School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 16th December	• KS2 Qualitas After School - Netball
Tuesday 17th December	• Christingle Service 2.00pm St Giles Church • KS1 Qualitas Multi Skills after school
Wednesday 18th December	• Christmas Dinner • Class 2 to the ARC for Christmas Sports Festival 1-3. **Please give consent on ParentPay** • Nursery And reception 2025 starters crafts 3.30pm-4.30pm • Qualitas KS2 Dodgeball after school – FULL
Thursday 19th December	• Little Smiles Toddler Group 9.00am -10.30am • NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 2
Friday 20th December	• Last Day of Term • School Party – see below poster • Lunchtime Choir • **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**
	2025
Monday 6th January	• First Day Back at School • Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Badminton - Book and pay on ParentPay
Tuesday 7th January	• Qualtias After School Club – KS1 Dance – Book and pay on ParentPay
Wednesday 8th January	• Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Bench ball – Book and pay on ParentPay
Thursday 9th January	• NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 2
Friday 10th January	•

Christmas Events

- **Christingle Service – Tuesday 17th December 2.00pm in St Giles Church –** Please join us in church for our Christingle Service.
- **Friday 20th December – Last day of term. NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB TODAY**
- **Saturday 21st December** – Cake and Carols at St Giles Church 4.00pm. Some of our children are taking part in the service

OTHER NEWS

- **ParentPay – Please check your accounts and ensure all outstanding debts are settled before the end of term. Help us by making regular payments to avoid balances increasing. Thank you for your support with this.**

- **Walesby Forest Residential** – The next payment for the Year 5 and 6 residential is due on 31st January. Thank you if you have already paid. Please contact the school office if you have any questions at all.

- **Qualitas Clubs for Spring Term 1 are as follows:**
  Mondays – KS2 Badminton
  Tuesdays – KS1 Dance
  Wednesdays – KS2 Benchball
  Please book and pay on ParentPay

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email with any questions or queries.

Friday updates can be found in the Newsletters section of our school website.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Saturday 21st December	**Cake and Carols in St Giles Church 4.00pm – featuring our very own St Giles Christmas Choir Refreshments and cakes after the service Everyone is welcome.**
Monday 6th January 2025	**Back to school** Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Badminton
Tuesday 7th January	Qualitas After School Club – KS1 Dance
Wednesday 8th January	Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Benchball
Monday 13th January	Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Badminton
Tuesday 14th January	Qualitas After School Club – KS1 Dance
Wednesday 15th January	Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Benchball
Thursday 16th January	Class 2 swimming
Monday 20th January	Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Badminton
Tuesday 21st January	Qualitas After School Club – KS1 Dance
Wednesday 22nd January	Cross Country Event at Whitworth Park – further details to follow Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Benchball
Monday 27th January	Class 4 to Young Voices in Sheffield
Wednesday 29th January	Class 2 trip to the Space Centre, Leicester
Thursday 13th February	Last swimming lesson for Class 2. Class 3 start swimming after half term
Friday 14th February	Break up for half term
Monday 24th February	**INSET DAY – School closed**
Tuesday 25th February	Back to school

Wednesday 26th February	MAD Infant Sports Event – Fun Run at All Saints Juniors – rearranged from 16th October
Thursday 27th February	**First Swimming for Class 3**
Friday 4th April	Break up for Easter
Monday 21st April	Easter Monday
Tuesday 22nd April	Back to school
Wednesday 30th April	Class 2 Multi Skills Festival at All Saints Juniors This Girl Can – Whitworth Park 930 – 11.30
Monday 5th May	**MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY**
Monday 12th May	KS2 SATS – English Grammar Punctuation and Spelling
Tuesday 13th May	KS2 SATS – English Reading Paper
Wednesday 14th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Papers 1 and 2
Thursday 15th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 3
Friday 23rd May	Break up for half term
Monday 2nd June	**INSET DAY – School closed**
Tuesday 3rd June	Back to school
Wednesday 18th June	Class 2 Dance and Gymnastics Festival at All Saints Juniors
Tuesday 1st July	Highfields Transition Day for Y6 pupils
Wednesday 2nd July	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4
Thursday 3rd July	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4 Last swimming for Class 3
Friday 4th July	Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4
Wednesday 9th July	Class 2 Sports Day at All Saints Juniors
Thursday 10th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 17th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Thursday 24th July	Last day of the school year **NO AFTER SCHOOLCLUB**

Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Nicolle Ndiweni-Roberts, is asking YOU to help shape the future of local policing. As she prepares the budget for 2025-26, she wants to know how much you're willing to contribute towards making your community safe. If you haven't already had your say please take a minute to complete the survey and let Nicolle know how you want to support the Police and protect your community.

Click here to complete the survey

Separately to this, the social media platform, SNAPCHAT, in conjunction with the charity Childnet, have just issued 'a new parent's guide to online safety'. This is a really useful guide which can be accessed here: back_to_school_booklet_digital_v8. This may be helpful to view.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



SOLIHULL APPROACH

Our Inclusion team are going to be introducing the Solihull parenting course from January 2025. This will be open to all parents and carers across the partnership who wish to attend but requires commitment to attend weekly 2 hour sessions for 10 weeks beginning on Tuesday 21st January at 9.30am at All Saints Infants.

The Solihull parenting approach focusses on parent-child relationships and on understanding your child and their behaviours.

Please phone your school office or email earlyhelp@matlockanddales.derbyshire.sch.uk to register your interest in attending this course.

COME AND JOIN US FOR

Christmas Crafts

Who: Nursery and reception 2025 starters

When: Wednesday 18th December at 3:30pm - 4:30pm

What: make a variety of different Christmas crafts with Mrs Taylor, Mrs Rodgers and Miss Simpson.

Mince pies, cookies and drinks available all whilst listening to Christmas music!

NO NEED TO BOOK, JUST TURN UP!

St Giles

Christmas Party

Friday 20th December

We have two very special visitors coming to St Giles for our Christmas Party!

Children are invited to wear their party clothes and bring one wrapped chocolate treat to eat!


PARISH CHURCH OF
MATLOCK
st giles
COME TO
Cake & Carols
SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER
4PM-5.30PM
Sing along to beautiful Carols and popular Christmas hits
Complimentary refreshments and homemade cakes for all
KIND DONATIONS WELCOMED
Featuring
SAINT GILES
SCHOOL
Christmas Choir

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 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.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.12.2024