



The Avenue Infant School
FRIDAY UPDATE
Friday 5th January 2024



Happy New Year everyone! It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week and hear their news from the school holidays. They all seem so happy to be back with their friends and enjoying their new learning. The Spring term is usually one where the children really embed their learning and grow in confidence, allowing them to take on new knowledge with even greater pace. We are delighted to say this term we will be celebrating their progress by having a '**Come & See**' event for parents and carers. After school on Monday 5th February parents / carers can come into school (with your child) and look at your child's work so far this year. It will be an informal event, not an appointment with the class teacher, but will allow you to see how your child is progressing.

This term continues our focus on reading and we encourage you to regularly read stories to your child and also for them to practise reading their books to you. Repetition and practice is VITAL in building confidence, skills and fluency, and will, in turn, further develop your child's love of reading and therefore their progress in all curriculum areas.

We look forward to working together with you over the coming term. Have a lovely weekend.

IMPORTANT CHANGE- Celebrating birthdays

In the past, some parents / carers have chosen to send in sweets for their child's class on their birthday. We have had to make the decision that, due to the increase in pupils with different dietary needs and allergies, this will not be possible anymore. We feel this is the safest approach and one which avoids upset for those who cannot enjoy the sweets brought in. It also aligns with our healthy eating approach. We will continue to celebrate birthdays by singing 'happy birthday' to your child, if they wish to, in Singing assembly and present them with a birthday sticker. Thank you for your understanding with this change.



IMPORTANT- Punctuality

An increasing number of children are arriving at school late (after 9.00am). This is concerning as it very much impacts how they settle into their day and also crucial learning time (phonics and reading are first thing every morning) is missed. We do also see an impact on friendships and emotional well-being. Similarly late pick-ups unsettle children and often impact after school meetings / tasks for staff.

Please ensure your child is always in school on time and collected at the correct time so they are in the best possible position to thrive in their learning. If you require support with this, please speak to a member of staff.

Thank you.

WHAT'S ON NEXT WEEK (Spring term 1 Week 2):

Monday 8th	- Rock Steady Club
Tuesday 9th	-
Wednesday 10th	- Play and Perform Club (3.15pm - 4.15pm)
Thursday 11th	- Story Explorers Club (3.15pm - 4.15pm)
Friday 12th	- Family Reading session - Reception 8.50 - 9.10am

DATES FOR THE TERM:

Wednesday 10th January	- Play and Perform Club starts (Wednesdays 3.15 - 4.00pm)
Thursday 11th January	- Story Explorer's Club starts (Thursdays 3.15 - 4.00pm)
Friday 12th January	- Family Reading Session - Reception (8.50 - 9.10am)
Wednesday 17th January	- Reception Health Screening
Friday 19th January	- Family Reading Session - Year 2 (8.50 - 9.10am)
Friday 26th January	- Family Reading Session - Year 1 (8.50 - 9.10am)
Wednesday 31st January	- Tea and Talk with Mrs Lucas & Mrs Fowle 2.15pm - hall
Friday 2nd February	- Family Reading Session - Reception (8.50 - 9.10am)
Monday 5th February	- Children's Mental Health week
Monday 5th February	- Parent / carer 'Come & See' open session 3.15 - 3.45pm
Tuesday 6th February	- Safer Internet Day
Friday 9th February	- Family Reading Session - Year 2 (8.50 - 9.10am)
Friday 16th February	- Family Reading Session - Year 1 (8.50 - 9.10am)
Friday 16th February	- 3.15pm School closes for half term break.

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

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

This week's free online safety guide focuses on staying safe on new devices. It highlights a number of tips such as double-checking your news sources, taking breaks from being online and not sharing personal information.

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!

In the guide, you'll find tips such as double-checking your news sources, taking breaks from being online and not sharing personal information.

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.

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, 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 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 on a tech panel 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.

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