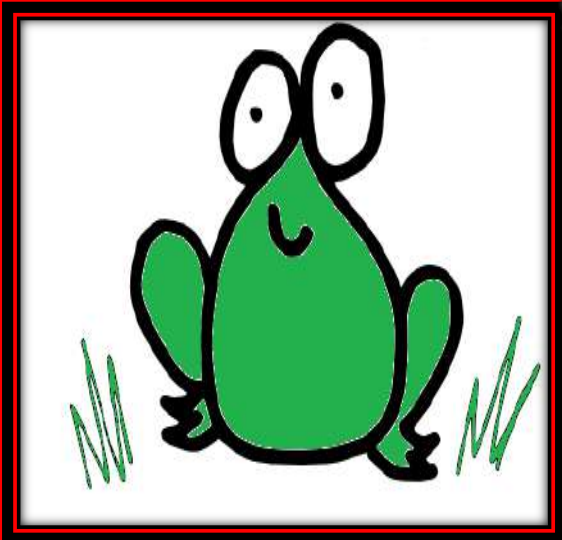


NORTHBOROUGH NEWS



CHRISTMAS 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we rapidly approach the festive season, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've shared this term. Our school has been a hub of activity, and learning, and I'm pleased to share some of the highlights with you.

The magic of Christmas has truly come alive in our school, with our youngest pupils leading the way. Our EYFS Nativity was a joyous performance showcasing the talents and enthusiasm of our little ones. Their lively performance filling us all with festive cheer.

Not to be outdone, our KS1 and KS2 pupils have also been busy preparing for their performances. The dedication and hard work they've put into rehearsals has been impressive, and I'm certain their shows were a treat for all who attended. These performances not only celebrate the season but also help build confidence and teamwork skills that are so vital for our pupils' development.

We've also had some exciting educational experiences. Peterborough Museum brought 'Toys from the Past' to our school, offering our Year 1 pupils a hands-on history lesson. This interactive approach to learning helps bring the past to life and sparks curiosity in our young minds.

For our KS2 pupils, we hosted 'The Art of Brilliance' workshop. This fantastic session focused on bolstering positivity, mental health, growth mindset, and resilience. In today's world, these skills are invaluable, and it's great that we're equipping our pupils with tools to flourish both in and out of the classroom.

We must also thank our PTFA who organised a Silent Disco, which proved to be an enormous hit. It was wonderful to see our pupils enjoying themselves in such a unique and fun way. Events like these not only provide entertainment but also strengthen our school community.

As we celebrate Christmas, I'm reminded of the warmth and spirit of our school community. The nativity, the performances, the disco, and the workshops all reflect the vibrant life of our school. They showcase not just what our pupils learn, but how they grow as individuals.

For those who aren't aware, Nicki and Nicola in the kitchen are leaving at Christmas after 24 and 10 years respectively. We wish them all the best for the future and thank them for their hard work.

I'd finally also like to take the opportunity to thank all of our students and volunteers who invaluablely offer their time to support learning across school.

As we head into the holiday season, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Here's to a restful break and an exciting new year ahead.

Andrew Pattison
Headteacher

KEY DATES AND INFORMATION

January

Start of Spring term 1: Mon 6th

- Final 2025 starters prospective parent tour: Thur 9th 9.30am
- Healthy Schools Week: Mon 13th
- EYFS & Y6 height & weight screening: Wed 15th
- PTFA AGM meeting: Thur 30th

February

- Y5 Table tennis festival at AMVC: Wed 5th
- EYFS Tobogganing trip: Tue 11th
- Trust Day: Fri 14th ****SCHOOL CLOSED****

Half term: Mon 17th to Fri 21st

- Y3 & Y4 Bikeability training: Fri 28th

March

- Y5 Bikeability training: Mon 3rd to Thur 6th
- World Book Day: Thur 6th
- EYFS Happy Chicks arrive: Mon 10th
- Y5/6 girls/ boys football at AMVC: Wed 12th (children selected)

Rita and Tess came to tell us about their work in Kenya for the Mustard Seed Project. They were super grateful for all the shoes you donated in the summer.

