



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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2nd December 2022

"It's not what's under the tree that matters, but the people gathered around it."

Dear Parents/Carers,

By the time this week's newsletter goes 'live', the PFA Christmas Market will be in full swing! I would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all members of the PFA for organising what promises to be a fantastic, Christmas extravaganza! They have worked so hard, giving up much of their own time to contact local



businesses for raffle prizes, set up for the market, organise stalls etc. It's been a pleasure (and a lot of fun) to have worked alongside this team again and we look forward to taking part in the next fundraiser!



There are so many people we need to thank, starting with all of our parents, friends and school staff on behalf of the PFA who have donated unwanted items, whether that be books, toys or games, clothing, food or their time to making this event a success. It is very much appreciated and humbles us when celebrating and thinking about the true meaning of Christmas. We also wish to thank all the local businesses who have very kindly donated raffle prizes – maybe you were one of the lucky ones! Thank you also to other external stallholders for attending as well as Santa, who flew in especially on

his sleigh! We are also extremely grateful to Mr Wilson, who provided us with the beautiful Christmas tree that you can see in the hall!

We will, of course, let you know the final amount that you have helped raise through supporting this event on next week's newsletter. Thank you once again for coming and supporting the Market and we hope that everyone has a great weekend! I'm sure many of you will be watching the match on Sunday and we keep our fingers and toes crossed that England have a great game against Senegal! Enjoy, and we look forward to seeing you again on Monday!



Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes

Year 5 had an absolutely wonderful time at Whitemoor Lakes this week! All children (and staff) were fully involved in climbing, archery, zip wires, problem solving plus so many other exciting challenges! The food on offer was incredible and the highlight had to be the Christmas dinner on Thursday evening. As always, the children have represented the school perfectly and the staff at the centre spoke incredibly fondly and highly of our wonderful children. Twitter has captured many memorable moments of this trip and of course these images are all replicated on the school website should you not use this social media app. Huge thanks to Mrs Barlow, Mr Bishop and Mrs Johnston for supporting this trip. Have a restful weekend children, we are very proud of you!



Christmas Performances for Parents

We look forward to welcoming you into school next week for our Christmas performances, which the children are very excited about! These are summarised as follows:

| Date | Time | Year Group(s) |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Tuesday 6 December 2022 | 9.15am | Nursery and Reception |
| Wednesday 7 December 2022 | 9.15am | Nursery and Reception |
| Thursday 8 December 2022 | 9.15am AND 2pm | Year 1 and Year 2 |
| Friday 9 December 2022 | 9.15am | Year 3 |

Whilst there has been no charge for the tickets, we will be having a retiring collection at the end of each performance in support of our designated charity for this season, which is the YMCA – a charity close to all of our hearts.

As teachers and parents, we realise that parents do like to take photographs and videos of their child during performances as a personal memento. However, this can only be allowed if parents follow the guidelines which have



been agreed by our school community, and we thank you for your co-operation with this:

- Photographs must not appear on the internet or social websites.
- Photographs/videos are used as a personal memento only and cannot be reproduced or shared elsewhere publicly.
- Parents wishing to take videos/photographs are asked to stand in a position which does not detract from the children's performances and does not restrict the view of other audience members.

We look forward to seeing you there!

JTMAT Christmas Concert

The children of our choir enjoyed a fabulous day and evening at John Taylor High School on Thursday as they sang as part of the JTMAT Choir. Eleven schools from across the Trust came together to perform a range of traditional and modern festive favourites. Miss Martin-Mills worked tirelessly all day, conducting the children so that their singing was at its best! We were not only treated to a hot lunch, but Santa also popped in with some gifts and to say "hello". Despite the dreary weather outside, a great time was had by all and we look forward to doing the same next year! Our choir did us very proud! I must pass on our sincerest thanks to Mrs Cochrane, Head of School at JTHS and her fabulous team for hosting this event!



Online Safety Tips

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be

daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which enthralls young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't okay...and knowing what to do when something upsets them.

This week's online safety guide focuses on social media and mental health. It highlights a number of tips such as how to hide content, setting daily limits and discussing what children have seen online.

Christingle!

Monday 5 December 2022 will be our annual Christingle Assembly day. If you would like to send your child with a Christingle orange (please see instructions below), please ensure that it arrives in school on Monday morning.

