



Friday 7th December 2018

Dear Parents



E-Safety Top Tips

Making devices safer - If your child receives a new technology device this Christmas, support them by setting up parental or other control settings.

Advice for setting up controls on the PS4 -

<http://manuals.playstation.net/document/gb/ps4/settings/family.html>

Age appropriate – You may be thinking of purchasing your child a new game. With so many games such as Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto being popular in the media it can be easy to forget that they are targeted towards adults and come with an age 18 recommended rating. PEGI (<http://www.pegi.info>) provides game ratings and information. If you are ever in doubt, you can research the game online, by watching videos of the game on Youtube for example, in order to make an informed decision about the game's appropriateness for your child.

Online safety – Many games on the Xbox and Playstation come with the ability to play online. This can open up the possibility of your child talking to strangers via their headset or through the console's messaging feature. Inappropriate language can often be used by others through these platforms, particularly on those games created for adults. Remind your child not to add strangers as friends and ensure they know where the reporting and blocking features are.

Information about muting and blocking players on the Xbox –

<https://support.xbox.com/en-GB/xbox-one/xbox-live/block-or-mute-other-player>



Well done to the choir for singing beautifully at the church last Sunday.

As always, the concert was a huge success and enjoyed by all who attended.

Let's

talk

This weekend marked the start of Advent...

Which family traditions do you look forward to during the countdown to Christmas?



South West Region Winners

Four excited Travel Ambassador had a successful day participating in the South West Regional finals. They travelled to Bristol, where they met and shared ideas with other schools from the region. They enjoyed a delicious buffet lunch and completed the day with a visit to the SS Great Britain.

The children returned exhausted but clutching two trophies; Swindon Star School 2019 and Primary School of the South West Region.



Christmas Lunches

Tuesday 18th December

Classes 10-21 – Christmas Dinner, please order on scopay.

Classes 1-9 – **Packed lunches only** - Order Grab & Go or bring in own packed lunch.

Wednesday 19th December

Classes 1-9 – Christmas Dinner, please order on scopay.

Classes 10-21- **Packed lunches only** – Order Grab & Go or bring in own packed lunch.



Can I **PLEASE** remind parents to respect our neighbours and park and drop off sensibly? We are very lucky to have Morrisons car park at our disposal – please use it where you can (**please be mindful disabled spaces are for blue badge holders only**). The school visitor's car park is not for general use. The few Blue Badge holders who have already spoken to the school are the only cars that should be entering school grounds at the start and end of the school day. This includes Breakfast Club and after school clubs.

Please make sure that your childminder or whoever collects your child from school is aware of this.



Family Holidays in term time.

A reminder that the Headteacher may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Any request for leave must be made in writing. A response will be returned indicating whether leave is authorised. Any absence not authorised may be liable to a local authority penalty notice.

In order to try and reduce the number of families who take holiday in term time and being very aware of high costs, the Governors and I have decided to extend the holiday in academic year **October 2019 only**.

School will be closed to children from Monday 21st October 2019 for two weeks; children would return to school on Monday 4th November 2019.

Three Teacher Training Days will be allocated, making the holiday period a full 2 weeks.

I hope that the advance notice will enable many of you to find a holiday at a reasonable price and keep your children in school throughout all term times.



Black Cat News ...

They have also been sharing and exploring traditional fairy stories and I have seen some amazing puppet shows and live performances of Goldilocks and Cinderella! The children have created story maps, written letters to The Three Bears and measured their feet for Cinderella's glass slipper – what a busy time!

Year 1

This week the children have had a delightfully sweet time decorating delicious biscuits with their adults. They also got a chance to be bossy by writing some bossy verbs in their instructions. I also spotted the children out for a little walk to then write a recount of what they'd seen. On Friday the children got to carefully check back through their work to THINK PINK and edit those pesky full stops and capital letters. In Maths the children are beginning to think about tens and ones. What would you rather have, 2 tens or 5 ones? In Topic the children have been matching up the capital cities with the countries of the United Kingdom. Maybe you can give them a quick quiz at home!

Year 2

The children have been practising their multiplication skills in a variety of ways by using practical equipment, drawing pictures and hopping on number lines. I liked their problem solving strategies - I used them to work out how many sardines I have eaten this week - it was quite a lot!

In their Topic work, I noticed that they were using paints and running different tyres and wheels through them to create different patterns. I've made my own using my paw prints - they look pawsome!

Year 3

The Year 3 corridors looked very empty on Friday as I wandered down there. The children seemed to have gone back to Year 2. As I investigated further though, it turned out they were in fact being great role models to the Year 2 children and sharing their final non-chronological reports. PURRRR-fect responsibility!

The children have also been demonstrating another value this week - CREATIVITY- producing some African inspired art work. I think I even spotted some of my African cousins - Leo and Simba on some children's work - ROARsome work guys!

Foundation Stage

Wow! It has been so exciting in Foundation Stage this week. The children are busy preparing for their Christmas nativity performance 'It's a Baby' and have all been working extremely hard to learn the songs and dances for our families to enjoy.

Year 4

Down the Year 4 corridor, I saw a flicker of a light from a handmade Diva Lamp and heard the sound of paw-some fireworks. The children carried on the learning for Diwali and wrote some claw-ver diamante poems. In Science, Year 4 looked around the school grounds and identified the great things that Haydonleigh School already does for the well being of the wildlife and environment. All children used their computer skills and typed up a letter for Mr Young (Site Manager), with additional suggestions of any improvements for the grounds too. I then prowled into the Topic lesson and learnt about Scotland and The Gambia! Wow, how claw-ver the children are in identifying the physical and human geography features!

Year 5

As I strolled down the Year 5 corridor this week, I noticed a claw-ful lot of Christmas decorations to mark the start of December! Fur-tunately, I got to see the children rehearsing actions to go with their story maps and I had to paws for a moment to admire their creativity and drama skills. I also saw a great cat-itude to learning in Maths when the children worked together to calculate the purr-imeter of compound shapes. What paw-some work!

Year 6

With the arrival of December, it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas on the upper corridor, yet the focus on learning continues. Our su- purr-ior Year 6 scientists have been hard at work again. This week, they welcomed Mrs Richardson into the year group. She told them all about her job as a Prescribing Optician and then explained how the eye works using a range of diagrams and models. Equally, she enthralled them with some mind-bending optical illusions. The children recorded what they had learnt in the form of paw-some eye diagrams, de-tailed glossaries and purr-fect explanations. Their Science books look paws-ively amazing! In other areas of the curriculum, our talented writers have used figurative language to create atmosphere in their stories. Skilfully, in the creation of a bitter forest, they have foreshadowed the arrival of Rose Blanche at a concentration camp. I've read so many spine-tingling tails already! It's a privilege to prowl amongst such talented writers. Well done Year 6.

Yours sincerely



Frances Billinge
Headteacher