

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE DATE  
20th December 2023



School is now closed for children until Monday 8/1/2023.

If you need any support with food over the holiday period, please contact [mrs.hennessy@thegrangeschooldaventry.net](mailto:mrs.hennessy@thegrangeschooldaventry.net) who will be able to support you by submitting a Food Bank Referral for you.

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Dear parents & carers,

As you are aware, Ms Victoria Haddon is leaving us tomorrow to begin a new chapter in her life - we wish her well. Also leaving - to follow her dreams - is Miss Summer Medlin. We wish her every success and happiness in the future.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that we are delighted to be welcoming back Mrs Lucy Sanders, who will work alongside the existing Year 1 team. You will remember Mrs Sanders from your Year 1 child's Reception year and she has recently been into school and spent some time with the children. Due to circumstances beyond our control, Mrs Sanders will be unable to join us during the first week of term, but we know that she is worth the wait! The class will be taught by the Year 1 team and Mrs Waldock during this time.

We are also pleased to announce that the Year 1 team will have a further two teachers joining us for the Spring Term. Ms Sarah Faulkner and Ms Aswathi Rajkumar will be working across Year 1, alongside the existing team members. We will ensure that you are able to meet the new staff at pick up times during the first week of term.

Miss Katie Hunt and Miss Katy Timms will be temporarily leaving us, to gain experience in another school setting, but will return full-time after the February half-term break.



Mrs Jasryn Dhillon will be returning from Maternity Leave in January and will be working alongside the EYFS team in our Reception classes.

Now that the Year 1 children have had a term to settle into Key Stage 1, we will begin to equip the children for more formal learning, as you would expect in Key Stage 1. We will also be making some changes to the way in which children are taught Early Reading skills and more information on this will follow shortly from Mrs Heath (Early Reading Lead) and Mrs Waldock (Assistant Head Teacher).

We are delighted to be able to welcome new (and returning) members to our EYFS & Year 1 teams and feel sure that, with the support of Senior Leaders in the school, the children will thrive during the Spring Term.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish those of you who celebrate a very, Merry Christmas. I hope you all have a happy and restful holiday and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Kind regards,  
Vicki

Vicki M M Masters  
Head Teacher

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Monday	8th January	School opens for pupils 8.40am
Thursday	11th January	Young Voices (Choir)
Friday	12th January	Bonsai Gurdwara Visit
Tuesday	16th January	Reading open morning all Classes 9.00-10.30



# A Spotlight on Special Needs



## Top Tips for Christmas for Parents and Carers of Children with Disabilities and Autism

### Routines

It can be difficult to stick to your usual routines at Christmas with all the additional and unexpected events and having more visitors around during the festive period. Structure and routine is important for some children as it creates predictability and minimises anxiety. Try where possible to follow some of the child's familiar routines each day. It might help to leave a gap in between social events to allow your child to follow their usual routine.

### Make a schedule

Use visual structure for example, on a calendar to help prepare your child for changes in their usual routine, such as a nursery/school event, visiting family and friends, visiting Santa and putting the tree/decorations up. Tick off the event once it has happened. If your child can communicate with you, talk to them in advance about an upcoming event and ask what their preferences are, and what would make things easier for them.

### Social Stories

Use social stories to prepare your child for activities outside of their usual routine. Share these with your child regularly leading up to the event or activity. You will be able to find free Christmas Social Story Templates on the internet. Here is a link for a website with some examples [Christmas Social Stories for Kids | Autism | Santa](http://adayinourshoes.com)



### Presents

Presents can be confusing for some children. Try wrapping each person's presents in different wrapping paper so it is clear which presents belong to who. Place a tag on the present with the child's name/photo and a maybe picture of what's inside. For children who find surprises difficult, it might be an idea to leave presents unwrapped or wrap them in clear cellophane so they can see what's inside. Remember to assemble toys and add batteries so they can be played with straight away. Your child may need to open presents gradually over a few days.



### Family and Friends

Include days when family and friends are visiting or if you are planning to visit them on a visual schedule/calendar. You could perhaps show your child a photo of the person/people they are going to see. Sometimes staggering visitors can be less overwhelming for children who find change to their routine or busy/noisy environments difficult. Try to share your plans with family and friends where possible to avoid unexpected changes to your routine.



### Food

Remember that it's ok for your child to eat the food they enjoy at family events at Christmas. If eating away from home, take their favourite food with you as well as their familiar plate, cup and cutlery. This can help provide some familiarity to the change in routine. If your child is overwhelmed by extra visitors or the busy environment, perhaps offer their food in a quieter space if possible which doesn't have to be at the same time that everybody else is eating.



### Sensory differences

Think about your child's sensory differences which may cause distress or discomfort so you can plan ahead as much as possible. You can then think in advance about what you might need to do to minimise the distress, for example, remembering to take ear defenders if your child is sensitive to loud sounds or busy environments. If you are visiting family and friends, perhaps discuss your child's sensory differences with them so they can help too.