Please note that due to allergies, instead of using nuts to decorate the cocktail sticks, may we please ask that parents use alternatives such as sweets and dried fruit.

Many thanks for your support!

Making a Christingle

Equipment:

- Orange
- Four cocktail sticks
- Sweets
- Candle
- Red ribbon



Instructions:

1. Tie your red ribbon in a bow around the centre of the orange.
2. Place some sweets on your cocktail sticks.
3. Insert your cocktail sticks evenly around the centre of your orange.
4. Place your candle in the hole that your teacher has made at the top of the orange.

Tree-mendous Tips!

Christmas is slowly creeping in on us, and a lot of us will be starting to decorate the house. Here's some festive, sustainable top tips:

- Choose LED lights or go for solar powered
- Don't buy new decorations every year
- If you do need decorations, look for second hand
- Make your own decorations such as dried orange slices baubles or wine cork Christmas trees - [get inspired here](#)
- [Make a Christmas wreath](#) using the fallout or extra pieces from your tree



School Uniform Exchange

Please don't forget the *school uniform exchange*, which will continue this year! There is a box situated by the gate on the school car park for any parents who have items they wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box! Amy Roobottom continues sorting and collating this. As previously stated, if you wish to



contact Amy to ask what is available that you might be in need of, please contact the school office via shb-office@shb.jtmat.co.uk and we will ensure this is forwarded to her.



Could you Foster?

Would you like to find out how you can provide a family home to children in your area? Nexus Fostering is a well-established and highly regarded fostering agency, based in Derby, who are urgently seeking full-time foster carers willing to foster. The agency is rated Ofsted 'Outstanding' in all areas and place a high premium on the quality of support and care that they provide to every one of the foster carers and, in turn, the children and young people placed with them. To find out more about becoming a foster carer in your area please call 0800 389 0143 or visit nexusfostering.co.uk/oneday.

Burton Lifesaving Club

Burton Life Saving Club are recruiting new members for their club at the Meadowside Leisure Centre in Burton. They are looking for youngsters aged 10 – 16 who would be interested in getting involved in Lifesaving. If interested they will need to have some basic swimming ability.

The RLSS UK Survive and Save awards are a suite of progressive awards that teach personal survival, first aid, CPR, rescue, and fitness skills to anyone aged 12 years and over. Their aim is to teach candidates how to stay safe around water and how to safely assist others who may have gotten into difficulty in both aquatic and non-aquatic situations.

Burton LSC are running this scheme and are looking for young people to join the club aged 10 years and older.



You will find more information here: [Survive and Save | Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK \)](#)

The Club runs this programme on Thursday evenings at the Meadowside Leisure Centre - Burton at 8.00pm – 9.30pm. There is a free taster session for people who want to give it a go to see if it is something they will enjoy. Contact Chris Hurcomb to register for this – 07960511373.

Getting involved in Lifesaving, as I am sure you are aware has a number of benefits. Lifesaving clubs are at the heart of a community, providing an essential service to young people and their families to develop the ability to enjoy water safely. Lifesaving is also one of the only activities that delivers both the physical and mental benefits of sport and physical activity whilst at the same time providing a skill for life that both enriches and could save lives. It can also be a route into jobs within the Leisure sector through the NPLQ (National Pool Lifeguard Qualification).

Hot Lunch Options – 5 to 9 December 2022 – Mrs Inger's Special Menu

Mrs Inger has designed a very special menu for next week, full of her own personal favourites (and hopefully, some of the children's favourites as well!). Please note that **Thursday 8 December 2022** will be **Golden Ticket Day!** This is because we will be saying a very sad, but fond farewell to Mrs Inger at the end of the term as she has made the decision to take early retirement.

Mrs Inger has been part of our school for fourteen years and would like to thank all the children, parents and staff she has met and served during that time. We shall really miss her cooking, her cheeky sense of humour and her kind and caring nature terribly but wish her all the very best for the future and hope that she enjoys her retirement. Thank you for everything, Mrs Inger!



