



Newsletter

Friday 19th December



I write this at the close of a very full week of Christmas events. On Tuesday we all attended the pantomime at Bradford Playhouse and the children had a fantastic time. Seeing their smiling faces was a real pleasure. The children's behaviour was outstanding and we felt incredibly proud of our school. We have already made our booking for next year!

The Nativity performance on Monday was delightful and the youngest children in school truly rose to the occasion. Everyone left with a smile on their face! Christmas lunch on Wednesday was delicious, with plenty of empty plates. Thank you to our wonderful kitchen team for their dedication throughout the year.

The children have fully enjoyed their Christmas parties and we were even lucky enough to receive a visit from the big man himself! I hope the children were pleased with their gifts.

Thank you to the PTFA for all of their support this Christmas. Their generous donations of sweets for the pantomime and juice and crisps for the parties were very warmly received.

I hope that everyone is able to enjoy the holiday with their family and friends and, for those who celebrate, I would like to wish you a Happy Christmas! The children have worked extremely hard this term and they certainly deserve a well-earned rest. I'm sure you do too! Enjoy the holiday.

Mrs J Elam



PTFA Update

End of term update

A huge thank you to all the children who took part in decorating a wooden ornament for the Bethel Chapel Christmas Tree Festival. Their creativity helped our PTFA-funded tree truly *Shine*, and it was wonderful to see so many beautiful designs on display. Children whose ornaments were chosen as some of the most creative received a small gift as a token of our appreciation.



The tree was brought back to school where it added even more festive cheer to the final days of term.



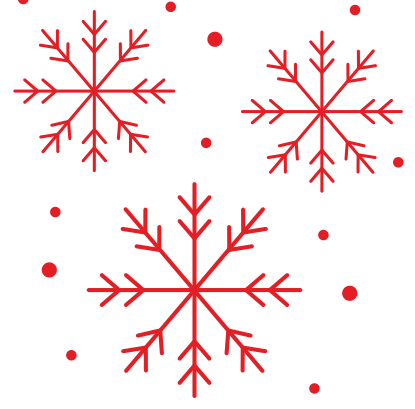
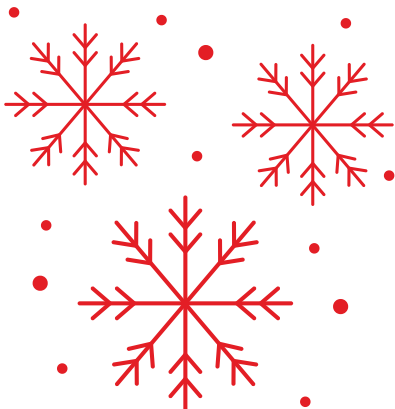
Thank you to all of our families who supported the Christmas Fayre. Your generosity - both in the lead-up to the event and on the day itself - is what makes events like this such a success and helps the PTFA continue to support pupil enrichment. A big special thank you to the volunteers and school staff, getting the Fayre set up in time and making it a success!

The PTFA was also pleased to donate sweetie bags for pupils and staff to enjoy during the Pantomime visit this week, adding an extra festive treat to the experience.



Finally, we would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support - we look forward to more exciting events in 2026.

From everyone in the PTFA



Reminders:

Correct Uniform

Ahead of the new term, we'd like to remind you about our school uniform:

- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
- White polo shirt (with or without school logo)
- Red school hoodie, sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without school logo)
- Black shoes
- Red and white summer dress
- Black PE shorts/joggers/leggings
- House T-shirt (with school logo)
- Black pumps/trainers
- Spare knickers/underpants and socks



Children come to school in their PE kit on their PE days.

Please could we also remind you that your child should bring an appropriate bag to school to carry lunch / water / books. This should either be a school book bag (Early Years / KS1) or small back pack.

Pre-loved school uniform for sale



We have a selection of good quality / pre-loved uniform for sale in the school office. All we ask is for a cash donation as you feel appropriate which will go towards school funds.



Tesco Stronger Starts - please vote for us!

Please vote for us to win a grant to improve our SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities) Inclusion Resources in school - in order to vote please make a purchase in one of the stores below until mid-January 2026.

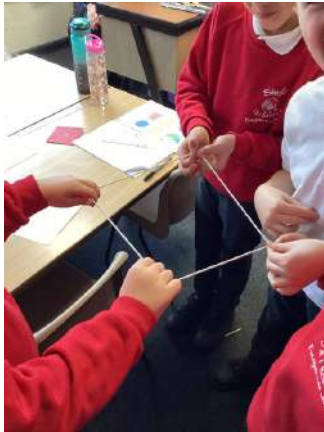
The list of participating stores are:

- Tesco Bradford Peel Centre Superstore - BD1 4RB
- Tesco Crossflats Bingley Express - BD16 2DY
- Tesco Northcliffe Shipley Express - BD18 3HH
- Tesco Bradford Sunbridge Road Express - BD1 2AY
- Tesco Baildon Otley Road Express - BD17 7GA

Learning:

Mackintosh - Year 3/4

This term, Year 3 and 4 have been busy exploring a range of exciting subjects. In Geography, pupils have been developing their map skills by using atlases to locate cities across the UK, learning how to navigate and interpret maps with confidence. In Maths, we have been focusing on shape, with children creating and investigating different shapes using string to deepen their understanding of properties and structure. Our Art lessons have taken a step back in time, as pupils designed and made clay pots using the coiling technique inspired by the Bronze Age, producing some fantastic and creative results.



Learning:

Forest School

Children have continued making their Snowmen decorations, this has involved using a palm drill and bow saw, plus their own creative skills!



Reception's finished snowmen! The children worked really hard creating these.



The junior children have made Christmas trees out of wool and sticks. Lots of tricky skills are included in making these. Knots and square lashing are great fine motor skills.



Learning:

RE - Christingle making

Recently, pupils across the school took part in making Christingles in our RE lessons. The Christingle is a symbol of Christian beliefs and helps children understand the meaning of Christmas. The orange represents the world, the red ribbon shows God's love and the blood of Christ, and the sweets or dried fruit remind us of the fruits of the Earth and God's gifts. The lit candle in the centre represents Jesus as the Light of the World, bringing hope to people everywhere. This reflective activity helped pupils learn about sharing, kindness and thinking of others, especially those in need.



At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': bawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>

Christmas Festivities

I Spy Christmas - Reception

We hope parents / carers enjoyed our Nativity performance this week!

The children worked really hard to learn the songs and their lines - they were all fantastic!



Thank you to all of the Reception team for all of their hard work.

Pantomime

We all had another great morning out at the Pantomime on Tuesday seeing Cinderella.

The children (and staff!) enjoyed singing along, it's always one of our most enjoyable events of the year!



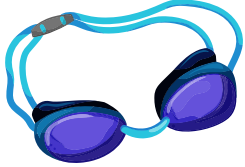
Thank you to the PTFA who provided a bag of sweets for us all to enjoy.

Christmas Dinner

We had a lovely Christmas school dinner on Wednesday, thank you to our amazing kitchen team for putting on another wonderful festive spread for us all to enjoy!



Dates for the Diary:



Monday 5th January 2026 - first day of term

Monday 5th January - Year 4 swimming

current group will continue until Monday 26th January, we start the first week back, so don't forget your kit!

w/c 9th February

Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

- more information to follow



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND
HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



*Thank
You*

We'd like to pass on our heartfelt thanks to all of our families, at this time of year there is always so much to remember & lots asked of you all - we appreciate all of your support and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!