### Safe space

Where possible, create a quieter area or safe space at home or when visiting family or friends where your child can retreat to if needed. This could simply be another room, a small tent or an area with cushions. Minimise noise and other sensory stimulation such as noise, flashing lights, and decorations for example. Provide some of your child's favourite items or gentle music which they can control themselves perhaps through headphones. Sometimes, a period of time spent in the garden or a short walk can help to provide some quiet time and an opportunity to regulate.



### Sensory Tool Kit/Calm Kit

Carry a sensory tool or calm kit with you to Christmas events, outings and visits to family and friends houses. Include some of your child's favourite items, bubbles, sensory toys, fiddle toys, and chew toys. You can offer the calm kit to your child to help them regulate if you see they are becoming anxious or overwhelmed.



SEND Support Service



# Safeguarding Your Child's New Devices



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is necessary. This guide features elements of many devices that may be received as gifts over the festive period. It is intended to help you identify what type of device it is, and how to set up parental controls to keep your child safe.

## Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year:

### IPHONE

If your child is lucky enough to receive an iPhone as a gift, then parental controls can help avoid them being exposed to inappropriate or unsuitable content. Go into the settings menu and scroll down to 'Screen Mirroring & Family Sharing'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits, including the deletion of apps, screen time restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a password.

### ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's 'Family Link' app is your friend. This allows you to manage multiple accounts on one device. Then, in Family Link on your own phone, you can add your child's account details. This lets you specify which apps on daily usage, restrict apps, or ban particular content and more.

### PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unboxed. Go into the account, then go to Account Settings > Add Family Member to set up your child's account. Once they're signed in on the console, you can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play. You can also set up a 'parental lock' so you can make exceptions for any games that you think your child should be able to play despite their high age rating.

### IPAD

Parental controls are identical to those on phones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your child doesn't accidentally download inappropriate apps after handing them the device, then turn on 'Screen Mirroring + Guided Access' (Under Settings > General > Screen Mirroring + Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

### XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings step below, will manage which games your child can play. Go into the account settings, then up the console with your own account and select 'Family Settings'. If you've set up your account's password protection, so your child can't alter your choices later, then you'll need to do that again at setup, but you can also reach them via 'Family Settings > Account > Family Settings'.

### Meet Our Expert

Every article is written by someone who either has more than 20 years' experience of working in the media space, or has been involved in the industry for a significant amount of time. In this issue, we have contributions from experts in the fields of parenting, technology, law and more, including on BBC Newsnight, 5 live and the TV News of the Year. These individuals and organisations have a wealth of experience and knowledge to share.

The National College

National Online Safety™ #WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.12.2023

# Beatboxing Message

## A Message From Danny The Beat Boxing Teacher

I wanted to say thanks for having me back in to deliver another 6 week project with your year 6 students. It was a huge success with each group getting deep into their creative selves and learning about the hidden capabilities of their voices. I've created a brand new online platform for 5-12yr olds to help further their learning. It's called 'The Beat Hub'. It went live to the public on 28th November but we are currently running a soft-launch and would love if you could extend an invite to the parents of students I've worked with.

The usual cost for membership very low-cost at £27 per year and up until 31st December there is a 25% discount using the code 'GRANGE25'. The hub has a new video lesson each week plus beatbox challenges, vocal exercises, learning about beatbox history and culture and prizes to be won.

Here is the link with all info about 'The Beat Hub' -

<https://www.schoolofbeatbox.com/the-beat-hub-signup>

I hope to be back again at The Grange School soon for another project soon.

Have a lovely Christmas

Danny

DID YOU KNOW?



**COST  
OF LIVING  
SUPPORT**

CAN INCLUDE:

- HOUSEHOLD BILLS**  
(SUCH AS GAS AND ELECTRICITY)
- RENT**
- COUNCIL TAX**
- HELP WITH BUYING FOOD**
- CHILDCARE COSTS**

AS WELL AS OTHER  
IMPORTANT DAILY ESSENTIALS

THERE ARE PEOPLE ON HAND TO SUPPORT AND  
ADVISE YOU, SO PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TODAY.



For more information on cost of living support,  
visit: [westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living)  
call 0300 126 7000\*

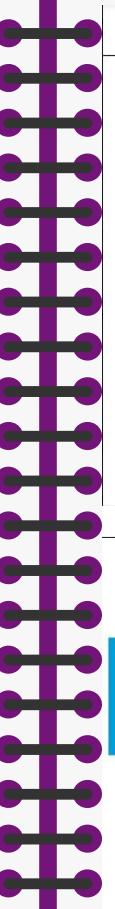
\*Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm



**COST  
OF LIVING  
SUPPORT**



West  
Northamptonshire  
Council



## For advice on **cost of living support**

Visit:  
[westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://westnorthants.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

call:

**0300 126 7000\***

\*Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm



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**COST  
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SUPPORT**

or scan:



 **mind** Northamptonshire

For support with your mental health

call for free (open 24hrs a day):  
**0800 448 0828**



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**NHS**  
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NHS Foundation Trust