| WEEK 1 | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| MAIN DISH | All Day Breakfast | Meaty Pizza | Pork Sausage | Chicken OR Quorn Burger in a Bun | Crispy Fish Fingers with Chunky Chips |
| VEGETARIAN MAIN DISH | Vegetarian All Day Breakfast | Cheese & Tomato Pizza | Quorn Sausage | Pork OR Quorn Sausage in a Bun | Crispy Vegetable Fingers with Chunky Chips |
| ACCOMPANIMENTS 5 AUP | Baked Beans Sweetcorn | Baked Beans Peas | Mash Potatoes Sweetcorn | Hash Brown | Baked Beans Peas |
| DESSERTS | Biscuit | Muffin | Cookie | Cake | Ice Cream |
| FRESH FRUIT OR YOGHURT | Fresh fruit or Yoghurt | Fresh fruit or Yoghurt | Fresh fruit or Yoghurt | | Fresh fruit or Yoghurt |
| JACKET POTATO AND SANDWICH SELECTION | Jacket potato and sandwich selection | Jacket potato and sandwich selection | Jacket potato and sandwich selection | NO Jacket potato and sandwich selection TODAY | Jacket potato and sandwich selection |

If you have a talent for cooking and would like to apply to fill the vacancy left by Mrs Inger, more information can be found on the poster below. Please contact Louisa Neesham at Louisan@mellors.co.uk the Area Manager for Mellors, our catering provider, for further details.

Mellors WE'RE HIRING!

WE COULD MAKE THE
PEAR-FECT
TEAM - APPLY TODAY!

We are currently recruiting for
Catering Manager
Term Time

Shobnall Primary School
27.50 hours per week

For more information, please contact:
Louisa Neesham—Area Manager
Louisan@mellors.co.uk
07443279236

"TOP QUALITY SERVICE AND FOOD CREATE HAPPY SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE."
www.mellorscatering.co.uk @mellorscatering

SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

Nursery

It is officially December this week and we have started to get into the Christmas spirit in Nursery. The children have loved going into the role play area and have had great fun being Santa's little helpers by packing lots of presents. They have also been doing some learning on patterns and the children have all had an attempt at creating their own ABA patterns.

Reception

It is certainly beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Reception!

Our role play area has been transformed into a magical workshop and the Christmas elves have been busy wrapping gifts and placing them into Santa's sleigh for Santa to post down the chimney!

The children have enjoyed learning about the importance of Christmas and have shown a great understanding that although receiving gifts is exciting it is much more important to be grateful for our family and friends and showing kindness to others.

The children have also explored how to look after their teeth this week and have had a great time using models to practice their brushing skills. They have also identified the differences between healthy and unhealthy foods and the impact these can have on our teeth.

"Drinking water is better because fizzy pop has sugar in it." (Oscar)

"Brush your teeth at morning and at night and don't be quick you have to get to the back ones too." (Jack)

"Brush your teeth so you don't get cavities that's when your teeth go rotten." (Arthur)

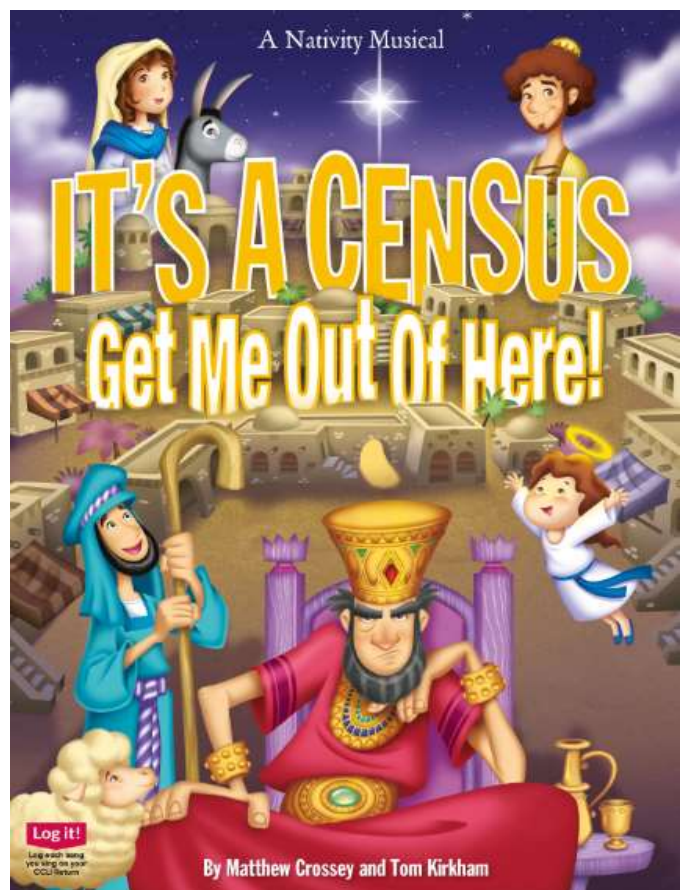
"We need to clean our teeth Miss Alexander wants to see our pearly whites at register time!" (Aminah)

