

KITE FEDERATION NEWS

Christmas Newsletter - December 2023



Merry Christmas !!

What a fantastic term this has been. The pupils have worked so hard and it has been amazing to share the success with you all.

It has been brilliant seeing the excitement of the festive season building in recent weeks, culminating with the children thoroughly enjoying the pantomime 'Snow White', along with their Christmas Dinners, Party Days and the Chringle service at St. Matthews.

We hope you all have an amazing festive period with your families, and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!!

Best wishes - All the staff across the Kite Federation.

We look forward to seeing you all again on

Thursday
4th January



OUR FEDERATION VISION

Together we will
flourish and thrive,
building on our Christian
and local community,
for the good of all.

Those who trust in the Lord will
find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like
eagles. [Isaiah 40v.31](#)



Pupils in Norwell
decorated a tree
for the Newark
Christmas Tree
Festival on the
theme of Love and
Peace.



Pupils at St.
Matthews
produced artwork
to decorate the
church on the
theme of the 12
days of Christmas.





We were so proud of our pre-school, reception and Key Stage 1 Children at both schools for their amazing nativity performances, reminding us that Christmas is a time of hope and new beginnings.





The children have enjoyed another exciting term of music lessons with Mr Higgins. We were delighted to be able to share their work with you and sing some festive songs at our carol concerts.

Next term our year 5 and 6 pupils are once again taking the opportunity join over 5,000 young people to sing with the young voices choir at Sheffield Arena.



RHS Campaign for School Gardening

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This 2023 highlight comes from [Norwell school allotment](#), who have been growing an enormous variety of food, edible flowers and herbs 🌻🥕🍷

"We love our fantastic new sign in front of our wildlife and pollinator (and child!) heaven plot! We grew rare heritage tall sugar peas, broad beans, Yin Yang beans, globe artichokes, Jerusalem artichokes, potatoes, carrots, parsnips, pumpkins, tromboncinos (a great laugh!), loads of berries such as tayberries and honey berries... plus rhubarb, tree cabbage, spinach, chard, perennial kale... and our edible flowers included dahlias, calendula, sweet rocket, the list goes on!!"



It has been a busy term of sport, with KS1 children taking part in a football skills afternoon at Tuxford Academy.

KS2 children took part in a regional orienteering competition at Worksop College, while also having the opportunity to develop their netball skills against other schools at Retford Oaks.

There will be more festivals for KS1 in the new year. Children in year 5 will also get the opportunity to learn to climb and complete their NICAS indoor climbing award after the February 1/2 term.



My Child's First Device

5 Steps to Make Phones, Tablets, and Laptops Safer

You might be deciding to give your child their first phone, tablet, or laptop (or third, fourth, fifth – even a new update). This is a big decision! The responsibility and freedom that comes with owning a device is a big step for children – and you! It might even be their first “grown up” responsibility.

As a parent or carer, it's important to remember that even if a child is tech-savvy, they need to be taught how to be tech-safe. We know this can be daunting with various device brands, apps, and settings to choose from. Our online safety experts have created 5 steps to help you make that first device (or brand-new model!) safer for the child or young person in your care.



Remember!

This is an exciting time in your child's life! You want to be a part of that in a positive way that encourages them to share with you and trust you. If you take the time to teach them, they will be empowered in their online actions and behaviours for the better.



1

Do your homework

Make sure your home environment is secure and ready for your child to be online. Many major broadband providers offer age restriction settings so check with your provider to ensure these restrictions are put in place.

Many retailers offer free Parental Controls to their customers. You can find Parental Control walkthroughs on most popular provider websites.

Check the device's brand website for simple walkthroughs of where to find privacy settings on your child's specific device.



3

Discuss and agree on healthy phone and device habits

Once the device has been set up, take the time to agree on some healthy rules and boundaries for how they will use the device. This can include rules like when and where they can use their device, screen time allowance and which apps are allowed to be used.

Be realistic on what will work in your household. If your child has friends with different rules, remind them that what works for one family might not work for another! As the parent or carer, you are responsible for the way your child uses their device and they will need guidance, especially if this is your child's first independent responsibility.



2

Set up the device with your child

Taking the time to sit down with your child and set up the device together will help you both get to know how the device works, allow you to implement SafeSearch filters on search engines, and set up in-app purchase restrictions. You can use the device settings to set up agreed upon restrictions, like Screen Time and App Limits.

Explain why these settings are important to protect children and young people from online risks and that these restrictions will be lifted when they are old enough. Ensure your personal account is set as the Parent account and make sure your parental control PIN number is secure and random.



4

Check-in with your child

Check-in with your child about their device use. It doesn't have to be a big sit-down conversation! Informal chats over the dinner table, in the car or while watching television as a family can have the biggest impact. Ask questions like, “Tell me about your favourite app! Why do you like to use it?” or, “How has your device helped you today?”.

Online safety is never a one-off conversation – it's a continuing dialogue. Show your child that you're interested in their responses and thoughts to foster an environment of openness and trust between you and the child in your care.



5

Keep Yourself Informed

We live in a digital world that changes daily. The most responsible thing you can do in keeping your child's device safe is to keep yourself informed.

Stay alert to trends and threats that they may be exposed to. With many companies beginning to offer “kid” versions of their platforms, knowing what is safe and what is suspect will help you make the best decision for your child. Luckily, we have some excellent resources to assist you that are reliable and relevant. Visit our website and social media pages.



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How to stay safer on popular platforms