



## Newsletter – 22 December 2023

### Welcome

As we come to the end of this autumn term, we look back on a busy and fun-filled start to the academic year. It certainly has been a term full of achievement, learning and, most importantly, a lot of fun.

The final few weeks has been particularly enjoyable, but it's also been wonderful to see the support for our 12 Days of Christmas festival. As well as fun and festivities it's been a time where we, as a school community, have really have lived up to our motto of "Making a difference as we grow together." We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported our Giving Tree in particular. Your generosity has been overwhelming and has made a real difference to other families in our school.

The busyness of the 12 Days drew to an end with a wonderful visit from Santa, who overheard the children singing in assembly this afternoon and just had to stop by to wish them a Merry Christmas and to deliver some class presents. I can't believe that he managed to land his sleigh on our roof. Before he left to do his final preparations for Christmas Eve, we had sing a joyous rendition of Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer to wake up his reindeer who had fallen asleep on the roof!

We hope you all have a Merry Christmas restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



**- Mr A Butterworth-Drury**  
Headteacher



## In this issue



Classroom update  
12 Days of Christmas  
A tribute to Mrs Birtles  
Support and Safeguarding  
Community notices  
Attendance matters  
Key dates

## Classroom update



### EYFS update

We think you will agree that our younger children have shown tremendous confidence during their Christmas concert performances. Those of you who were able to join us will have witnessed how well they all did. It is no small thing for them to stand up on a stage and perform in front of an audience like that.

Their performances mirror the progress we have seen within the classroom as well, as the children continue to grow and learn, becoming more independent all the time. Our children have persevered, from some of our nursery children learning to put their own coats on, to our reception children reading their first books and taking pride in their written work. Through their interaction with the provision, both indoors and outdoors, they have shown how creative they can be, for example, working out how to transport water from one area of the playground to another and building imaginative creations out of box modelling resources. They are learning the importance of taking responsibility for their own actions, as well as for looking after the resources they enjoy using.

It has been a great first term to the year, with our youngest children showing a real enthusiasm for learning, as well as building friendships and positive attitudes to learning. Thank you for all the support you give your child/children, supporting the work we do with them in school and nursery.

## KSI update

What a fantastic end to our autumn term! We loved the passion our children showed when they were sharing their messages about how to protect the planet during the protest we held to mark the end of the enquiry. A special thank you to those parents who were able to cheer us on – it made the protest even more real! We were also so proud of how enthusiastically the children sang and spoke in our Christmas performances. As they practised their confidence with the words and actions grew and we're sure they will have everyone joining in with them.

Thank you for all the support and encouragement you have given the children during this first term, it makes such a difference to help them in so many ways.

## 12 Days of Christmas



Our 12 Days of Christmas festival was a huge success, and we are thrilled that the different events and activities received such support. Putting it on takes a large team of volunteers (both staff and parents/carers) who generously donate their time – thank you everyone! A few special mentions need to be made:

- Thank you to Mrs Brookes and Mrs Birtles for their amazing catering skills for our delicious Christmas Dinner and Bacon and Bubl . Despite the weather, the bacon rolls were a real hit!
- Thank you to Mrs Lloyd, Mrs Hancox, Mrs Shelton and Ms Goodyear for all of your support in so many different areas! We couldn't do it without you!
- Thank you to the different members of our PTFA who helped organise raffle prizes and hosted the teas and coffees between each of our performances. Your help really made sure everyone received a warm welcome!

We would also like to congratulate all of our competition winners and to thank everyone who took part in the Christmas Quiz and the decorate a toilet roll competition. We had some amazing entries, and it was a difficult decision to select the winners. Thank you to our Children's government for drawing our raffle and distributing the gifts to our lucky winners.

Finally, we would like to thank all who attended our nursery, reception and KSI performances. The children were amazing, and we are so very proud of them all. We ended the term with our party day, including a special visit from Santa!

