



Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Fraser

William Morris Primary School
William Morris Way
Tadpole Garden Village
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN25 2PP

Date: 13th December 2024

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely week with Reception and Nursery classes performing their nativity stories to parents and carers. We are so proud of how well they sang and performed and they looked amazing in their costumes on stage. Thank you to the Early Years staff for all of their hard work.

We also had a delicious Christmas dinner yesterday for lunch. You can see from the photos that the children and staff enjoyed coming together to join in the festivities. Thank you to our fab catering team for providing such delicious food for all year groups to enjoy.



We are looking forward to sharing the year 1 and year 2 performances next week as well as the open air key stage 2 carol concert which will be a perfect end to a celebratory term.

Please remember that the first day of next term will be a TD Day on Monday 6th January.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Fraser

Headteacher

LIGHTHOUSE DROP IN

Lighthouse is the Early Intervention Team working within all Blue Kite Academy Trust schools. Lighthouse holds drop-in sessions at our school once a month - you will meet one of the team to have a short, informal, 1-1 chat about anything causing worry or stress in your home. This could be around behaviour, sleep, struggling to manage emotions/anxiety or concerns around finance, cost of living or similar. Drop in sessions give you the chance to get some advice from the experienced team. They can support you to take those next steps or signpost you to services who can also help. Lighthouse are a friendly team with lots of knowledge to share so please book in to see them if you feel they could help.

Please speak to a member of staff if you have any further questions. Book in via the school office. You can also follow us on Instagram @Lighthouse_bluekitetrust



Admission Policy 2026/27 - Consultation

The Blue Kite Academy School now comprises of 25 Swindon and Wiltshire Schools (Infant, Junior and Primary) and a new admission policy for 2026/2027 has been written to incorporate Wanborough Primary School that joined the Trust on 1 July 2024 and the ten church schools that will join the Trust on 1 January 2025 – Christian Malford, Lydiard Millicent, Tadpole Farm, South Marston, St Leonards, Ridgeway Farm, Seagry, Somerford's Walter Powell, Sutton Benger and St Peters CE Primary Schools.

There are two changes of Published Admission Numbers (PAN). Covingham Park Primary School will reduce from 60 to 45 and Even Swindon Primary School will reduce from 90 to 75.

There is one change to the oversubscription criteria for Sutton Benger CE Primary School *Children of staff will be considered, where the member of staff has worked at the academy for two or more years at the time at which the application for admission to Sutton Benger CE Academy is made, or the member of staff is recruited to fill a vacant post for which there is a demonstrable skill shortage* has been removed.

As a result of these changes, it is necessary to consult on this policy. The consultation will run from Wednesday 11 December 2024 to Friday 31 January 2025.

The policy can be found on the school website: <https://www.williammorrisprimary.co.uk/admissions-consultation-2026-2027>

If you have any comments regarding the Admissions Policy for 2026/27 please email Anna Richardson, Head of Governance, arichardson@bluekitetrust.org

Drop off gates

EYFS & KS1 gate open 8:30-8:45am

KS2 gate open 8:40-8:50am

Please could children use their designated year group gates in the mornings.

If parents drop off at 8:40am, all gates will be open.

KS2 children can only use Y1 gate if they are using kiss and drop.

Please ensure that if you are dropping a Reception/ Y1 / Y2 child after their allocated time, they must not use the KS2 gates to enter school. They may have missed their morning registration and could therefore be marked absent. If children are late, they must sign in at the school office so that we can ensure they are marked in on their class registers for Health & Safety & attendance.

A reminder of kiss and drop timings are as follows:

Reception and KS1—8:30—8:40

KS2—8:40—8:50

KS2 children using kiss and drop can go in the KS1 gate if dropped off with siblings. This is to ensure the children enter the building safely.



Early Finish for After School Club for Last Day of Term

After school club will be finishing at 5:00pm on Friday 20th December. Please could all children be collected by then and we will adjust the charges accordingly.

Cycling Club

Two Lifecycle Instructors Adrian and Heather are starting a Kids Saturday Cycling Club in January, running from Moredon and using the trails around Route 45 and Shaw Forest Park. Children must be able to cycle and it's ideal for those who've done Bikeability and have mountain bikes, bikes will also be available to borrow from the Hub. For further information, please see flyer below.



