

# 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>



# The Anchor News

Serving the local community in the name of Christ since 1859

13th December 2024

Our Values focus this half term is **Hope**

Hi everyone!

Miss Bennett here, I hope you are all well and keeping warm now the weather is getting much colder.

I am SO excited that we are in December, as many of you know I LOVE CHRISTMAS and as soon as we enter December I wear a different Christmas jumper every day. Keep a look out for my jumpers and tell me which one is your favourite. December is an exciting month in school, and we have so many festivities going on. We all enjoyed a delicious Christmas lunch this week, a big thank you to the ladies in the kitchen!

Over the next week we have a lot going on so please check the calendar, parents are invited to some events, so please if you can join us!

I am very lucky as I get to visit all KS2 classes every week to teach music and RE. Every class are really enjoying their music themes this half term and have enjoyed using the glockenspiels and drums.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Miss Bennett - Higher Level Teaching Assistant.



## Class Christmas Parties

Thursday 19th classes will be having their Christmas parties in the afternoon.

Children can bring their party clothes to school to change into after lunch.

Don't forget you will need your tickets for the Grotto and Disco



More details inside

## Important Dates

### DECEMBER

Last week of Term - No Afterschool Clubs

Mon 16th	Shining Star Assembly 9am <i>Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
Tues 17th	EYFS + Y1 Nativity 9:15am Christmas Fair 1:30pm - 3pm
Wed 18th	Whole school Carol Service & Nativity 2:15pm
Thurs 19th	Prayer Morning 9am Class Christmas Parties (PM) Christmas Grotto Christmas Disco (Y1-Y6) 4:30pm - 6pm <i>-(tickets needed)</i>
Fri 20th	Christmas Concert 10am <i>Parents/Carers Welcome</i> <b>LAST DAY: SCHOOL CLOSING AT 12pm</b>



### Christmas Break

Mon 23rd December - Mon 6th January 2025

Tuesday 7th January **First Day Back**  
- Normal Time -



Never give up **HOPE**. Situations can change over night, and problems can dissolved in the light of a new days **SUN**.

Leon Brown

UNICEF Rights of the Child

Article 20: Children without families Every child who cannot be looked after by their own family has the right to be looked after properly by people who respect the child's religion, culture, language and other aspects of their life.



2022-2025



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#LearningforLifeAnchoredInChrist



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**TRAVEL BACK IN TIME & DISCOVER TWO CENTURIES OF POLICING**

**UNLOCK HISTORY**

West Midlands Police MUSEUM

The Lock-up, Steelhouse Lane  
Birmingham, B4 6BJ

Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, TikTok, YouTube icons

[www.Museum.West-Midlands.Police.UK](http://www.Museum.West-Midlands.Police.UK)

Walk through our authentic cells and corridors, and gain a rare glimpse into the lives of both the incarcerated and the officers who patrol the city streets. Our exhibits feature a compelling mix of historical artefacts, personal stories, and interactive displays, allowing visitors to engage with the rich heritage of law enforcement in Birmingham. Whether you're a history buff, a curious mind, or a family looking for an educational adventure, our museum offers a captivating journey through time, shedding light on the evolution of justice and the human stories entwined with it. Come and discover the echoes of the past in an environment that brings history vividly to life.

**OPEN WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY, 10AM - 4PM  
SUNDAY'S, 11AM - 4PM**

Please check online for closed dates before visiting

**GROUP TOURS**  
Looking for a unique day out for your group? Immerse yourself in history with guided tours, historical talks, or even spend the night!  
Prices start from £15 per person

**SCHOOL VISITS**  
Plan a hands-on and creative day out for your school and spend the day finding out about some of Birmingham's most notorious criminals!  
From Key Stage 1 through to University!

**VENUE HIRE**  
Set in a Victorian lock-up our venue is one of a kind, our museum offers versatile options for venue hire tailored to your needs.  
Add a Murder Mystery Activity!

