

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week our children have entertained us all with their Christmas Plays. Foundation stage and Key stage one classes took part in Nativity plays, whilst lower key stage 2 gave us the story of Cinderella with a twist! It was so impressive to see the enthusiasm of the children.



Some of our older children were invited to Erdington House this week to sing carols for the residents. They will be singing again tomorrow afternoon on the school playground at 2.50pm so please do come and brave the cold to join them for more festive cheer.



Last year our current Year 6 worked with Oxford Opera learning about the composer Mozart. This work enabled them to achieve the discovery Art Award which is a national award given by the British Arts Council. Well done to all of the children in Year 6.



This is our last newsletter before the end of term, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming you back to school on Wednesday 4th January 2023.

Best wishes Deborah Nind and The WF team

Our assembly theme for the month of December is Peace



Writer of the week – Zach in Year 6
 Mathematician of the week – Ianis in Year 1
 Reader of the week – Freya in Year 4
 School Value – Asher in Year 6
 BLP of the Week – Jasper in Year 6

Celebration of achievements

This week Serenity in Year 5 has been awarded her bronze merit arrows. Well done to her for successfully completing a range of activities to a high standard to be awarded her arrow badge.

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 100 nights of reading at home: Tandis & Tilly in Nightingales. Saffy & Alex in Swallows. Ingrid, Amelia & Senay in Owls. Isla & Luke in Sky Larks. Charlotte, Serenity, Dora, Betsy, Cora, Nancy, Nathan, Ethan, Nate, Milly, Georgia & Claudia in Eagles.

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 75 nights of reading at home: Ella, Aarav & Elsie in Kingfishers. Jamie, Edith, Laura & Tansy in Swallows. Emeran, Dexter, Luka, Charlie & Tom in Owls. Olivia in Sky Larks. Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 50 nights of reading at home: Corrie & Ariana in Kingfishers. Belle & Eddie in Nightingales. Evangeline & Elliot in Swallows. Phoebe D & Jaya in Owls. Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 25 nights of reading at home: Phoebe H & Stanley in Owls.

Attendance

School starts at 8:45am, can you please make sure your child is in class by 8:45am.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays. Parents should avoid taking their children out of school during term time in order to go on holiday.

Class	Attendance for 05.12.22 – 09.12.22
Eagles	98.18%
Kestrel	97.14%
Kingfishers	92.86%
Nightingales	95.17%
Owls	93.33%
Peregrine Falcons	90.43%
Red Kites	97.78%
Sky Larks	91.82%
Swallows	92.50%
Wrens	87.50%
Total	93.66%

Shopping Day: Monday 19th December

On the actual shopping day, we ask for your child to bring in £2 and to hand it to their teacher, please put it in an envelope with their name on if possible, to avoid cash handling. This allows them to buy 2 gifts for whoever they choose. They will choose their gifts from a class selection and they will then wrap and label their gifts to come home with them. We hope this answers some questions but if not please email williamfletcherschoolpta@gmail.com The children thoroughly enjoy choosing the gifts themselves, the wrapping and the surprise for the recipients.

Key dates:

Friday 16th December - Christmas School Lunch

Monday 19th December - Christmas Shopping Day

PTA Update

We will be selling the remaining Raffle tickets at the Christmas plays today, 20p a ticket, £1 a book. The draw for the raffle will take place after the final performance at 5pm today. Winners will be notified directly, winning ticket numbers will also be displayed via the school app and the PTA Facebook page. @WilliamFletcherPTA

We will also have the usual lucky bucket at the plays, £1 a go, winner takes home half of what's in the bucket. Cash only.

The Christmas Shopping Event takes place on Monday 19th December, we ask for each child to bring in £2, preferably in an envelope and hand to their class teacher at morning drop off. The children will then get to choose from a selection of presents in their classroom to wrap, label and bring home for their chosen recipients.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch williamfletcherschoolpta@gmail.com

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

(We will let you know total amounts raised from the Raffle and Christmas shopping asap).

Uniform Exchange

Huge apologies for cancelling the sale last week at such short notice - the van we use to bring the clothes to school broke down! We would like to thank you for all the donations of your children's clothes and remind you that we have lots of uniform, school shoes & trainers in stock before you buy anything this holiday - do get in contact and see if we can help first. Our email is: ptauniformexchange@william-fletcher.oxon.sch.uk
Look out for sale dates in the new year! Merry Christmas - from all the parents at 'The Uniform Exchange'.

Ignite After School Club Term 3

Ignite are running an after-school sports club for children in Foundation to Year 6. If you would like your child to attend Ignite Sports Club for term 3, which will run every Thursday from 3pm to 4pm, starting on 5th January, please complete the Parent Pay form. It is based on a first come first serve basis and will cost £4.50 per session (£27.00 for term 3).