Gold Book

Well done to all of the children who were in the Gold Book this week

— we are very proud of you and your achievements!



SEND Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

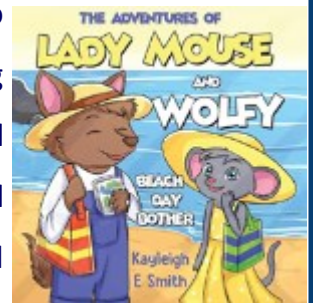
As always, I would like to start with a thank you to the parents who came to the SEND working party on Monday 2nd December. We discussed the school's behaviour policy, focussing on the wording and how we could tweak it to feel more inclusive. We also discussed holding a Coffee and Catch-up afternoon for SEND parents; this would be a chance to have a cake and a cuppa and speak to fellow SEND parents about the highs and lows of loving a child with SEND, as well sharing any tips and tricks. We will be hosting this on **Tuesday 21st January, 2pm-3pm.**

Speech & Language

Contact and Speech and Language UK have developed workshops for parents of children with Speech and Language challenges. Click [here](#) for more information!

Author Visit

Last week we had a wonderful local neurodiverse author, Kayleigh Smith, in to visit us. In assembly, Kayleigh shared how her love of books started at a young age. She was inspired to write her book, 'The Adventures of Lady Mouse and Wolfy - Beach Day Bother', after her own ADHD diagnosis. Kayleigh then read her story to each year group and the children asked some wonderful and insightful questions. It was lovely to watch the faces of some of our neurodivergent children when they saw themselves reflected in the characters of the book. If you would like to purchase the book, you can do so online at [Waterstones](#) and we very much hope Kayleigh will publish another book and come back again.



Panto



As part of our inclusive offer at William Morris, we make reasonable adjustments so that, where possible, all children can access all aspects of school life. During our Panto, we made a range of adjustments; some children wore ear defenders, some watched from the corridor outside and some children requested not to attend and so spent some time in our library reading books, colouring, playing games and making a phenomenal marble run!



Yours, Mrs Day (SENDCo)



Parents and Friends of William Morris Newsletter

This week's news...

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 19th Christmas Grotto
February 1st Batik Workshop
May 5th Circus

Watch this space more to come in
the new year!

Save the date!
Batik Workshop on the 1st February
Look out for more info
in the new year.

We hope all the children had fun at the Christmas Disco. Thank you to all the volunteers we can't put on these events without your help.

Thank you for the nativity Costumes and jumper donations, feel free to donate after the performances so we can do it again next year.

Preloved Uniform

Due to your kind donations of pre-loved uniforms over the last term we currently have a good stock of blue school jumpers, grey trousers, dresses, skirts and girl's summer dresses in a range of sizes. Please get in touch if you are interested in any items.

We suggest a donation of 50p for 'grey' and £1 for 'blue'. Also in January, we'll be starting Preloved uniform bundle offers!

Email us at:
preloved.at.williammorris@gmail.com

Parents and Friends Of William Morris 2024/2025 Fundraising

£932

- Christmas Disco £380
- Costume Sale £49
- Bags2school £53
- Bake Sale £250
- Cuddly Toy Sale £140
- Preloved School Uniform £40
- Oana's Cakes £20

CHRISTMAS GROTTTO

The Christmas Grotto is next week on the 19th of December. Children are invited to visit his Grotto at school, where he will read a lovely Christmas story and give each child a gift. There is a suggested donation of £2.50 per child which can be paid via the link, or QR code on the poster.

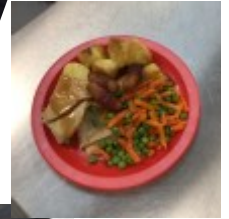
<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/QCWDOOU3>



As always, thank you so much for your support. All proceeds from our events go straight back to the school to provide equipment and resources.