## A tribute to Mrs Birtles



After many years working at Alderman Pounder, in a variety of different roles, Mrs Birtles has decided that she is retiring at the end of this term. We feel that this deserves a special recognition and so we're pleased to say that Nottingham Local News (Beeston Edition) have agreed to feature an article we have written in tribute to her.

We want you all to see an advanced copy of it below, but please also keep an eye out for it in the February edition! As soon as the official article is out, we'll let you know.

Mrs Birtles – You've made a huge impact on the school and our community. We'll all miss you greatly.

### **Alderman Pounder Infant & Nursery School bid fond farewell to Sandra after over 30 years' service!**

*"Mrs Birtles is a very lovely lady..." pupil Marvelyn Onwukamike (Year 2)*

Sandra Birtles has seen her fair share of changes during her time working at Alderman Pounder Infant & Nursery School in Chilwell, and after 30 plus years of service, says she will miss the children and her colleagues as she embarks upon her retirement.

Adam Butterworth-Drury is Headteacher at the school, and he said the school will



miss Sandra's positive presence. "After over 30 years of dedicated service to the children and families of Alderman Pounder, Sandra is certainly leaving a legacy behind her as she embarks on her adventure into retirement. She has worked alongside every headteacher of the school during this time, and I think I can speak for us all when I say that it's been an absolute privilege to work alongside her. It's rare to meet someone who has found absolute joy and fulfilment in their job throughout their entire working

life, and that alone shows how much Sandra cares about our school, the children and our community.”

Sandra says she has worked in various roles during her time at the school, finally becoming Cook working with midday staff. She said, “In the past I have even worked in the office answering the phone when needed. I have also always helped out with SEND children in the afternoons, read with children, and assisted on school trips.

“All of my own children came to the school, and many of the mums and dads of children who attend now have been pupils during my time. Even now, those parents will approach me in the shops, and we enjoy recalling times we shared at school. I would like to think I have made a difference; we have certainly had loads of fun!”

Sandra says she helped take children to swimming classes for a period, “I have strong memories of swimming. I think I went swimming for ten years and the children would ask me to test the water to see if it was cold before they got in! I really enjoyed doing that. I have so many memories particularly of the brilliant dinner staff team who worked here for many years. I have had a great time. I have worked for every headteacher and will miss everyone, particularly Sarah Brookes (Catering Manager) who I work closely with.”

Sandra says she has always loved to see children’s smiling faces, and her popularity sometimes had unforeseen circumstances. “At one time I had countless children visiting me at Halloween, –I had to buy so many sweets to hand out! Also, we went to Twycross Zoo I don’t know how many times over the years! The children would only get to the end of the road on the coach before they were asking if we were there yet! I’ll really miss the children; it’s been such a lot of fun!”

Pupil Marvelyn Onwukamike (Year 2) summed up the feelings of children saying, “Mrs Birtles is a very lovely lady as she always brings us delicious dinners. We’ll really miss her when she goes. She’s always been a great person who brings the tray to help everybody, and she always makes us smile.”

Headteacher Adam said the school community was grateful to Sandra’s service. “Mrs Birtles, we will miss you! You’ve really lived our motto of “Making a difference as we grow together”, impacting the lives of generations upon generations of children, and of all of the staff you have worked with and supported. Thank you!”



## Support and Safeguarding



During the Christmas holidays, our team will check our safeguarding email address every few days for non-urgent questions and signposting. You can contact us on [safeguarding@aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk](mailto: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.

### **Online safety advice for families**

Some children and families may receive new devices as presents at Christmas, so National Online Safety have brought out the helpful guide with advice about setting up parental controls.

We advise all families to check that parental controls are set up on any device that your children have access to, and that all internet use is monitored closely.

- Making a difference as we grow together -

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 needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital 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's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

## ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

## PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At [my.account.sony.com](https://my.account.sony.com), create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

## IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

## XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

## NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

## WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

## CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need to set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

## MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

## SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.


## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.




