than WPA or WEP. You can check your router manual on how to do this.

4

### KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP TO DATE

Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.



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### RENAME THE 'GATEWAY' TO YOUR HOME

Your Internet router is the virtual gateway to your home network. It needs protecting. To do this, you should change the default name (the SSID) and password. You can usually find steps to do this in the instruction manual. Don't use your family name. Choose something more obscure. Make the password complicated too, using upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Do this for your router and any other smart devices connected to the Internet.



# 12 Top Tips To Get Smart About The DEVICES In Your Home



National Online Safety®



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### USE A SEPARATE NETWORK FOR GUESTS

If your router has a feature that allows you to set up a separate network for guests, you should use it. That way, when guests use your Wi-Fi, they won't have access to your devices.

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### TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If you ever feel something is wrong or your network is being exploited, visit the manufacturer's website or ring their technical support department. It's better to be safe than sorry.



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### SAY GOODBYE TO SIRI AND ALEXA

It's a good idea to change the activation words on your smart devices so they are unique to you and your family. This makes it that much harder for people to break into your smart devices.



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### DEACTIVATE ANY UNNECESSARY FEATURES

Though it's a fun idea, you probably don't need to control your kettle from outside the house. In fact, there are often many unnecessary features included on smart devices. Where possible, you should look to disable these. Doing so reduces the ability for people to hack your devices. When someone sees you've actively taken steps to increase security, they're less inclined to try to compromise them.



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### BUILD A WALL

You could also purchase a dedicated 'firewall' device. This is something that plugs into your network and stops cyber threats reaching your router. Some routers do have a firewall element included, but they are no replacement for the real thing. A firewall device thoroughly analyses information coming in and out of your network and helps stop malicious attacks. A security device is strongly recommended to anyone who works from home or deals with sensitive information.



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### SECURE YOUR SMARTPHONE

If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least makes sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone too.



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### REGULARLY AUDIT YOUR DEVICES AND CONSOLES

Every now and then you should check through all of your smart devices (including games consoles connected to the Internet). Turn them off at the mains and disconnect them from the Internet. In fact, it's good practice to disconnect any devices that aren't in use. It's a small thing but really does help. Even when you think a device might be in sleep mode, if it's connected to the Internet it could still be listening or streaming data.



## Meet our expert

Emma was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old and has vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



SOURCES: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk>, <https://www.getsafeonline.org>

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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# **ADVENT SEASON**

## **AT ST ANDREWS DENTONS GREEN**



### **CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON**

**Wednesday 6th December 2023 | 7.00 - 8.00PM**

Christmas Light Switch on with carols and a walk through the Christmas experience - Follow that Star

### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Wednesday 13th December 2023 | 7.00 - 8.30PM**

St Helens Concert Band with mulled wine and mince pies  
Free - donations to the band gratefully accepted!

### **FOLLOW THAT STAR! CAROL SERVICE**

**Sunday 17th December 2023 | 7.00 - 8.30PM**

Walk through the Christmas Story in word and music!

### **CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT MASS**

**Sunday 24th December 2023 | 11:15PM**

An informal Reflective Midnight Mass Service with Holy Communion

### **CHRISTMAS MORNING CELEBRATION**

**Sunday 25th December 2023 | 10:00AM**

Join us for breakfast pastries and Christmas celebrations!



**ST. ANDREWS**  
DENTONS GREEN



For full details, visit [standrewsdentonsgreen.org/christmas](https://standrewsdentonsgreen.org/christmas)

**FREE**

ST ANDREWS DENTONS GREEN

# BRICK CHURCH

**SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER  
4.00PM - 5.30PM**

Get creative exploring the Christmas story this Advent through Lego bricks, blocks and crafts.

Sharing songs, stories and a light tea together.

All welcome - children must be accompanied by an adult.

For full details, visit  
[standrewsdentonsgreen.org/christmas](http://standrewsdentonsgreen.org/christmas)



## Children in Need

Our Children in Need appeal raised £472. Thank you all so much for your generous donations.





### **School Christmas Meal**

Our annual school Christmas lunch will be served by the kitchen on Wednesday 13th December. All children who currently have a school meal will have a Christmas lunch that day and all children who bring a packed lunch have been invited, via a School Spider survey, to have a lunch that day if they wish.

A Christmas dinner costs £2.60 for a child in KS2 unless they have a benefits based entitlement to a free school meal and is free to children in EYFS/KS1. Payment is on School Money and will be available from the Wednesday after the meal has been taken.