Christmas Dinner











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School Diary

December

Mon 16th Year 1 & 2 Nativity 9:30am Y2 parents watch

Mon 16th KS2 Y3, Y4, & Y5 Christmas Open Air Concert
- 6pm & rain off concert day Tuesday 17th Dec 6pm

Wed 18th Year 1 & 2 Nativity 9:30am Y1 parents watch

19th PTA: All classes visit Xmas Grotto

Fri 20th Dec Last Day of Term

Fri 20th Dec Early finish 5:00pm for after school club

January

6th Jan—TD Day

Tues 28th Y3 African Animal Talk

Fri 31st—Explorer Dome—Y3

Additional dates that have been planned for the academic year can be found on our school website:

<https://www.williammorrisprimary.co.uk/term-dates>

INSET TD DAYS—school closed to children:

6th Jan 2025

24th Feb 2025

23rd May 2025

4th July 2025

[New dates in red]

Nursery - Poppy and Daisy Classes

What have we been learning in Nursery?



We have had a Christmassy filled two weeks with the children enjoying lots of Christmas crafts, cooking and singing. We have loved watching all the nativity and Christmas performances and are so proud of our children for their performance in the 'Nursery Rhyme Nativity'! Thank you to everyone who joined us and sent in costumes we are sure you agree they all looked fantastic.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed making their jam sandwiches and decorating cupcakes for the end of term disco—there was dancing, party games and the children were so proud that they had made their own party food.

Christmas lunch was delicious and next week we will have a special visitor in school before we break up for the holidays!

We hope you have an enjoyable Christmas break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting term in January

Reminders:

- Please ensure that all belongings are clearly marked with your child's name.
- Please ensure that if your child is bringing a packed lunch that it does not contain items with nuts e.g. cereal bars or spreads.
- If your child attends 30 hours they need to bring a **fruit or vegetable** snack every day.
- Please ensure all children have spare clothes including pants/knickers, trousers, socks and t-shirt. Our nursery supplies are running very low.

Happy Christmas from The Nursery Team :)



Nursery - Poppy and Daisy Classes





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Reception - Sunflower and Bellflower Classes

What have we been learning in Reception?

We are so very proud of all the children in Bellflower and Sunflower for their amazing performances in our Nativity this week. We hope you enjoyed their beautiful singing and story telling using our Talk for Writing actions. Thank you for your support bringing in the children costumes – they all looked fabulous!



We have enjoyed lots of Christmas activities, including retelling the story of the nativity, Christmas painting, making cards and learning lots of Christmas songs.

We have continued to practise our phonics skills through daily phonic sessions and will be assessing the children's learning next week. Please continue to read regularly with your child at home and revisit past phonics home learning. The children have been applying their phonics knowledge writing letters for Santa and practising their name for their Christmas cards.

Over the last couple of weeks, we have been focusing on numbers 9 and 10. We have been making sure we have an in-depth knowledge of these numbers and how they are made. We have created number collections for both numbers, which the children are experts at now! We have also been subitising tens frames, being able to see how many dots there are without counting. Using dot patterns, we have been exploring one more on the tens frames. The children are good at spotting pair wise and 5 wise patterns!

The children were very excited to watch the dress rehearsals of the Nursery and KS1 performances and made a fantastic audience. It was also lovely to see so many of the children enjoying a well-earned treat at the Christmas disco.

Congratulations to all of those children that have earned their reading bookmarks! The children are always very excited to receive these in assembly on Fridays. If your child hasn't earned one yet, make sure you record all reads in their reading records so that we can count them up. Reading at home is so vital to ensure we have confident readers by the end of Reception. Thanks for your help with this.

Over the past few weeks, we have noticed an increase in toys from home being brought into school. It is really important that home toys stay at home because we can not guarantee that they will return safely but also it can lead to disagreements amongst the children.

As we head into the final week of the term, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

The Reception Team :)



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Reception—Bellflower and Sunflower Classes





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Reception—Bellflower and Sunflower Classes



PIC•COLLAGE

Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes

What have we been learning in Year 1?



Wow, we have been extremely busy in Tulip and Lily class. We have done some fantastic learning and have continued practising our Nativity songs and moves - we are looking forward to showing you all next week!

In Maths we have been focusing on '3D shapes. We have been looking at 3D shapes and the features that each of the shapes have. In provision we have been exploring and building with our 3D shapes, identifying shapes as we build with them.

In English we have been finishing off our talk for writing innovation. We chose the character we wanted and we able to use our golden sentences in our writing of the story. We have done a fabulous job including our adjectives, full stops, capital letters, fingers spaces and even a question mark.