The  
National  
College®

NOS National  
Online  
Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

 @natonlinesafety

 /NationalOnlineSafety

 @nationalonlinesafety

 @national\_online\_safety

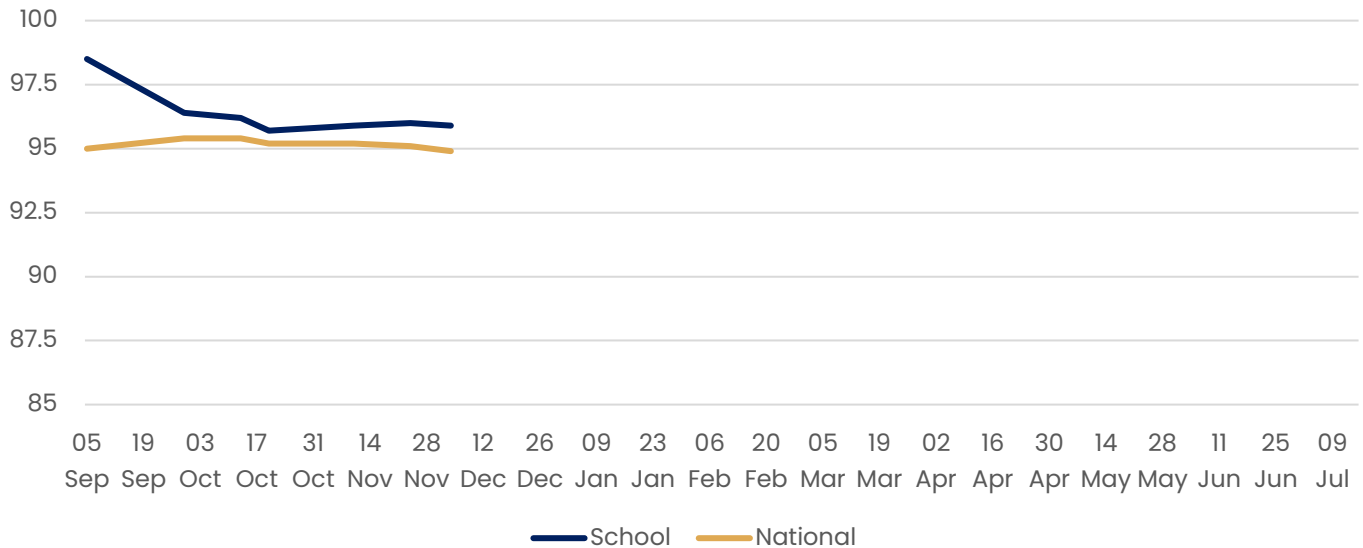
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.12.2023

## Attendance matters



As we reach the end of term, we're so impressed that our attendance remains above the national average! Great school attendance really helps children to learn and thrive!

School attendance (Year to date)



## Community notices



### The Big Ambition – Have your say!

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched The Big Ambition, a national survey of children and young people across England.

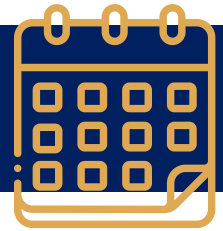
**The Big Ambition** aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

**The Big Ambition** survey will be open until Friday 19th January.

Children and parents can complete the survey here:

[www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition)

## Key dates



**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024** – Children return to school

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – Children's Mental Health Week

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February** – Safer Internet Day

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023** – Break up for half term

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – Children return to school

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024** – INSET day (school closed to children)

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024** – World Book Day

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024** – Red Nose Day

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024** – Break up for Easter holiday

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024** – Children return to school

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024** – Break up for half term

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2024** – INSET day (school closed to children)

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024** – Children return to school

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024** – Break up for summer holiday

(INSET days for 2024/25 academic year will be shared during the spring term)



Thank you for reading



Connect with us



@aldermanpounder



@aldermanpounder



[www.aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk](http://www.aldermanpounder.notts.sch.uk)