Year 1

Year 1 have been exploring 'The Nightmare Before Christmas' in their writing. They have been learning how to use the conjunction 'and' to connect two ideas together. In our topic this week we have been looking at History, focusing on the life of Queen Elizabeth II. Their forthcoming Christmas production, 'It's a Census, Get Me Out of Here!' draws closer and we have been practising the songs and actions within class.

Year 2

It has been another extremely busy week for Year 2 this week. Their afternoons have been filled with Nativity, Nativity and a bit more Nativity! With all this practising the children have become experts in their performance, and they can't wait to showcase their talents to you next week in their two showings on Thursday! In Maths, Year 2 have completed their unit of learning on addition and subtraction and are moving onto Shape next week. In English, the children have been looking at different ways of using conjunctions to join sentences, including and, or, but, if and because.



The children have also thoroughly enjoyed listening to our class story Matilda at the moment, and it is certainly sparking our imagination and love of reading.

Year 3

Year 3 have been putting the final touches to their 'Cosy Christmas – a Trip Around the World' performance and are really looking forward to showing their parents next week. In maths they have started their learning on multiplication and division and thoroughly enjoyed learning all about equal and unequal groups. We have also been focusing on our drafting and editing skills and the children have written some truly awesome diary entries.

Year 4

Year 4 have had another great week this week. In English, the children have continued looking at the key features of a diary entry in preparation for writing theirs next week! Furthermore, in maths we have completed our end of unit quiz on area, which all the children have done really well. We have also had our penultimate Forest School session of the year, and the children loved the range of Christmas activities that were on offer for them to enjoy. In Science, we have completed our end of unit quiz which brings a close to our Science unit for this half term, animals including humans. The children have also started our



DT topic for the autumn term, where they will be creating their own lamp! I'm looking forward to seeing these come to fruition and I know the children are too! Another great week Year 4. Well done!

Year 5

Year 5 have had an amazing time on their residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes this week, as you will have read from the report at the beginning of the newsletter! Check out our Twitter page for many, many posts documenting their time at the centre.

Year 6

In Year 6 this week, we started the week busily preparing for our class assembly on Thursday all about WW2. We also have been completing our Maths and English assessments. We have worked very hard, and it has shown us what we need to revise for our KS2 SATs in May. In Design and Technology, we have been working hard to finish our Christmas trees and evaluate them. In Maths, we have been learning how to multiply fractions by integers (whole numbers). English has been exciting as we have been planning our persuasive leaflets on a new tourist attraction in Florida. Finally, Miss Lord wants to say a huge, "well done" to the children for their class assembly performance. She is very proud of them. Keep up the hard work, Year 6.



Reading Corner

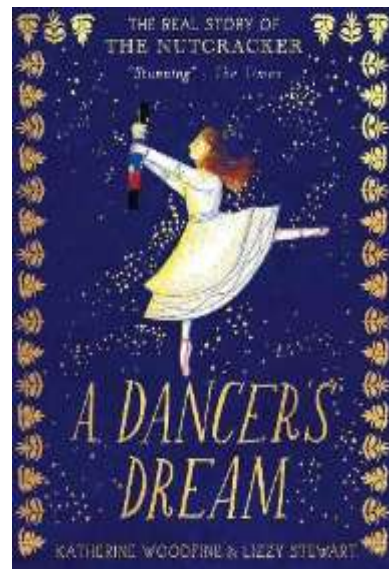
This week's recommended read is for children aged 5+...

A Dancer's Dream

Written by Katherine Woodfine

Perfect for all readers who love the world of ballet, *A Dancer's Dream* is an inspiring story of a Stana, a young student at the Imperial Ballet School in St Petersburg, who is chosen to dance the role of Clara on the very first night that the new ballet, The Nutcracker Suite, is performed.

Stana's luck in being picked for the part and how much it matters to her is cleverly interwoven to a touching family story about her very ill sister. Drawing on the true story of the origins of the now much-loved Nutcracker Suite and including a charming introduction to Tchaikovsky who composed the ballet's music, *A Dancer's Dream* is a delightful mix of fact and fiction.