In Topic we have started looking at The Great Fire of London, we really enjoyed learning about this, and we have heard some children have gone home to share some of the facts that they have learnt. This week we have used all the junk modelling that you have donated to make our houses. We worked in small groups to carefully think about how we wanted our houses to look and to add all the detail to the houses.

In science we have been investigating! We have been set a challenge to make some bunting for the outdoor area, we explored a range of different materials that we could use, and we have made a prediction of which material we think will be best for the bunting. Unfortunately with the weather last week we couldn't put it the bunting out, but we are looking forward to putting it out this week so we can find out our results.

Next term we will be kicking off our Superhero topic! On the first day back—please come in wearing your school uniform with a cape and mask, for our topic based day.

If you have a superhero costume your child would like to wear, please can you put this in a named bag, and they can get changed when we go on our superhero hunt.

- Please make sure that your child's reading book and library book is in their book bag every day.
- Please ensure your child wears a warm winter coat to school, they can also bring gloves, hats and scarves (clearly labelled please)
- Tuesday 7th January Superhero in training day.

Have a lovely Christmas!

The Year One Team



Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes



Year 1 - Lily and Tulip Classes



Year 2 - Clover and Willow Classes

What have we been learning in Year 2?



We are feeling very festive in Year 2!

We have been very busy with rehearsals over the last 2 weeks. The children have been working so hard to learn their lines and songs and we are so proud of them. They did a super job performing to the school during the dress rehearsal on Thursday and are looking forward to performing to you next week. The big performance will be on Monday 16th December at 9:30 and we can't wait to see you all there to support the children.

This week we also enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner, thanks to Claire and the team, whilst wearing our Christmas jumpers. We had so much fun pulling Christmas crackers and singing Christmas songs together!

Alongside all of our festive fun, we have also been helping the children learn their home addresses and understand when this will be useful. This is such an important skill for their safety and independence and is one of our Year 2 Life Skills. Please take some time at home to help your child practice saying and writing their address.

Thank you for your continued support. As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Miss Morgan, Miss Presdee & Y2 team



Year 3 - Honeysuckle and Rose Classes

What have we been learning in Year 3?



What a busy few weeks in year 3, we can not believe we are nearly at the end of term 2.

In maths, we are now reaching the end of our subtraction unit. Next week we will be looking at everything we have learnt this term with multiplication, addition and subtraction. We have had lots of hands on learning the past week to help us represent subtract tens with bridging.

In writing, we spent an afternoon this week being volcanologists. Each class had a volcano to investigate with a specific focus on the consequences of the eruption on not only people but the land. We had lots of insightful chats around this and enjoyed watching a lot of recent footage from the November volcanic eruption in Iceland. We were all so shocked watching the total destruction of the blue lagoon car park.

As you can imagine we have spent lots of time practicing our wonderful singing and are so happy so many year 3 pupils are joining us for our carol concert next week. As the event is outside please make sure every child wears their coat & festive hats.

Have a great Christmas!

Year 3 Team



Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes

What have we been learning in Year 4?



The last two weeks have been a whirlwind of Carol Concert practice ready for our performance next week. They've worked very hard learning both the songs and all of their lines. It's sounding good now and they cannot wait to show you all next Monday. Additionally, the school has been fully immersed in Christmas decorations, including our own stockings that the children worked tirelessly on. They've watched fantastic dress rehearsals from other year groups and saw an amazing pantomime last week. Thursday this week was so nice seeing them all in their Christmas jumpers. So far it's been a great build up to Christmas, with more festive fun to come next week.

In guided reading, we have been racing through the book as it builds towards the end and the children are anxious to find out how it all comes together at the end. In addition to this, we have also looked at some classic children tales, including Paddington Bear and The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe. The children really enjoyed reading the opening extracts of these tales and we had some interesting discussions about the importance of reading classic tales as well as modern ones.

In Maths, the children have been showing some fantastic determination in our current unit of mental methods for addition and subtraction. Whilst the children have found it challenging to tackle these methods with 4-digit numbers, they haven't given up and tried immensely hard.

In English, we have begun our unit on recounts, unpicking the different features in our model text. The children have then been applying these when writing their own recount from the point of view of a character from 'The Abominables', which we have been reading throughout the term. They also wrote some fantastic recounts all about the pantomime that they watched last Wednesday.