You could be part of their next initiative. Remember, just 50p feeds a child for one day.

“Our children are poor. Without our feeding programme many would starve or be malnourished. We provide porridge made with milk.”

Many thanks if you donated money to this worthy cause.

They are also looking to take some dolls out to the school. If you have any in good condition that you would like to donate, please send them into school. Rita will visit Kenya again in March.



Step inside to see what we have been doing leading up to Christmas, 2024.

We have yet again been very proud of the children and the way they have dealt with the long term, dreary weather and busy, busy times. We hope they have learned lots this half term and have taken away some treasured memories of fun events too.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and we will look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Mrs Jackson



Return to school –
Monday 6th January



The choir performed for us. Thank you to those parents who came to support them.

EYFS present the Wiggly Nativity





Christmas lunch
 Silent disco
 and
 Nativity star
 Dancing-
 Christmas 24
 has been busy.



Year 1 Autumn 2



Computing – learning to log on,
 using a mouse pad and keyboard.



How have toys changed
 Meeting old straw filled teddy
 and even older wax doll.



Maths
 Exploring shape
 outside and in.



From Autumn to winter.
 How has this oak tree changed?



DT
 – making Santa fly over the town
 using a lever.



Year 3 performed
'The Night before
Christmas' and 'Feliz
Navidad.'



Santa and the
'cheeky' elves



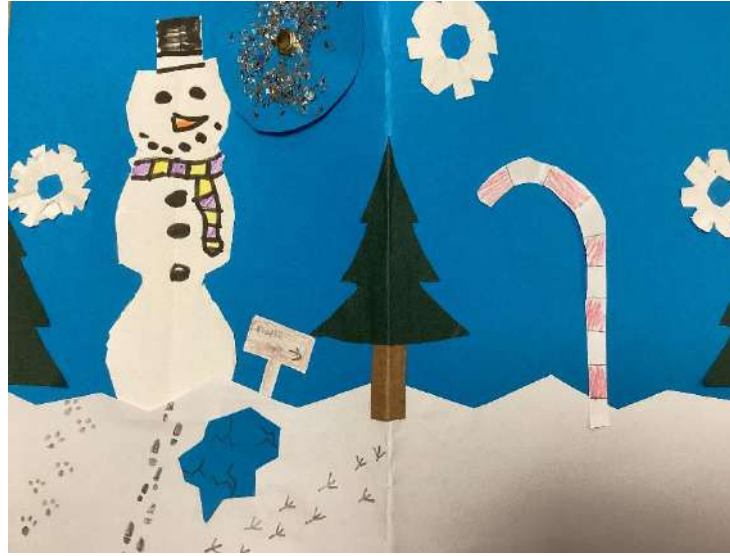
The
reindeer



The actors

We hope you had as
much fun watching as
we did performing!

Year 4



The Year 4 contribution to "The KS 2 Christmas Cracker" was called "The Santa Claus". The children acted confidently, danced to "All I Want for Christmas is you!" and sang with enthusiasm to "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree!".

YEAR 6

- ▶ Year 6 have had a very hardworking term, mixed with assessment weeks and a lot of writing to ensure they are ready for the terms coming up in the lead up to May's SATs.
- ▶ We also had Will come in from the Art of Brilliance to help show the class how to excel, push themselves and look at being resilient whilst having tough challenges in front of them.
- ▶ Mr Carr and Year 6 all wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!



Christmas Lunch
and
Christmas Jumpers



A huge thank you to
our dinner ladies and
cooks. We are very
grateful for the way
you look after us
every day.



We went to St Andrew's Church for a Christmas service.



St Andrew's will be holding a midnight mass on Christmas Eve if you would like to attend.

Thanks to Mrs Skillman for a lovely service and Mrs Knott for playing for us.