Head Teacher's Awards

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Reception | Milo C | Arthur H |
| Year 1 | Theodosia D | Evie J |
| Year 2 | Alizah A | Ben S |
| Year 3 | Aminah A | Jacob R |
| Year 4 | Erin S | Tabatha L |
| Year 5 | EVERYONE! | |
| Year 6 | EVERYONE! | |

Lunchtime Star Awards

| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| Reception | Paisley H |
| Year 1 | Peta O |
| Year 2 | Sophia W |
| Year 3 | Alicia F |
| Year 4 | Bonnie H |
| Year 5 | Joseph W |
| Year 6 | Bethan P |

Team Points

| Team Points | Claymills | Rosliston | Sinai | Trent |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Points (Week Ending 02.12.22) | 91 | 51 | 96 | 68 |
| Position | 2 nd – 3 Points | 4 th – 1 Point | 1 st – 4 Points | 3 rd – 2 Points |
| Running Total | 17 | 5 | 17 | 11 |

Autumn Term Diary Dates

| Event | Date/Time |
|---|---|
| Christingle | Monday 5 th December 2022 |
| EYFS Nativity | Tuesday 6 th December 2022, 9.15am |
| EYFS Nativity | Wednesday 7 th December 2022, 9.15am |
| Key Stage 1 Nativity | Thursday 8 th December 2022, 9.15am & 2.15pm |
| Year 3 Cosy Christmas Celebration | Friday 9 th December 2022, 9.15am |
| Christmas Lunch – Christmas Jumper Day for Children! | Wednesday 14 th December 2022 |
| Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs at Lichfield Garrick | Thursday 15 th December 2022, 10.00am |
| School Closes for Christmas | Friday 16 th December 2022 |

Diary Dates 2022-2023

| Event | Date/Time |
|--|---|
| School Closes for Christmas | Friday 16 th December 2022 |
| INSET Day | Tuesday 3 rd January 2023 |
| School Reopens for Pupils | Wednesday 4 th January 2023 |
| Year 6 Laches Wood Meeting for Parents | Wednesday 4 th January 2023, 3.30pm, Year 6 Classroom |
| PFA New Year Movie Night | Thursday 19 th January 2023 |
| Young Voices 2023 | Friday 13 th January 2023 |
| Year 6 Laches Wood | Monday 30 th January to Friday 3 rd February 2023 |
| PFA Valentine's Disco | Friday 10 th February 2023 |
| School Closes for Half-Term | Friday 17 th February 2023 |
| School Reopens for Pupils | Monday 27 th February 2023 |
| PFA Easter Bingo | Wednesday 29 th March 2023 |
| School Closes for Easter | Friday 31 st March 2023 |
| School Reopens for Pupils | Monday 17 th April 2023 |
| May Day Bank Holiday | Monday 1 st May 2023 |
| Borough and Parish Elections – School Closed | Thursday 4 th May 2023 |
| Bank Holiday – King's Coronation | Monday 8 th May 2023 |
| Key Stage 2 SATs Week | Tuesday 9 th May 2023 to Friday 12 th May 2023 |
| School Closes for Half-Term | Friday 26 th May 2023 |
| School Reopens for Pupils | Monday 5 th June 2023 |
| JTMAT INSET Day | Friday 7 th July 2023 |
| School Closes for Summer | Friday 21 st July 2023 |
| INSET Day | Monday 24 th July 2023 |
| INSET Day | Tuesday 25 th July 2023 |

Burton Lifesaving Club



The Meadowside Leisure Centre
High Street
Burton-upon-Trent
DE14 1TL

Age 10 years+

Every Thursday 8.00pm – 9.30pm

£5 per session/ £40 for a Term

Free Taster Sessions available
starting from Thursday January
12th 2023.

Please contact Chris Hurcomb to
book the free session
07960511373

RLSS UK Survive & Save

This programme is our
Lifesaving award for anyone
aged 10 years and over.

The awards are
challenging, but fun to
complete and are arranged
into Bronze, Silver and Gold
levels to ensure that
participants get the
opportunity to develop their
lifesaving skills as they
progress through the
awards



Enjoy Water **Safely**



ROYAL
LIFE SAVING
SOCIETY UK



could you help a child
child feel safe, loved
and supported?

