

Wray Common Primary School Newsletter



Inspiring Lifelong Learning



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

As the term wraps up, things have been quite busy, and this week has seen a flurry of Christmas festivities! On Tuesday, the entire school walked to the church for a heart-warming Carol Service with Reverend Anna. Thursday brought a delightful Christmas lunch for both students and staff. It was a wonderful experience for all! A heartfelt thank you to Michelle and her team for such a fantastic meal!



PARENT COMMUNICATION

As a school, we deeply value the partnership between home and school and the important role you play in your child's education. A strong, respectful, and open relationship between parents and staff is essential to creating a positive environment where every child can thrive.

Recently, I have been made aware of concerns about the use of some parent-organised WhatsApp groups. While these groups can be a great way to share information and develop social links, we encourage all parents to use them thoughtfully and constructively. It is vital that we remember the impact our words can have, particularly when discussing sensitive matters or specific individuals, including members of staff.

If you have any concerns about your child's experience in school, then we want to address those concerns. The best way to address these is to:

- **Contact the school directly:** Speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, as they are often best placed to address classroom concerns.
- **Schedule a meeting:** If a matter requires further discussion, please contact the school office to arrange a time to meet with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, in particular.
- **Focus on solutions:** Our aim is always to work together to resolve any issues in a way that supports your child and our school community.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of teachers and staff who work tirelessly to support your children's learning and well-being. Let us all do our part to maintain a culture of kindness, respect, and collaboration within our school community.

Thank you for your ongoing support..

PANTO

This morning, the children were treated to a panto led by the staff!



BOXPARK - CHOIR

Earlier this month, Mrs Miller took the Choir to perform at Boxpark in Croydon. It was a great event where local choirs and the Croydon Steel Pan Orchestra performed in a festive event. Well done for all who took part and showed great courage!



NATIVITIES - YR AND Y1

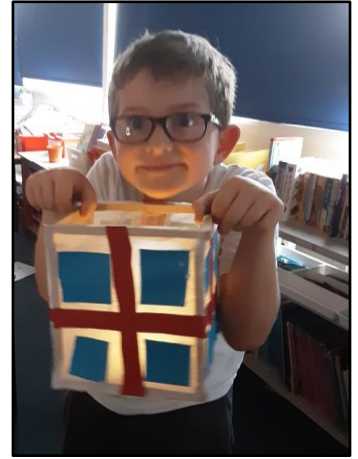
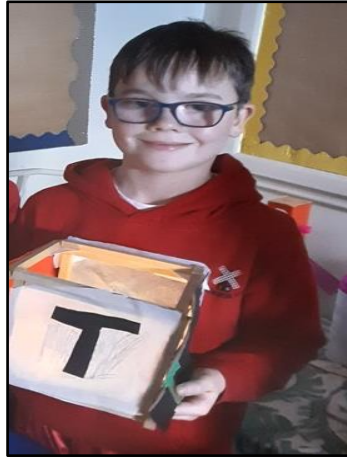
This week, we were treated to the delightful Nativities performed by Reception and Year 1! One of our commitments at Wray Common is to ensure that every child gets to perform on stage, and they took to it like seasoned performers! The children exhibited the Wray Common value of courage, singing beautifully, articulating their lines clearly, and captivating everyone. We are bursting with pride for the children; they truly are superstars!





LIGHT BOXES

In DT this half term, Year 4 have been exploring using joining and cutting techniques to make their very own decorative light up boxes from wood. The children went through a design process including conducting their own market research to inspire their final project. The children also used their science learning from this half term to make a circuit which allowed them to light up their boxes. Although this was a tricky project, the children demonstrated excellent resilience and perseverance.





FLASHCARDS

In Year 5, for their home learning, children did an amazing job of creating flashcards about the different topics in Science that they learned about in Year 4. This week, we played a board game using our flashcards. They had lots of fun challenging other children to answer the questions they had written, and seeing what they could remember.



SEWING

This half term, children in Year 5 have been putting their sewing skills to the test. They had to conduct some research on what a good soft toy looked like, and ask Year 2 children some questions on their preferences. They then learned how to do a running stitch, back stitch and blanket stitch. After all this practice, they then got to making their toys. We are incredibly proud of the finished products!



Year 5 also took our finished toys to Year 2 so they could cuddle them whilst they listened to their Wind in the Willows stories.





HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM FOWC

SINCE SEPTEMBER WE'VE RAISED £13,305!!



THINGS WE'VE PROVIDED THIS YEAR:
 450 CRACKERS FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH
 180 GIFTS FOR KS1 CLASSES & SANTA GIFTS

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT - WE COULDN'T RUN THESE EVENTS WITHOUT YOU!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mon 6th January - INSET Day

Tues 7th - All children return to school.



If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us. We can help you source information about support through the right agencies, and make referrals ourselves to local support groups. Here are some of the things we have supported families with recently:

- School uniform, school bags, P.E. trainers and school shoes
- Pre-loved clothes for children
- Foodbank referrals
- Housing applications and letters of support
- Seasonal gifts for children

If you have any questions or would like to talk about how we can help, please contact Miss Kober on 01737 761254 or email familysupport@wray-common.surrey.sch.uk

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Just a reminder that if your child turns 4 before the 1st September, applications for school places are open and they will close on the 15th January 2025. Applications need to be made directly on Surrey's Admission's website [here](#).

Places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis. If you would like a place for your young person **please complete this form**



'THANK YOU' FROM THE FRIENDS

Thank you from the Friends of Wray Common to each and every person that has supported our events since September. We hope we provided your children with fun and memorable experiences. Your support means that we have raised over £13,000 so far which is a great amount to enhance our children's learning environment. Look out for our next events which include a parent social, a wizard event and a disco. We wish you all a happy holidays.

HONOUR BOOK

1EL	Roseanna	For persevering and joining in brilliantly during our Nativity performance.
1B	Thomas	For great sportsmanship towards his teammates and opponents in our hockey game.
2T	Emilio	For always demonstrating the values of kindness and respect.
2P	Oscar T	For always showing patience and co-operation with his classmates.
3S	Archie	For demonstrating good Wray Common Values all week; both in the classroom and playground.
3F	Noah	For aspiring to be the best he can be in all lessons and being a great team player in the maths quiz.
4BR	Lucas and Toby	For super collaboration with the making stage of their DT lightbox projects.
4BE	Oscar	For excellent use of DT skills when making his lightbox box project in DT this week.
5E	Rupert	For his collaboration and support in DT helping other children to complete their sewing.
5J	Tom	For excellent perseverance when making his soft toy in DT.
6C	Lilian	For always aspiring to be the best she can be in her learning.
6F	Nick	For good persevering during art this week.

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.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

CALLING ALL WITCHES AND WIZARDS



Wray Common's School of Witch Craft & Wizardry



JOIN US FOR A FUN FEEED EVENING

FRIDAY
28 FEB



Time
5:00 PM

More information to follow in January

If you have a budding Hermione, Harry or Hagrid who they won't want to miss this event!

TKETS £10

Gift Amnesty

Parents, staff and friends!

**Can you help us raise funds for
the school this year?**

If you received any gifts at Christmas or on a birthday that aren't quite to your taste (or got two the same) we'd love any donations that can be used as prizes or at future events.

Where to drop them off

Please bring your donations to the school office
throughout January

Thank you!

From Friends of Wray Common



Parentkind
Member Association