



Newsletter

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Message from Mr McCoy

What a fantastic term it has been! The children, and staff, have worked so hard during this long and busy Autumn term. Over the last week or two, the Christmas festivities have made everyone smile. We started with the tree lighting, then we had wonderful Nativities from our Y2 children, a great Christmas lunch prepared by the catering team, a Santa Dash, Christmas Bingo, Altru productions in to perform for the children, Christmas parties, Tea With Santa and to finish it off today we had a whole school Christmas worship and I was so impressed with the children's singing. Our school is such an amazing place and it has been my absolute pleasure to be here; you should be very proud of all your children.

I'm sure that you are now aware that I will be here during the Spring term and then taking over as your permanent Headteacher from Easter – something that I am really looking forward to. If I don't manage to see you today, can I firstly thank you for all your support, it is very much appreciated. And finally, on behalf of all the staff and myself, may I wish you a wonderful Christmas and all the very best for the New Year. See you next year!

Merit Award - Children who have worked hard all term

	R.O.T.W	W.O.T.W	M.O.T.W	Bronze	Silver	Gold
RHE	Scarlett S	Henry P	Orla S	Luca D	Jack T	Eden L
RHU	James D	Eliot D	Edward C	James G	Stanley G	George M
RR	Rhys S	Lincoln S	Walter P	Penelope K	Lucy J	Aria S
1A	Reuben B	Louis C	Johnny S	Roman T	Isla N	Sophie M
1CS	Jude M	Alex M	Isaac M	Alfie U	Nancy L- G	Haydn R
1M	Alannah P	Etta H	Josh M	Albie P-S	Rosie G	Spencer D
2G	Luke R	Lottie C	Connie C	Harrison B	Molly H	Pippa I
2J	Ezri N-J	Thea H	Ethan D	Charlie G	Oliver H	Grace C
2W	Alex D	Charlie P	Rose B	Clyde W	Hallie W	Joseph U
3D	Harper E	Charlie D	Isabelle P	Frankie C	Charlotte L	Jude H
3H	Jude N	Molly McW	Katie H	Amber C	Ava B	Jacob S
3M	Billy B	Maddie H	George M	Harry Z	Molly F	Tiffany H
4C	Hattie H	Leon T	Michael O	Oliver W	Freya A	Joseph H
4MC	Annie D	Charlie Bri	Natalie S	Bethany H	Charlotte L	Camron F
4MO	Marcie L	James E	Dean T	Una Q-D	Zac G	Thea C
5B	Maisey T	Damian P	Sonny T	Freddie P	Mollie C	Evie N
5W	Elsie B	Dylan R	Evan B	George B	Imogen J	Bea D
6D	Evie Y	Alex S	Toby K	Isaac J	Athelia R	Josh N
6W	Sam P	Evie B	Imogen A	Lois T	Alex D	Cora A

What's on w/c 08.01.24

08.01.2024	Before School	During School	After School
Monday		Y2 & Y6 PE	Book Club Y4 - Miss K Williams 1 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.15pm
Tuesday	Dodgeball Y5 & 6 - Mr Dagnall 1 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y4 & Y5 PE	Young Voices Y5 & 6 - Mrs Burrows 1 of 4 for T2A Exit via main reception at 4.30pm
Wednesday	Dance Y1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Karen Elliott (external provider) 1 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1 & Y3 PE <i>Reception Hearing Tests</i>	Gymnastics Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - Future Gym (external provider) 1 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.20pm
Thursday	Futsal Y3 & 4 - Future Gym (external provider) 1 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1, Y2, Y3 & Y5 PE	Gymnastics YR, 1 & 2 - Future Gym (external provider) 1 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.15pm
Friday	Athletics YR, 1 & 2 - Future Gym (external provider) 1 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y4 & Y6 PE	

Fundraising Thank You—Sponsored 5K Run

We would like to say thank you to Phoebe Cunningham and Leon Tracey from Y4C who took part in a sponsored 5K run and raised the huge total of £470.86 for school. Phoebe committed to fundraising as part of her role as school councillor and the money will be spent on books and equipment.

Friends of Bleak Hill



FOBH would like to say a massive thank you for all the support at their various Christmas fund raising events. Please see the next page for details of how much has been raised. Figures for the Christmas raffle will be provided in the New Year.



The winners of the 300 Club Christmas draw are:

£100 Emma B Y5B

£50 Joseph U Y2W



Friends of Bleak Hill

CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING



A BIG THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT.
THIS MONEY WILL BE USED FOR THE BENEFIT ALL THE CHILDREN AT
BLEAK HILL PRIMARY

All Day. Every Day.



Attendance Matters



Attendance	
Whole School	94.5%
Reception	94.3%
Year 1	96.6%
Year 2	92.9%
Year 3	93.4%
Year 4	95.4%
Year 5	94.8%
Year 6	94.3%



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 11—15 Dec was:

94.5% BELOW TARGET

Our attendance for the year so far is: 96.3%.

A register review will take place in the new year.

We will be sending letters out to keep parents informed if their child has dropped below 93%. Letters will be offering support but also in some cases stating evidence will be required for

Future absences.

We will also be sending letters about late arrivals. The latest time for arriving at school is 9am. Anytime after this is a late arrival and can lead to a fine. Please remember classes start at 9am and late arrivals cause distractions for others.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and writes regularly about internet safety issues.



SET AN ADMIN ON PCS

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console: so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.



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 standrewsdentongreen.org/christmas