



20th December

Weekly Newsletter

Gosford Park Primary School

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All parents and carers MUST pre order lunches through your school grid account- if you need help please contact school- from January any lunches not ordered before 8:30am will have to be a jacket potato.



Christmas Magic!

This week a group of volunteers from Bluecoat came to see us at Gosford and worked with our Primary Leadership team to make sure that every child takes home a wrapped present on Gosford Park Christmas Day. This is to make sure that all of the children in our school family have a present to open on the 25th.

Thank you!



Whole grapes are a choking hazard!

Please cut up grapes that are being sent in to school, for children a whole grape is the perfect size to block their air ways.

Happy Holidays!

School is now closed for the break- all children need to be back at school on Monday January 6th at 8:30am!

Timetable Rockstars

This week's winners are:

5 Phoenix (10 Dojos each!)

OPAL Christmas Wishlist

- Wellies
- Waterproof coats
- Hats, gloves, scarves
- Cars
- Pushchairs
- Bikes

This Week's Weekly Attendance:

1st: Sherbourne (5 Dojos each)
2nd: Whitefriars (3 Dojos each)
3rd: Coffantre (1 Dojo each)

Housepoints

East house win this term!



PTA

CHRISTMAS STALL



3pm-3:30pm

CHRISTMAS SWEET CONES

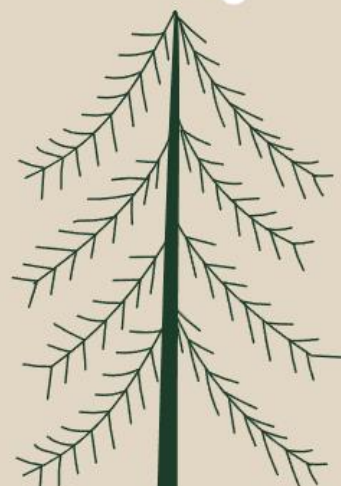


MAGIC REINDEER FOOD

HOT CHOCOLATE CONES

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY BOOKS

AND MUCH MORE

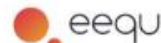


Coventry HAF Winter Fun - 21 December 2024 – 5 January 2025

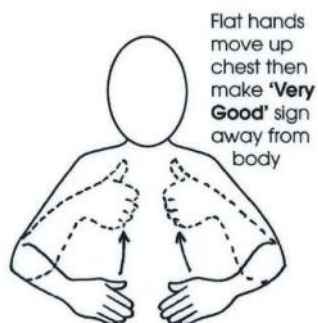


Book on now so you don't miss out – places will fill up quickly! Visit www.coventry.gov.uk/haf

Delivered with partners by Coventry City Council and funded by UK Government



Makaton Sign of the Week



How are you?



Good



Bad
[already know good]

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 recognise 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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Dates For Your Diary

January 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
6 Term starts- all children in school at 8:30	7 Year 5 Swimming	8	9	10 Gosford's Greatest
13	14 Year 5 Swimming	15 Year 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics Final- selected children	16	17 Gosford's Greatest After school workshop for parents online safety for Yr5/6
20	21 Year 5 Swimming	22	23	24 Gosford's Greatest
27	28 Year 5 Swimming	29	30	31 Gosford's Greatest Reception Vision screening

February 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
3	4 Year 5 Swimming	5	6	7 Gosford's Greatest NSPCC Number Day
10	11 Year 5 Swimming	12	13	14
HALF TERM	SCHOOL CLOSED	CLOSED	HALF TERM	CLOSED