PTFA INFORMATION

WELL DONE TO THE FAMILIES WHO ARE WINNERS OF THE CHRISTMAS HAMPERS. OVER £600 WAS RAISED! THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART.

We are transitioning from our current PTFA to a new group in January. If you wish to join the new PTFA team, please let us know. A million thanks to the current committee who have supported us so brilliantly this Christmas and over the years. Thank you.



Plus family Williamson and Layen

Silent Disco

The PTFA funded a disco and snacks for afterwards. We ALL had a brilliant time! A super-inclusive event. Thank you!



YEAR 3 DANCE FESTIVAL

This term, Year 3 went to AMVC to take part in a dance festival alongside other Peterborough schools. With Coach Tom, who has taught them the dance in their PE, they showed off their skills to a dance making the music themselves using their bodies. Well done, Year 3!



COSY UP

A half termly newsletter for Peterborough's neurodiverse community



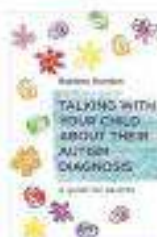
What does a diagnosis mean?

Stephany Martin-Sharpin
(Autism Specialist Practitioner)

I have worked with many young people across the city who have received a diagnosis of ASD, all with very different reactions to the 'news'. Some have described this as a 'lightbulb moment' where everything now 'just makes sense' to them. Some see Autism as a superpower and will wear a badge displaying the words 'I am autistic' and will embrace all those unique and wonderful differences that comes with the enlightenment of their new diagnosis. For other young people, this 'news' can be truly difficult. I've had young people describe their diagnosis as a 'burden' and saying it makes them feel 'weird'.



If you are anything like me, you will want to talk about the diagnosis and support your young person to remove the stereotypes and misconceptions around autism. You will want to help them feel empowered by their amazing autistic brain and their abilities to discover and experience life in a different way.



As passionate as I am to support our young people to build confidence and self-esteem around their new diagnosis, it's important to make sure that the young person is ready. Are they seeking information and asking questions? Am I the right person to support? What barriers do I need to consider?

I've used a variety of materials to support with these conversations. Linking the young person's interests into your conversations and tasks can be a great way to engage the young person. Sometimes too much information can be overwhelming. Smaller chunks of information, whilst allowing your young person plenty of time to process and ask more questions will positively support your young person in their understanding.

Keep an eye out for one of our future Diagnosis sessions delivered by the Autism/ADHD Advisory Teacher service.

From everyone at the Autism Advisory Teacher Service, Merry Christmas.

TOP TIPS FOR AN AUTISM FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS



- 1 Be Predictable: Create a visual holiday schedule and prepare your child for any upcoming events to reduce anxiety.
- 2 Create a Sensory-Friendly Environment: opt for soft lighting or gentle music and designate a quiet space, free of decorations where your child can retreat to.
- 3 Giving Gifts: Select gifts that align with your child's interests and sensory preferences and if your child doesn't like surprises, put a photo of what's inside on the wrapper.

- 4 Christmas Dinner: Consider an alternative Christmas dinner or allow them to have their preferred food. Avoid crackers or take out the snapper if loud noises are a problem.

- 5 New Traditions: Don't feel as though you must stick to traditions, Christmas is a time for happiness and joy so do what works for you and your family.

Out & About

<p>Christmas at Sawewell Farm: Click here</p> <p>Springfields Winter Wonderland Walk: Click here</p> <p>Christmas Crafts and more at Peterborough Museum: Click here</p> <p>SEN Friendly Sessions at Safesoftplay: Click here</p>	<p>Nene Park Winter Festival:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enchanted Forest • Performances • Fairground Stalls <p>Click here</p>	<p>Try these...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melted Snowman Biscuits...Click here • Christmas Chocolate Play Pudding...Click here • Edible Snowmen...Click here 	<p>Christmas Apps.. Crazy Santa Run... Click here</p> <p>Christmas Countdown Story... Click here</p> <p>Crafty Christmas Tree...</p>
<p>Angle Gaming Lounge: A ES wristband gives you access to the board game library and VR Headsets. Click here</p>			

