

# The Christ Church News



20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Our value this term is: **FRIENDSHIP**

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**RESPECT COMPASSION PERSEVERANCE CREATIVITY FRIENDSHIP**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've made it to the end of a very busy Autumn Term. Our children loved their Christmas lunch this week with crackers and fun with friends! Thank you to our kitchen staff for an amazing lunch and feeding our pupils every day of the year with a cheery smile. It was lovely to hear the children wishing them a Merry Christmas. I enjoyed helping out and confusing the children who thought I had a new job!

We must also say a huge thank you to all the parents and staff who helped at our annual Christmas Crafternoon. The children had a great time and it got us in the festive mood! We were joined by Mrs Stranack from our central team who was amazed at the next level organisational skills of our wonderful PTA.

As always huge thanks go to our amazing Christ Church staff for all their hard work and dedication. From all of us at Christ Church, may we wish you a very merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in 2025!

Mrs Pendlebury

## Diary Dates 2024-2025

Date	Event
20th December	Last day of school – Christmas holiday Finish normal time
6th January	INSET DAY – No school for children
7th January	Children back to school
14 <sup>th</sup> February	Last Day of school – finish normal time – February Half term
24 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET DAY – No school for children
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Children back to school
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Young Voices Concert - Birmingham
6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
8 <sup>th</sup> April	10am Y4 led Easter Service (at church)
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Last day of school – finish normal time – Easter Holiday

## Mrs Kirby

At service today, we wish a fond farewell (for now) to Mrs Kirby. She will be very much missed by staff and pupils alike. Maternity leave is just the beginning of a wonderful journey. We wish her and Mr Kirby all the very best and will be eager for news (and pictures of course) of Baby Kirby in the not too distant future.



## Christmas Lunch

A huge thank you to Lisa and her team in the kitchen for putting a wonderful Christmas lunch this Wednesday. The children loved it.



## Reception

Reception enjoyed a visit from Santa this week. We told him all of the things we would like to get for Christmas and promised that we would be good.



#### Year 4

Year 4 have been designing and making healthy pizzas as part of a Food Technology Project. We included some of our 5 a day fruit and vegetables to add taste, colour and vitamins to our delicious recipes.







### **Rock Steady Concert**

Trinity and the rock steady crew put on a great performance for their families on Wednesday afternoon.



### **DGAT Advent Calendar 2024**

Children have been watching a video from a different DGAT school each day in December. Here is the link:

<https://prezi.com/view/KSbtW8t8o1zYpxjegdYx/>

Our school is shown on 13<sup>th</sup> December where you can see some of our pupils singing “Born is the King” and look out for “CC the Christ Church Monkey” in the Christmas tree! We have also posted the video on [our website here](#).



### **Christmas Service 2024**

Thank you to Year 2 and all the KS2 classes for our Christmas Service at Christ Church this year. It was lovely to hear the nativity told through the stories of the “Grumpy Innkeeper” and “Grumpy Shepherd” learning about the love of Jesus. It’s also lovely to have Rev Simon back after his sabbatical.



Year 2



Year 5



Year 6



Year 4



Year 3

### **Swimming Lesson Reminder**

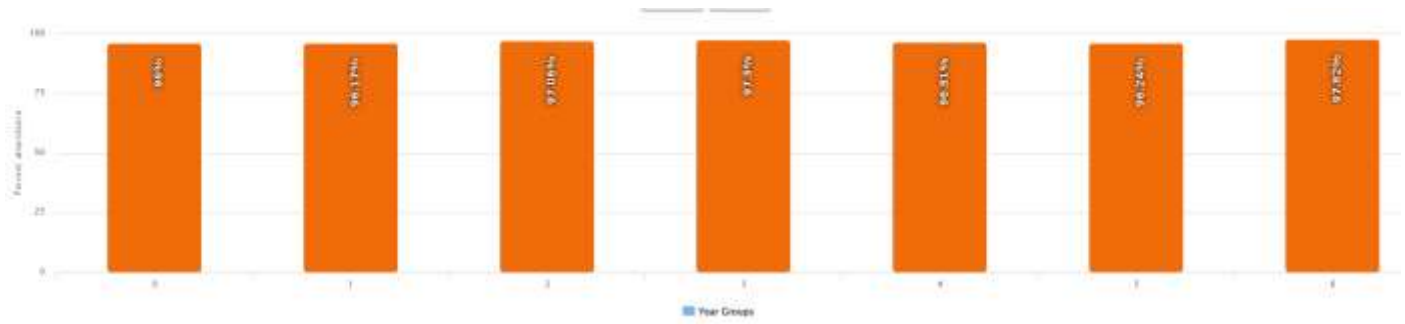
We talked to the children about swimming lessons this week as we celebrated Year 6 completing their “school swimming award.”

Although swimming is part of the KS2 curriculum, pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6 will only have 10 sessions a year and this is not enough time to have pupils swimming confidently if this is the only swimming they do.

By year 6, children should be leaving primary school able to confidently swim 25m so we encourage children from Reception to sign up for lessons outside of school.

## Attendance

We finish the Autumn Term with 96.8% Well done to all our families.



## FIND FESTIVE FUN



Cheltenham Rocks is built especially to help families find low-cost activities to do with the kids.

We have over 100 ideas of things to do in Cheltenham on our website to help you find festive fun over the holidays

**CLICK HERE FOR  
FESTIVE EVENTS**

**CLICK HERE FOR  
PARKS AND WALKS**

Thank you to our sponsors:

### **MOWGLI CHELTENHAM**

It's not too late to book a Christmas Feast at Mowgli in the Brewery Quarter. Perfect for getting groups of friends together or celebrating as a family.

Featuring Street Chat & Meats their heady Fenugreek Kissed Fries, punchy Gunpowder Chicken, and their crowd-pleaser Himalayan Cheese on Toast with the wintry spiced ooze of strong cheddar. [Find all the details on Cheltenham Rocks](#)



**[www.cheltenhamrocks.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrocks.co.uk)**

A message from Community Rocks

Please find use the link below to access Cheltenham Rocks

>> [www.cheltenhamrocks.co.uk](http://www.cheltenhamrocks.co.uk)

# 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, topping 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 discouraging 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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