



FRIDAY UPDATE

Friday 15th December 2023



A huge thank you to all of you who joined us at our Christmas Celebration yesterday. We were so incredibly proud of the children's singing, reading, acting and general behaviour. They worked so hard and it was lovely to see it all come together for the performance and have so many of you there to enjoy the event. Another enormous thank you for your generous donations to the retiring collection for the charity Breast Cancer Now. This money will be much appreciated by the charity and help support the vital work they do.

We are only in school for three days next week (finishing on Wednesday). I am delighted to say the children have earned a total of 853 values tokens over this term (beating our target of 700 for the term) and so have earned an end of term mufti day and year group disco on Wednesday.

Thank you so much for your on-going support of our fundraising. Our Festive raffle, with colourful prizes, will be drawn on Facebook Live on Monday at 3.45pm. Good luck to all ticket holders!

Have a wonderful weekend everyone.

In celebration assembly today we said well done to the following children, who received **Special Awards** and special gold Headteacher's Award sticker:

Eleanor (Beech class) - for beautiful, clear reading in the Christmas performance.

Alyssa (Hazel class) - for wonderful singing in the church.

Keyan (Maple class) - for working independently in Maths this week.

Alessia (Cherry class) - for singing beautifully and being a role model during the performance in church.

Noah (Willow class) - for his kindness.

Michelle (Oak class) - for being a wonderful role model, especially her singing and participation in the Christmas performance.



Class Accolades

Hazel Class - Miss Morris is proud of your fantastic innovated poems.

Beech Class - Mrs McCullough was so impressed with your excellent behaviour and effort in the Christmas performance.

Maple Class - Mrs Bolter was proud of your excellent singing in the church.

Cherry Class - Miss Startin was proud of your beautiful singing and smart sitting in the church.

Oak and Willow classes - All the grown-ups were so impressed with your super singing and behaviour at the Christmas Celebration.

Each class was presented with their Class Accolade certificate and earned two class ticks. Well done everyone!



LETTERS / EMAILS HOME THIS WEEK:

Willow Class Staffing letter

Oak Class Staffing letter

Maple Class Staffing letter

Mental Health Newsletter

Measles information

Year 2 PE change of day

WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK (Autumn 2 Week 8):

Monday 18th - Year 2 P.E.

3.45pm - Christmas Raffle (on Facebook Live)

Tuesday 19th - Year 1 P.E.

Wednesday 20th - **Mufti day for end of term treats (not best outfits please as there will be craft activities during the day.)**

Values tokens
total this week
and last week:

257





As part of our commitment to safeguarding, it is important that we ensure that parents/carers are as informed as possible about online safety.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a Tech-Free Christmas

With Christmas right around the corner, millions of families are excitedly anticipating the chance to spend some quality time with each other over the festive season. When everyone's engrossed in their phones or glued to their games consoles, however, genuinely meaningful moments with loved ones can often be difficult to orchestrate.

This Christmas guide will lend a hand: providing some advice on helping young people to set aside their devices for a while and live in the moment. Even if going full tech cold turkey feels unrealistic, implementing just a few of these tips could still decrease the amount of screen time in your home this festive season – enabling everyone to make the most of it. *A larger version of these guides can be downloaded from our school Facebook page.* <https://www.facebook.com/TheAvenueInfantSchool/>

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.

#WakeUpWednesday

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