NOTICE BOARD



<p>To do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for School Places by January 15th (Primary places) <p>Click here</p>	<p>Upcoming Events:</p> <p>NESSIE</p> <p>Helping Children & Young People Thrive</p> <p>Nessie host a range of parent/webinars and events.</p> <p>Click here</p>	<p>Parent/Carer Consultations...</p> <p>The Autism Advisory Teacher Service run a parent/carer consultation service. If you would like to talk to one of our advisory teachers about matters relating to Autism/ADHD you can use the email address below to book an appointment: SEN.inclusion@peterborough.gov.uk</p>
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SAFE GUARDING AND WELL BEING

- If you have any concerns regarding your child please come and see your class teacher in the first instance, followed by Mrs Jackson or Mr Pattison if you are still worried.
- Any enquiries for the class teacher that you can't pass on face to face should come through the office. If you do use dojo, please be mindful that class teachers will not always look at dojo throughout the day.
- If your message is about illness, a change in pick up or anything that needs instant action, it **must** come through the office. Thank you.

The emergency email is -
emergency@northborough.peterborough.sch.uk
Please use this email for safe guarding emergencies.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nesting under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

- 1 TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS**

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/ratingboard/games.
- 2 CHECK THE SPECS**

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirements.com can scan your console to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.
- 3 MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS**

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.
- 4 BE WARY OF GIFTS**

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers: they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.
- 5 APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO**

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 5, for example.
- 6 CONSIDER STORAGE**

Most apps and games will tell you in the app store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.
- 7 WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS**

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use apps which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.
- 8 LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW**

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.
- 9 IN-APP REGISTRATION**

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.
- 10 STAY UPDATED**

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.
- 11 MEET OUR EXPERT**

Sirry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which? and Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newnight Radio 5 Live and TV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.
- 12 NATIONAL ONLINE SAFETY**

