

The Early Bird

Issue 7: Friday 22nd December 2023



Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught and you will overflow with thankfulness. Colossians 2:7

From the Headteacher.....

Dear parents/carers,

This was going to be a short newsletter to say happy holidays...but so much has taken in place in school in the last week, that it has grown a little.

I am sure you would agree how well our children performed last week, through their nativity and Christmas carol concerts. We also appreciate your support with these, with the costumes and the little practices at home too.

If you have not noticed Miss Moran is due to give birth any time so we wish her well in advance, but we hope she will be a back in January for a week or so before the arrival of her son.

Finally we wish you a happy and Holy Christmas as we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Best wishes

Mrs SM Bowyer

Headteacher

Dates for your diary

25th December to 5th

January : Christmas Holidays

8th January 2024: Staff Training Day - school is NOT open to pupils

Tuesday 9th January 2024 : First Day of Term

We are look for volunteers for our Forest School and Outdoor Learning sessions

...more news to follow in the new year.



Thank you for sending us your Son, a gift from you into this world. As we look at the lights on the tree, remind us of the light Jesus brought to this Earth. When we sing songs and carols, remind us of the hope Jesus showed everyone. Amen

Dedication - Courage - Joy

Christmas Services

Please see the dates for the Christmas services at St. John's. You will be warmly welcomed and it will be a lovely way to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Sunday 24th December 4pm Crib Service

Sunday 24th December 11:30pm Midnight Mass

These are all at St John's Centre



St John's has no services on Christmas morning, but both Hartshill and Penkhull have Christmas services at 9am Christmas morning.



The Nutcracker

On Tuesday the whole school went to the New Vic Theatre to watch The Nutcracker. We had the most wonderful time, the children were well behaved and loved it, and so did the adults.



The Beth Johnson Foundation

On Friday 8th and Tuesday 12th of December, 6 children were chosen to go and decorate some Christmas decorations at The Beth Johnson Foundation. We have worked closely with the Foundation for 12 months with different activities. We had great fun making & painting with The Foundation's clients.





**Live streaming of The Royal Institute Christmas
Children's Lectures 2023 at Keele University.**

A few of our families joined the live streaming of the Christmas Children's Lectures. The lecture this year was on the subject of AI (Artificial Intelligence). It was great opportunity for our children to visit a university, and also seeing how this is filmed ready for it to be on TV on Boxing Day. Thank you to our children and families for representing St. John's so studiously on the night!

Kenon met the Science in the City team and received an AI book for our school.



*The children sat in a
university
lecture theatre*

To be broadcast on BBC FOUR on 26th, 27th and 28th at 20:00.

[CHRISTMAS LECTURES | Royal Institution \(rigb.org\)](https://www.rigb.org/ChristmasLectures)

Lyme Valley Cycle Club

It was the Lyme Valley Cycle Club Christmas Party this week in school.

The club runs most Fridays in our school hall during the winter and across at Lyme Valley in the warmer months.

Contact Sue Jones (sue.lymeracing@gmail.com) for any details
Come along and have a go.

Look out for that giant nutcracker Jess!!



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 their wellbeing. If you don't sort these out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our roundup 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 excessive gaming. Go into the settings and scroll down to Screen Time. From there 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 phone, search and click on and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on apps, screen time, content filters and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unboxed. At my account, select your child's 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 to 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

Good parental controls are essential to these iPads, 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 Content Restrictions (under Settings > Accessibility > Content Restrictions). 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 need a child profile. Make sure your account's password is 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. It also gets weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is clearly easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, parental management is easy. Set up the device with your own account on 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 your existing Microsoft Family Safety (under the app's title) then let you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebook's parental controls are managed via the Family Link app, which is an Android app. You can download the app on a 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 one). Once set up, you can 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 app. Again, the first step is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any of the accounts. In the settings, look for Screen & App Usage to create your child's account. Then, while on their profile – see the various new options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and when 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 restrict the content available to your child. In the settings menu, under the Monitoring, you can lock or view and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however, some apps like YouTube might still let an adult access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Ben is a father of two and a technology expert at the National Online Safety. He has been writing about digital safety for over 10 years and is a frequent speaker at conferences and events.



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We are re-launching Times Tables Rock Stars in school on Thursday 11th January. As part of the event, we are inviting children to come to school dressed as rock stars for the day!

Multiplication tables are an important part of Maths: so much learning is based on knowing them really well. Times Tables Rock Stars is a fun way for children to keep practising their multiplication tables and become more fluent at recalling these vital facts.



**All the staff at St. John's would like to wish our
parents/carers and children a very
'Happy Christmas'
Enjoy the time with family and friends**



Luke 2:7

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