To find out more come to our
drop in at our Telford office on
the 14th December 5-6, or visit
nexusfostering.co.uk/oneday

Call us on 0800 389 0143



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SOCIAL MEDIA & MENTAL HEALTH

An estimated one-third of children have a social media account, so it's important that trusted adults know what content young people are consuming, what they're posting and the interactions they're having. On social media, it can be easy to go down 'rabbit holes' that aren't beneficial to our wellbeing. As platforms grapple with managing such 'legal but harmful' content, lives are being impacted – sometimes to tragic effect. We might be daunted by the scale of the tech giants and their content which so enthralls young people, but we can still help children to be aware of their mental wellness: recognising when something isn't OK ... and knowing what to do about content that upsets them.

1. UNDERSTAND THE ALGORITHM

Algorithms rank content by user interest: someone who regularly interacts with sports news, say, will see the latest results at the top of their feed. Likewise, if a user browses content that can cause harm, that's what will be recommended to them in future. Someone who's had a bad day and looks for posts which reflect their mood will find similar content being suggested to them more and more.

2. AVOID THE MAIN FEEDS

Avoiding the default feeds on social media platforms limits the amount of recommended content that's shown. Users can opt to only scroll through the accounts they follow, use restricted modes, or highlight posts that they don't want to see more of. Explore the platform safety settings to see how you can take control of what your child's phone shows them when they open the app.

3. DISCUSS WHAT THEY'VE SEEN

Chatting about what your child's seen online keeps you aware of the content they're interacting with. Don't assume that platforms are screening out inappropriate material, or even that your child would recognise content as being harmful. Discuss who they follow, what posts they like and what comes up in their feeds: if alarm bells ring, it could be time for a more in-depth talk or to seek support.

4. LEARN HOW TO HIDE CONTENT

If your child stumbles across unsuitable content on social media, there's the option to hide that post as well as indicating you'd prefer any similar material not to be suggested in future. On some platforms, you might also be able to block posts that contain specific words, which is an excellent way to start taking control of what your child sees online.

5. SET DAILY LIMITS

Phones and most apps can tell you how much they're being used. Spending too long online can mean a child misses out on other activities that are important to all-round wellbeing. You could set some family rules – for everyone to follow – around device use, such as screen time limits and tech-free spaces: involving your child in creating this agreement makes them more likely to stick to it.

6. MONITOR THEIR ACTIVITY

Keeping a discreet eye on how your child is using social media can help ensure they're not entering potentially dangerous situations. As they grow up, of course, children need space to exercise their independence – but you can still occasionally ask to see what they're looking at. Be transparent about your own social media use and try not to sound judgemental about your child's.

7. TURN OFF PUSH NOTIFICATIONS

Even for adults, it's tempting to check an email or message as soon as the alert sound pings. Push notifications encourage people to open their apps and spend time on their device, so turning them off will help your child to practise mindful use of tech. Most of us have other things that we need to focus on as a priority – and those notifications will still be there later, when we have more time.

8. USE DEVICES TOGETHER

Giving children internet-enabled devices and complete freedom to explore platforms on their own can result in exposure to hugely damaging content. You could consider making a particular area at home a designated space to use phones, tablets and so on – making it much easier to monitor what content your child is viewing and (if necessary) steer them away from any potentially harmful paths.

9. ENCOURAGE OTHER ACTIVITIES

Mental health professionals often highlight the importance of exercise, quality time with loved ones, a balanced diet and restful sleep for our mental wellbeing. Spending hours on social media can cause us to sacrifice other activities that our brains need to feel well – so encouraging your child to put down their phone and enjoy something that doesn't involve a screen can be immensely beneficial.

10. TALK ABOUT PEER PRESSURE

Most platforms default children's accounts to private, so only people they've accepted as friends can see their posts. This reduces the risk of bullying or unkind comments, but – just like offline life – the digital world can still make children feel as if they need to act or look a certain way to fit in. Talk to your child about peer pressure, and listen to any concerns so you can provide the support they need.

Meet Our Expert

Shazia Sarwar-Azim is executive headteacher at a specialist primary school and, as an emotional therapy coach, works with school leaders to focus on the SEND, mental health and wellbeing agenda. A passionate advocate for vulnerable learners, Shazia is a Fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and the author of *The Rainbow Within*, a book which supports children with SEMH needs.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-63204605>
<https://sproutsocial.com/insights/social-media-algorithms/>



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