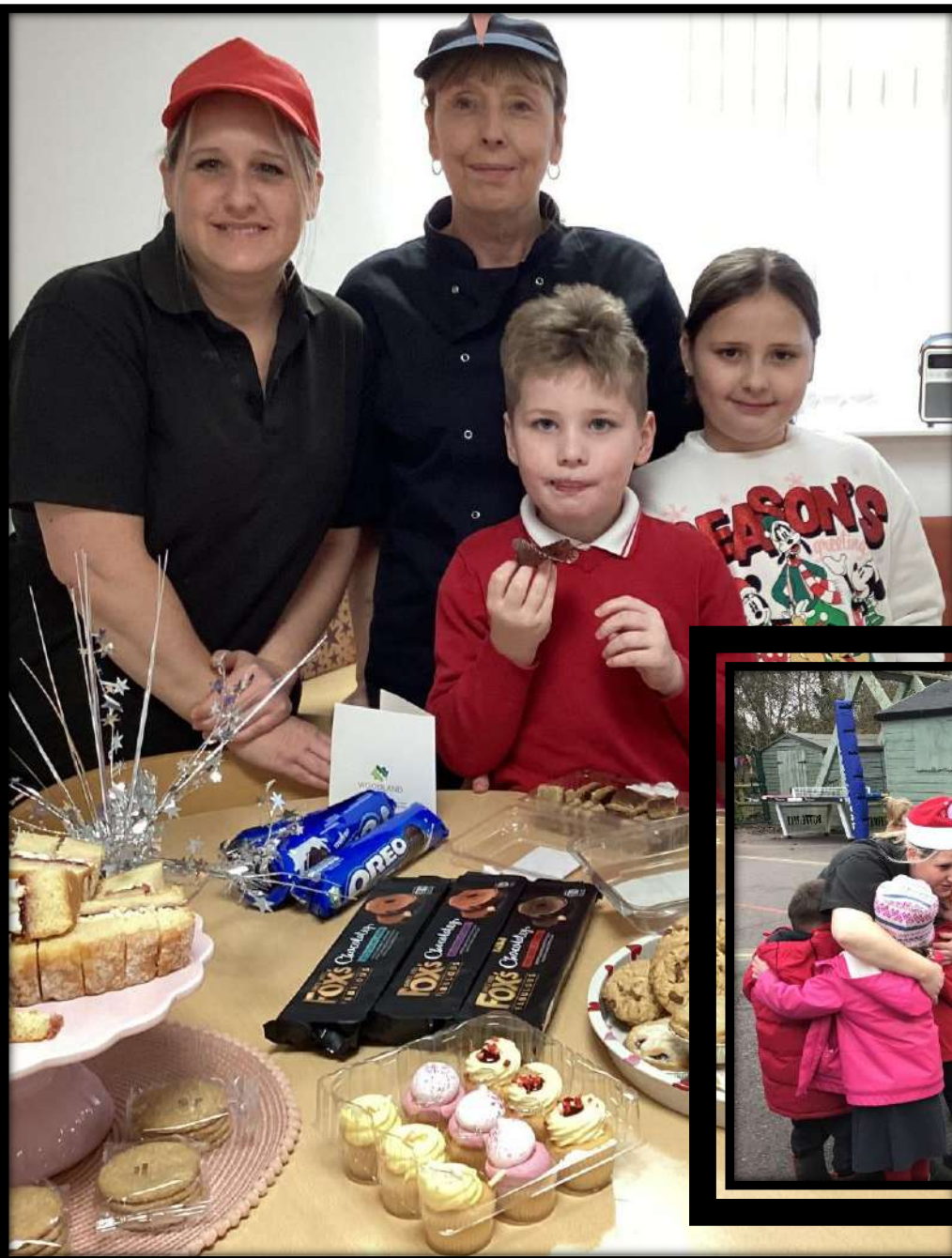
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.12.2022

A fond farewell to Mrs Graham and Mrs Walker

Wishing you both all the very best for the future from everyone at Northborough School.





The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 5-19 years school nursing team offers help and advice for a whole host of issues:

Emotional Wellbeing

- Managing emotions, low mood, eating concerns, school transition support & attendance issues for health reasons

Healthy Lifestyles

- Healthy eating, sleep, bed wetting, smoking, drugs and alcohol

Puberty & Growing Up

- Healthy relationships, self image and identity

CALL 0300 029 50 50

cpm-tr.peterboroughschoolnurses@nhs.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Enjoy your special day– HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Wishing you all a day as brilliant as you!

Birthdays celebrated this half term

EYFS: Maria, Louis & Florence

Year 1: Tommy, Oliver, Arlo, Matilda & Etta

Year 2: Avery, Jacob, Toby, Violet, Florence P, Hattie & Hordii

Year 3: Louie B, Millie, Isaac R, Hassan & Isaac W

Year 4: Priya, Rosie M, Sasha & Tate

Year 5: Felix, Spencer, Zac, Faolan, Florence, Jessica & Jonah

Year 6: Josh B, Alice, James, Riley, Josh C & Jess

Staff: Mrs Rowcliffe



Wishing you a very
Merry Christmas from
us all at Northborough
Primary School.

We will look forward
to seeing you all back
at school on
Monday 6th January
2025.





**IN THE EVENT OF
SEVERE WEATHER –**

**PARENTS WILL BE INFORMED VIA A PARENTPAY
EMAIL. THIS WILL HAPPEN NO LATER THAN 8AM ON
A PREDICTED SNOW DAY. A MESSAGE WILL ALSO BE
PUT ON THE HOME PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE. PARENTS
CAN ALSO LISTEN OUT FOR NOTICE ON HEART
RADIO, CONNECT FM AND BBC RADIO
CAMBRIDGESHIRE.**



**MANY THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT – THE NORTHBOROUGH TEAM.**