# Shining Star Awards December 2024

## Values Champions

	Reading		Writing		Mathematics	
Nur.	Ayub					
Rec.	Eldana	Junior	Naomi	Ridwan	Chester	Aliza
Yr. 1	Haset		Summer		Nadia	
Yr. 2	Ali-Asghar	Aala	Maria	Zaiden	Humza	Ksenia
Yr. 3	Hussin	Ariya	Lara	Elinor	Marcon	Abdur-Raheem
Yr. 4	Inaaya	Aaminah	M. Izaan	Khazaima	Ethan	Mila-Wray
Yr. 5	Isaiah	Mercy	Fodeba	Anaiyah	Naomi	Fatumata
Yr. 6	Hujaifa	Subhan	Lmar	Ismael	Eliora	A. Rafiq

Amyrah  
Minahil  
Amiira  
Diana  
Mukhtar  
Olivia  
Jenson  
Amani

We look forward to celebrating the children's achievements with you on Monday 16th December at 9am



We are still looking for donations for our children's Christmas raffle and Bric & Brac stall. If you are able to make a donation towards these, it would be very helpful. Please drop donations to the school office.

### Donation ideas for the raffle

toys, stationary, clothing, sports equipment, sweets, chocolate. These items do not need to be expensive and/or large but will help us in getting a range of prizes.

### Donation ideas for the Bric & Brac

We ask that all items donated are clean and in working order.

**The Christmas Disco** will be held from 4:30pm – 6pm. Children will need to be collected from school at their usual time and then will return for their disco time. There will be a refreshment stall where snacks, drinks and sweets can be purchased. The disco is open to children from Year 1 – Year 6. Tickets can be purchased from the school office.

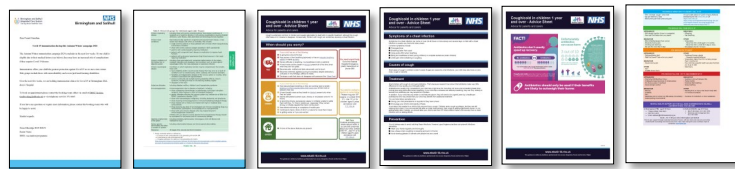
**Please be aware, there are only 20 tickets left for this event.**

*\*Please bring your ticket on the night of the disco.*

*\*\*Entry to and from the disco will be from the main Butlin Street gate.*



## Important information



We have uploaded to our website information documents, provided by the NHS. There are 3 different PDF's for you to look at, in particular a letter with information about immunisation clinics being held over the next few weeks.

To see the information please visit our website:

<https://stclements.bdmatt.org.uk/2024/12/nhs-information/>

## Safeguarding: Stranger Danger

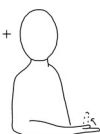
Please make sure to read the important letter we sent home yesterday, with information from West Midlands Police about an attempt to abduct a child.

You can find a copy of the letter and information on our website

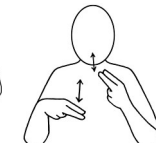
<https://stclements.bdmatt.org.uk/2024/12/safeguarding-stranger-danger/>



Facial expression + important



Slide right hand over back of left hand towards body, then close right hand and place on back of left hand



We hope you enjoyed your Christmas Dinner at school this week

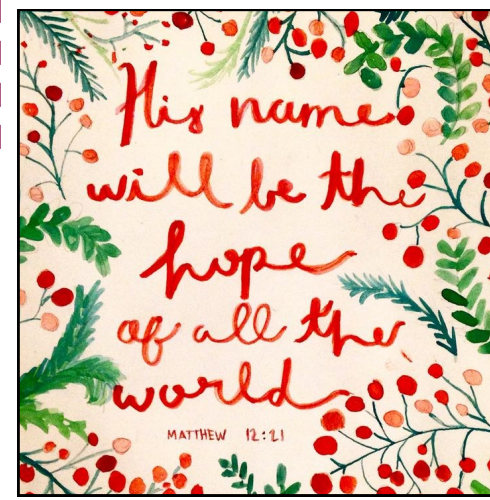
## Have you had a look yet?

The photos have a new look - pick from 3 different poses!!



The school photos this year are **different to usual**. We picked a new look, as you can seen in the example on the right, and we hope you like it. There are also 3 different poses to chose from!

Get online and check your child's photo using the card that was sent home. You can view and order your photos anytime. If you have lost your card please contact Miss Greene in the school office, who will be able to help you out.



Tickets can be bought in school and the raffle will be drawn on Thursday 19th December.

Good Luck