



News and Events

Friday 16th December

From all the staff at West Ashton, we would like to say...



We hope you have a peaceful and joyful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2023!

Reminders

The library is open after school on Tues and Fri.

Important dates for your diary

3rd January—School closed:
TD Day

4th January—Term 3 starts

11th January—2:40pm Play-
pod assembly for parents
followed by ribbon cutting
ceremony

Attendance

Highest attendance:

Discoverers 96%

Lost learning: 137.5 hours



@WestAshtonCofE



[West Ashton C of E Primary School | Facebook](#)

We are on Facebook! Please like our page.



What a wonderful way to start our final week of the term. KS2 watched the nativity performance on Monday and we welcomed family and friends on Tuesday and Wednesday. It was great to see the hall packed with an audience after the last few years and the children rose to the occasion delivering a truly magical nativity for everyone to enjoy.

A huge thank you goes to the EYFS/KS1 team for putting this together for us.





Christmas Dinner 2022



Happy Hope House!

A very happy Hope house celebrated their 200 house points with juice and biscuits with me this week.



Shooting Stars' reindeer decorations.

They made foot prints in salt dough then painted and decorated them.



A huge thank you to Richard Covington who came to present a cheque, on behalf of West Ashton Village Hall and Institute, to the school for £200 towards the cost of our pantomime this year.



I would also like to say a huge thank you to FOWAS for arranging a special delivery from Father Christmas himself—what a feat at this time of year.



What a fantastic sing-along to end the term.

Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and New Year,
Alex Blake-Thwaite

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/ratingboard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



National Online Safety Update

Christmas Week at Trowbridge Library

Lots of fun, free activities for the festive season!



Throughout the week

- Do our **Christmas Trail** for a chance to win a prize
- Enjoy some family time in the library with our **board games**
- Let your children shop for family gifts with **Santa's Bookish Elves** (FREE & Eco-friendly)

Monday 19 December

Festive Rhyme Times! 10:00 Babies & 11:00 Toddlers

Tuesday 20 December

Christmas Stories & Crafts! 2:30 Please book your child's FREE place

Wednesday 21 December

10:30 Last Pre-school Six Storytime Session

2:30-4:30 Lego Club

Thursday 22 December

2:30-4:30 Lego Club

Friday 23 December

2:30 Festive Rhyme Time! Babies & Toddlers

Saturday 24 December 11:00 Festive Storytime!



Wiltshire Council

Help your children give the gift of a good read this Christmas with the help of Santa's Bookish Elf Service at Trowbridge Library!

Orders taken from 5 –20 December



It's as simple as A, B, C...

Aask us to select some books for you

- * Come in or ring us on 01225 716700
- * Ask for **Santa's Bookish Elves**. The child can then tell an elf what type of books each parent likes to read.

BBook an appointment to pick up the books

- * Before you leave the library, please book an appointment to collect your eco-wrapped parcel.

CCollect your books

- * The children can collect their gifts and decorate a label for them, all ready to go under the Christmas Tree.
- * Remind the children the books are only on loan for 6 weeks. We believe in recycling our reads!

**The best part? It'll be a meaningful gift
that won't cost you a penny!**

Love Reading
Love Libraries

Wiltshire Council