



Ellingham CE Primary School

Friday Flyer

12.12.25

Executive Headteacher's Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all families for your understanding and support during our school closure this week. This allowed staff and members of our school community to attend Guy's memorial service, and your kindness during this time has been greatly appreciated.

We hope you enjoyed this year's Nativity as much as we did. The children gave a truly superb performance—full of confidence, joy, and festive spirit. We are incredibly proud of them all and grateful to everyone who helped make this so special.

Whilst Mrs Senior is on maternity leave, Mr Michael Dowman will be teaching across Key Stage 2. He will be joining the children for their Christmas in the Forest experience today and, in order to have a seamless transition, Mr Dowman will start at the beginning of term, so he can work alongside the KS2 staff to see how we do things here. He has a wide range of experience and we look forward to welcoming him to our school team.

Due to needing more space, we have an upright piano that is no longer needed in school. If any family would like to give it a new home, it is available free of charge. If interested, please contact the school office to arrange viewing and collection.

As we approach the end of term, please keep an eye on the school diary and Facebook reminders. We have a busy week ahead with several activities and events taking place, and we don't want anyone to miss out.

Thank you, as always, for your greatly appreciated support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Diane Lakey



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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 ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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Attendance

Class	Weekly attendance	Annual attendance
Splash	100	96
Space Base	94.4	95.6
Earth Works	87.3	90.8
Time Zone	75.3	90.2

Did you know? Each pupil has 175 non-school days a year to spend however they like. The table below shows the significant impact of absence over time.

Days of school add up to lost learning						
Days in school	190	186	180	175	171	170
Percentage attendance	100%	98%	95%	92%	90%	<90%
	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Caution	Cause for concern	Serious concern

Absence Procedures If your child is ill, please keep them at home until they are well enough to return to school. Please notify us by phone call or email before 9.15am if your child is to be absent, and continue to inform us on a daily basis if they continue to be ill.

We have a continual focus on attendance and punctuality and this is of the utmost importance in your child's education. Please remember that our school gate closes at 8.55am as this is when our lessons begin. Anyone arriving after this time is classed as late and will miss valuable learning opportunities which take place immediately after registration, such as phonics.

What are the risks of missing a day of school?

'Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing and wider development. Pupils with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE results. The higher a pupil's attendance, the more they are likely to learn, and the better they are likely to perform in exams and formal assessments.' The Education Hub - Department for Education



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Splash Class

We are so proud of all the children in Splash, as they performed their fantastic nativity play, The Grumpy Innkeeper with so much confidence and joy. We hope you all enjoyed watching it as much as we all enjoyed rehearsing. We also embraced the Christmas season by decorating our classroom, and making some fabulous Christmas snowmen with our snowdough. We have been preparing food for Santa's reindeer at forest school, and making decorations for our tree. We are loving hearing all about the naughty elves in your homes and the tricks they get up to.





Space Base Class

This week has been a very busy one in Space Base. The children performed their nativity play twice in one day! They were amazing and should be very proud of themselves. Speaking and singing in front of an audience can be challenging but the children showed great confidence and gave wonderful performances.

In PE, the children have been playing Christmas-themed games. They worked in teams and used different pieces of equipment to build a Christmas tree, with one team mate volunteering to *be* the tree! They loved this activity and created some fantastic designs.

In DT, we have been making our own bookmarks. The children enjoyed using a needle and thread and were given the responsibility of choosing their own colours. They made their bookmarks personal to them, adding Christmas decorations and their names.





Earth Works Class

In history, Earth Works discussed the impact of Lord Armstrong's hydraulic inventions, using their oracy skills in a Diamond Nine discussion task and in science, we investigated factors which affect evaporation rates, including temperature and surface area. At the end of last week in KS2, our first Christmas baking session was a great success – the chocolate crinkle cookies were delicious!





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Time Zone Class

In Time Zone science, we investigated whether the shadow of an object is always the same shape. We wrote some excellent Christmas poems that you can find inside your Christmas card. At the end of last week in KS2, our first Christmas baking session was a great success – the chocolate crinkle cookies were delicious!





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Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th December	KS1 - Nursery Christmas visit
Tuesday 16th December	Professor Chris Done Astrophysicist visit KS2
Wednesday 17th December	Christmas lunch Party clothes can be worn but need to be suitable for outdoor play.
Thursday 18th December	Christmas Carol service at Ellingham Church 9.15am
Thursday 18th December	PTA Christmas Disco - Ellingham Village Hall 4.30pm-6.00pm Tickets now on sale £3.00 or £3.50 on the door
Friday 19th December	Christmas Jumper Day

If anyone who brings a packed lunch would like Christmas lunch on Wednesday 17th, please let Kathy know a.s.a.p. The cost is £2.50.

Please remember, Breakfast club is available from 8.15am if anyone needs to drop off a child earlier.



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Stars of the week

Names:

Splash: Lily for an excellent Nativity performance.

Space Base: Daisy T for always following the class rules.

Earth Works: India for always giving 100% to her work.

Time Zone: Ralph for writing a fantastic Christmas poem.

Please order your tickets or let us know if you are planning on attending so that we can order the food!

Christmas
DISCO WITH FOOD FOR THE
CHILDREN, GAMES AND
DANCING
DECEMBER 18TH
On Sale Now!
4.30PM-6.00PM
ELLINGHAM
VILLAGE HALL

Tickets: £3.00 in advance, £3.50 at door
Contact: Kathy