Christmas Hockey Club

Williams Hockey Coaching are running a Christmas hockey camp from December 21st - 22nd at Oxford Hawks Hockey Club, for children aged 5 - 16 years. Please see attached for full details and below for registration form:

www.forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1psWpRy2xUS79XR1D31bwbqDBBEE2ddIrWQhabGgcShUOTVEVEoxNkZJWUo4WFE2VFZMVTZUMkhOUi4u

Christmas Tennis Club

Woodstock Tennis Club is running a two-day Christmas tennis camp on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd December 2022. Children aged 5+ of all abilities are welcome. Rackets can be borrowed for the sessions and children should come in trainers and comfortable clothing.

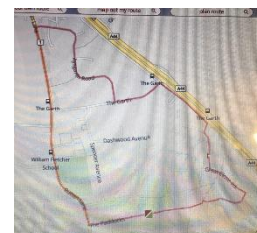
<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/Fortyfifteentenniscoaching/Coaching/Camps>

Yarnton Family Santa Run

You are all warmly invited to join in a local family fun run on Saturday 17th December.

Festive attire encouraged! Meeting in Rutten Lane park from 2:15 for a 2:30 start
Free refreshments afterwards in the park.

The route is approx 2.5km loop...feel free to do 1 lap or 2, cut corners, join as we pass your house... whatever works for you!! Join a bit of festive fun!!



Friday cafe

Starting Friday 23rd September, 8.45am- 10.30am in the Howard Hillsdon Room.

Pop in, meet other parents and carers, everyone welcome. Information available at each session, including:

*Helping your child with maths *Healthy lunchbox ideas *Money matters *Reading with your child.

Tea, coffee and biscuits available and younger siblings always welcome. For more information, please contact: Clare Pink, Family Support Worker

clarepink@william-fletcher.gov.uk or, Karen Ariss: karen.ariss@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs every day from 07:30 – 08:45 in the Howard Hillsdon building (old playgroup). The children enjoy a range of breakfast cereals, fruit juices, yoghurts and toast, followed by the opportunity to play indoor games. The cost is £5.00 per child. If you would like your children to take part in breakfast club, **please see the staff in the office to book prior to attendance.**

Knitting For All

We have a knitting club at school run by Steph Radda on Tuesday's from 3pm - 4.15pm (term time only). If you would like your child to attend or for more information, please contact Steph on 07940564486 for further details.

Yarnton Brownies

Yarnton Brownies currently have spaces. Come and join the fun! Open to girls aged between 7-10. We run Wednesday's during term time from 6.30-8pm. Please visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/> for more information and to register interest. Alternatively call 07866122863 - Heather Kimber Moss for any additional help.

Forthcoming Dates

December 2022

16.12.22	School Christmas Lunch
16.12.22	Year 5 & 6 sing carols and songs on the playground at 3pm to parents/carers
19.12.22	Christmas shopping day
20.12.22	School Carol Service
20.12.22	End of term 2

January 2023

04.01.2023	Term 3 Starts
19.01.2023	Year 4 Trampolining
25.01.2023	Netball Tournament at The Marlborough School

February 2023

06.02.2023	Heights & Weights for Foundation & Year 6
08.02.2023	Portals to the Past Workshop, Year 5 & 6
09.02.2023	End of term 3
10.02.2023	Inset Day
20.02.2023	Start of Term 4
23.02.2023	Sports Hall Athletics, Year 5 & 6

William Fletcher School Term Dates 2022/2023

Term 2

Monday 31st October to Tuesday 20th December
Friday 18th November INSET Day

Term 3

Wednesday 4th January to Thursday 9th February

Term 4

Monday 20th February to Friday 31st March
Friday 10th February INSET Day

Term 5

Monday 17th April to Friday 26th May

Term 6

Tuesday 6th June to Friday 21st July
Monday 5th June INSET

William Fletcher School Term Dates 2023/2024

Term 1

Tuesday 5th September to Friday 20th October
Friday 1st September INSET Day
Monday 4th September INSET Day

Term 2

Monday 30th October to Wednesday 20th December
Monday 27th November INSET Day

Term 3

Monday 8th January to Friday 9th February

Term 4

Tuesday 20th February to Thursday 28th March
Monday 19th February INSET

Term 5

Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May

Term 6

Tuesday 4th June to Wednesday 24th July
Monday 3rd June INSET

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/ratingboard/games.

18

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers: they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

18

CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

16

LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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HAPPY SMILES

FRIDAY CAFE, HOWARD HILLSDON ROOM
WILLIAM FLETCHER SCHOOL

9-10AM 13TH JANUARY 2023

Join Charlotte Iddon, manager
of the Oral Health Improvement
team, to get advice and support
for your children on...

BRUSHING

DIET AND SNACKS

DENTIST VISITS