In computing, we finished our unit on effective searching and this week we began our new unit on Artificial Intelligence. Within this unit, we will look at both the advantages and the dangers surrounding artificial

intelligence and how it may impact the world in the future.

Have a lovely Christmas!

The Year 4 team





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Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes





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Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes





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Year 4 - Apple and Blackberry Classes



Year 5 - Thistle and Acorn Classes—What have we been learning in Year 5?



Gallery Rebels!

Our Art Trip to GWA! Acorn and Thistle classes visited GWA for an exciting creative experience, crafting their own Banksy-inspired compositions. Guided by the secondary school teacher, pupils used stencils, black paint, sponges, pencils, paper, and markers to bring their ideas to life while observing and learning from a hands-on demonstration.



Year 5 Thistle and Acorn Classes

PE – Dance!

This term, we had an amazing time learning a Christmas dance with Miss Sarah! Her exciting warm-ups, fun dance moves, and vibrant music made every session so enjoyable. Thank you for all your guidance—our confidence has truly blossomed!





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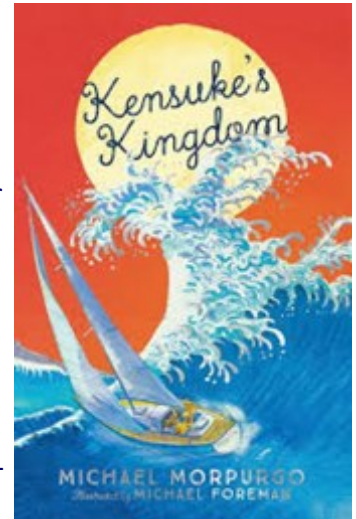
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Year 5 Thistle and Acorn Classes

Kensuke's Kingdom:

This term, Year 5 has been captivated by *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo. The story has not only engaged the children but also deeply moved Miss Naylor and Mrs Lambert—we've even shed a tear together after a few particularly touching chapters!

Today, we reached the end of this incredible journey, and the children have written heartfelt letters in character as Michael, the young protagonist, imagining what he might say to his parents while stranded on the island. Their creativity and empathy truly shine through in these thoughtful pieces. If your child has enjoyed this book, they might love exploring more of Michael Morpurgo's works—he has a wide range of engaging and emotionally rich stories to discover!



Key Stage 2 Carol Concert:

We're sure your children have been coming home full of excitement, sharing all about our preparations for the Christmas Key Stage 2 Carol Concert! They've been working incredibly hard, learning songs, rehearsing, and singing their hearts out to make this performance truly special.

We can't wait to welcome you on Monday, 16th, to see their dedication and festive spirit come to life. It's sure to be a memorable event!

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognize dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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Neurodiversity Home 101:

Starting back to school

Do-IT>

During the holidays most of the daily routines change and bedtimes, and meal-times can often vary day to day.

Late mornings can follow late nights.

The start of the school year can be a shock to the system and feel a little like you have been on a long-haul flight.



Ideas to Help:

- ✓ Try to fix bedtimes again and establish an evening routine.
- ✓ Drive by the school
- ✓ Take some time to talk through the day one to one – especially if you have more than one child so you can pick up early any concerns or worries your child may have.
- ✓ Mealtimes are a great time for family talk and ensuring your child has eaten enough especially if they are faddy eaters.
- ✓ Create a distraction free place for homework so your child gets used to a study setting.
- ✓ Label clothes. Practice fastenings, opening items such as lunchboxes and managing the toilet.
- ✓ Ask for the menu/mealtime arrangements from school so you can discuss this with your child, and they know what is on offer.
- ✓ Ask if you can have photos and names of teachers and children in the class (if allowed) to help your child remember who is who.
- ✓ Get the school timetable and put it in your fridge door to remind your child and you what lessons are on each day and when PE kit or other kit needs to be packed.
- ✓ Have a spare set of kit for school such as rulers and protractors to keep at home.
- ✓ If your child has a locker key, have a spare one cut.



An introduction to off-road cycling for kids

Have fun, build your confidence and learn bike handling skills on different terrain.

Fortnightly courses run from the Moredon Sporting Hub. Bring your own bike and helmet or borrow them from the Hub.

First session 10.30am-12pm on Saturday 11th January 2025.

£6 a session for all genders aged 6-16 years.

Book using the QR code.

