



Newsletter – 20 December 2024

Welcome

As we wrap up this autumn term, we reflect on an exciting and memorable start to the academic year. It's been a season filled with achievements, learning milestones, and, above all, plenty of enjoyment.

The final weeks have been a true highlight, with the 12 Days of Christmas festival bringing joy and togetherness to our school community. This event has embodied our motto, "Making a difference as we grow together," in so many ways. We are especially grateful for the incredible support shown for our Giving Tree and hats, scarves and gloves donations for the Christmas Tree Festival. Your kindness and generosity have had a meaningful impact on so others, and we cannot thank you enough.

The festivities ended with a magical visit from Santa, who couldn't resist stopping by after hearing the children's cheerful singing during our assembly today. He delivered class presents and spread Christmas cheer, even managing to land his sleigh on our roof! Before he headed off again to complete his preparations for Christmas Eve, we all joined in a lively performance of Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer, which successfully woke up his napping reindeer on the roof.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas, a peaceful and enjoyable holiday, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 6th January 2025.



- Mr A Butterworth-Drury
Headteacher



In this issue

Notices and reminders

Admissions for September 2025

12 Days of Christmas

Support and safeguarding

Support at Home

Safety at Christmas

Attendance matters

Key dates

Notices and reminders



KS1 PE days will be changing for the spring term:

Year 1 (Beech and Maple) will do PE on Monday and Wednesdays.

Year 2 (Cedar and Oak) will do PE on Tuesdays and Fridays.



On PE days, please remember to send your child in wearing the correct kit and wearing their school jumper:

- black joggers or leggings
- plain white t-shirt
- trainers

For safety reason, earrings must not be worn on PE days.



We ask that children read at home as often as possible, ideally every day, and this is marked in their home-school diary.



Please take extra care when driving (and reversing) near school to ensure everyone's safety and avoid any accidents.

Thank you for helping to keep our school community safe.

APPLY NOW

Admissions for September 2025



The school admissions application window is still open but there's not long left! If your child is due to start in Reception next year, you can apply for a place on the [school admissions hub](#). Make sure you apply by Wednesday 15th January 2025!

Our school is a wonderful place for children to learn and grow, and we want to share that with as many families as possible. We know that word of mouth can be a powerful tool, so we ask that you help us spread the word about our school. If you know someone who is looking for a great school for their child, please encourage them to apply. We believe that every child deserves a great education, and we strive to provide that every day.

12 Days of Christmas



Our 12 Days of Christmas festival was once again a huge success, and we are thrilled that the different events and activities received such fantastic support. Organising and running this event takes a large team of our staff who generously volunteer their time behind the scenes – thank you to everyone involved! A few special mentions need to be made:

- A big thank you to Mrs Brookes and her team for their incredible catering skills during our delicious Christmas Dinner and Bacon and Bubl . Despite the chilly weather, the bacon rolls were as popular as ever!
- Thank you to Mrs Ingram, Miss Davison, Mrs Lloyd, Mrs Hancox, Mrs Shelton, and Ms Goodyear for your tireless support across so many different areas. Your dedication does not go unnoticed, and we couldn't do it without you!
- Thank you to Mrs Antcliff for putting together the wonderful raffle hampers. As always, they looked absolutely WONDERFUL.



Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who attended our nursery, reception, year 1 and year 2 performances. The children were phenomenal, and



we are so incredibly proud of their hard work and enthusiasm.

At the end of an amazing 12 days, we wrapped up the term with a fun-filled party day, including a magical visit from Santa himself! What a way to finish!

Support and safeguarding



Our school safeguarding team can be contacted for non-emergencies, including during school holidays on safeguarding@aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk.

If you have urgent concerns for a child or suspect that a child has been abused in any way, please call the MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) team on 0300 500 80 80.

If you require an urgent response outside of working hours (08:30-17:00), contact the MASH Emergency Duty Team (EDT) on 0300 4564546. In an emergency call 999. To report a crime, call 101.

Support at Home

I am looking to compile a list of resources and courses that are available for you to access, to help with a range of issues from toilet training to developing healthy sleep patterns to managing behaviour and more.

It is easy to make a list, however not so easy to know what people have actually found useful. I would therefore be grateful if I could have some reviews of support people have accessed. In that way, when referring people on I can hopefully give them better options as to what might be most useful.

If you have used any support from Children's Centres, Family Service, or from any private or voluntary agency please let me know and what you found useful about it. Honest reviews welcome!

Please contact me on cgoodyear@aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk

Safety at Christmas

The festive season is a time for joy, but it also brings unique challenges. These 10 safety tips help parents and educators protect children, whether it's managing digital activity, staying safe on the road, or preventing accidents at home. Follow these guidelines to ensure a happy, healthy, and secure holiday for everyone.

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 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, toppling 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 discarding 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.

