



The Edisford Newsletter



Confidence. Persistence. Getting Along. Organisation. Resilience.

December, 2024, Autumn Term 2



After another busy (and very long!) Autumn term, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have shown to us this term, as well as your kind cards and gifts. We greatly appreciate the wonderful community feel in our school.

The whole team wishes you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for a Happy, Healthy New Year. See you back at school on Monday 6th January for a new term! Warm wishes from the Edisford team xx

Snapshots

As unbelievable as it may seem, our children have once again raised the bar with their joyful Christmas performances! We are so proud of them all and it has been an absolute pleasure preparing these shows with the children for you to come and watch – we do hope you have enjoyed them.

A huge thank you to our wonderful team, who work so hard to bring performances together and to you at home for your support with learning lines, lyrics and providing support with costumes.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 reminded us all of many special messages at Christmas time with their '[Celebration of Christmas](#)'. We think you will agree that we have never seen such confident narrators, delivering their lines with great aplomb, alongside spectacular singing and dancing. What fantastic teamwork, everybody! We loved it! Thank you also for your kind gifts for our Clitheroe Food Bank donation.

The junior performances of '[Music Legends](#)' at St. Mary's Centre were truly phenomenal! Absolute audience favourites such as 'Thriller' and 'You Give Love a Bad Name' did not disappoint! Energetic, enthusiastic, West End worthy! Well done to all of our Key Stage 2 children for such a highly polished performance – you absolutely smashed it!

A few snapshots are included on the next page, but more are available in the '[Snapshots](#)' section of our website.

Notices

School Applications



School applications for September 2025 are online [here](#). The deadline for primary school applications is 15th January, 2025. Mrs Hamilton-Thorpe is happy to show prospective parents around school in January.

Christmas Lunch



A wonderfully festive Christmas lunch was served on Wednesday. Thank you to the Dolce team for all their hard work providing lovely lunches for our children.



Year 1 had a magical time on their recent trip to [Turton Tower](#)! They took part in a variety of activities: playing Victorian Christmas games, including Kim's Game with Victorian objects; making traditional Victorian decorations (Cornucopia); meeting with Santa, who told them what children in Victorian times could expect to find in their Christmas stocking.



As part of a first-hand experience for writing in English, our Year 5 children recently tried to put themselves in the shoes of a homeless person.



Year 5 have also been exploring the properties of materials in their science lessons.

Thank you to our sports teams for representing us at local tournaments this term.

The netball team played Waddington and West Bradford at Bowland High School on 19th November. Their next match will be on 28th January.

Our football teams have played in inter-school tournaments this term and we look forward to seeing them play again next term.

Many thanks to Mrs Calton and Miss Blockeel for accompanying the teams to their matches.



Year 6 had a fabulous time during their three-day residential trip to [Robinwood](#). Everybody gave their all, participating in a wide variety of team-building, adventurous activities. Accompanying staff members were extremely proud of your impeccable behaviour, Year 6!



In their computing lessons, Year 1 have been working hard on their mousepad control skills, before moving onto their coding '2Go' challenges. This work looks fantastic, Year 1! Well done!



Year 6 have been busy making dioramas in DT this half term... We're excited to see the finished products, Year 6!



Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 were absolutely delighted on Wednesday when they were invited to breakfast with the elves! Their elves from home were also included in the invitation and festive pancakes with chocolate spread and magical sprinkles were on the menu! Merry Christmas to you all from the Edisford Elves! 🎄



KS1 children have successfully completed their first Flair badge of the year (Music, Textiles, Communication/French), as well as their Performing Arts badge. Badges will be given out in the new year. Well done to all!



Thank you once again to our lovely volunteers who have been giving of their time to work with children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 on their reading. We really do appreciate your help!

Thank you also to Dove Sykes Nursery for their kind donation of a Christmas tree for our school entrance.

Dates for Your Diary

| Event/Notice | When | Action |
|---|--|--|
| Break up for Christmas holidays | Friday 20 th December at 2pm | No After School Club on 20/12/24. |
| Back to school for Spring term | Monday 6 th January 2025 | |
| Reception Heights & Weight Check | Thursday 9 th January | Letter emailed to parents on 11/11/24 |
| Year 6 STEM Catalyst Challenge | Tuesday 14 th January | In the school hall. |
| Reception Visual Screening | Thursday 16 th January | Letter emailed to parents on 12/12/24 |
| Break up for half term | Friday 14 th February at 3.20pm | Holiday Club running 17-21 February |
| Back to school for Spring 2 | Monday 24 th February | |
| Year 3 World War II Workshop | Monday 3 rd March | Interactive workshop in the school hall. |
| Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop | Tuesday 4 th March am | Interactive workshop in the school hall. |
| Ribble Valley Swimming Gala | Monday 24 th March | At Ribblesdale Pool |
| Break up for Easter holiday | Friday 4 th April at 2pm | No After School Club on 4/4/25. |
| Back to school for Summer 1 | Tuesday 22 nd April | |
| KS2 SATs Week | Monday 12 th May to Thursday 15 th May | |
| Year 4 Multiplication Times Table Check | Monday 2 nd June to Friday 13 th June | |
| Year 1 Phonics Screening Week | Monday 9 th June to Friday 13 th June | |

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