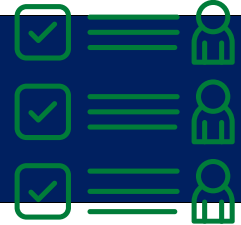
#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

[@wake_up_weds](#)
[/www.thenationalcollege](#)
[@wake.up.wednesday](#)
[@wake.up.weds](#)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.12.2024

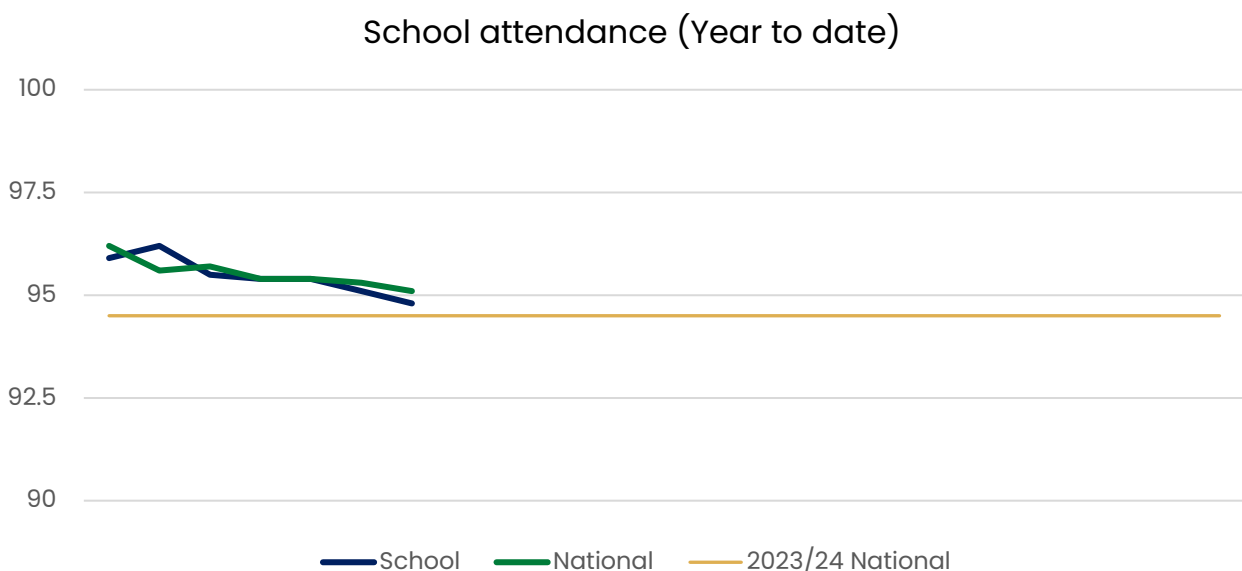
Attendance matters



Over the past term, for the first time in a few years, our whole school attendance has fallen below that of other children nationally – there's been quite a lot of illness unfortunately. To keep all families informed, we will be sending out a text message at the start of next term with your child's current attendance. If we have concerns, we will be in touch separately.

Every moment in school counts and good school attendance is vital to a child's wellbeing and development. The better your child's attendance, the more likely they are to learn and achieve. If you are concerned about your child's attendance, please speak with our office who can pass your details on to our attendance team (Clare Goodyear and Adam Butterworth-Drury) who will work with you to identify support available.

The NHS have also produced 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance which may be helpful as continue through cold/flu season - <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>



Key dates

Updates and additions since the last edition of our newsletter are shown in [blue](#).

A downloadable calendar of our term dates can be found [on our website](#).

Monday 6th January – Children return to school

Wednesday 15th January – [School admissions window closes](#)

Monday 20th January 2:45–3:15pm – Share a Story (Reception to Year 2)

Friday 14th February – Break up for half term

Monday 24th February – INSET day (school closed to children)

Tuesday 25th February – Children return to school

Tuesday 18th March 2:45–3:15pm – Share a Story (Reception to Year 2)

Friday 21st March – [Red Nose Day](#)

Monday 24th March – [Local Governing Body meeting](#)

Friday 4th April – Break up for Easter holiday

Tuesday 22nd April – Children return to school

Friday 2nd May 2:45–3:15pm – Share a Story (Reception to Year 2)

Wednesday 21st May – [Class photographs](#)

Thursday 22nd May – Break up for half term

Friday 23rd May – INSET day (school closed to children)

Monday 2nd June – Children return to school

Tuesday 24th June 2:45–3:15pm – Share a Story (Reception to Year 2)

Thursday 3rd July 5:30–7:30pm – [Flying High Partnership Awards \(Invite only\)](#)

Monday 7th July – [Local Governing Body meeting](#)

Thursday 17th July 5:30–7:30pm – [THRIVE Community Event](#)

Tuesday 29th July – Last day of school year



Thank you for reading

Merry Christmas

Connect with us



[@aldermanpounder](#)



[@aldermanpounder](#)



www.aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk

