



It was lovely to see so many parents attend our first parents' evening of the academic year. I hope you found it useful to discuss your child(s) progress and all had an opportunity to look at their work. The set up of parents' evening was slightly different this year to previous years so it was nice to hear some positive feedback from parents on the night but as always, we welcome any feedback.

The children have been working hard in each class all week. Our Nativity concerts remain a key focus in Early Years and Key Stage 1. The children are looking forward to sharing their versions of the Christmas story with you. A letter has been emailed to parents regarding tickets. Instead of charging an entry fee, we are asking parents to bring a small tin (or other items). We will then distribute these items to the local foodbank in time for Christmas.

In assembly this week the children were introduced to the Caritas campaign *Will you 'Bee There' this Christmas?* Caritas is our diocese charity who support families in our local area.



Please click the picture to find out more about the campaign and the wider work of Caritas.

Mr Price

Safeguarding

Our designated safeguarding team are Miss Johnson, Mr Knapper and myself. If you have any concerns at all please do let one of us know. Safeguarding is the responsibility of all of our school community and we welcome all your support in helping us achieve our best.

This week's poster is based on general social media tips and guidelines – especially important as some of our older pupils may receive devices which access the internet for Christmas.

Key dates

Tues 28th Nov – Hockey tournament

Tues 5th Dec – KS1 Nativity

Weds 6th Dec – KS1 Nativity

Thurs 7th Dec - Christmas Dinner

Weds 13th Dec – F1/F2 Nativity

Thurs 14th Dec – Selection box raffle

Fri 15th Dec – Christmas parties

Fri 15th Dec – School closes for Christmas.

Weds 3rd Jan – School reopens

Christmas Cards

From the 4th of December children can bring Christmas cards into school for their friends. We have a special post box in school which the cards can be posted into. Our special elves will then deliver the cards to each classroom. Please ensure your child writes the name and year group onto the envelope of each card so none of them get lost in transit.

Next week all the children will also start making Christmas cards in school which they will then deliver to local residents.

Parish News

The latest parish newsletter can be viewed by scanning or clicking here:





Friends of St Mary's

Yesterday we held a very positive meeting with the Friends of St. Mary's. The Friends of St. Mary's is an organisation where parents and others with connections to the school come together to organise fundraising events for the benefit of the children in the school. We have planned some fundraising events for the rest of the academic year but as always, these events can only be a success if we have the volunteers to support them. If you would be interesting in getting involved in the FOSM group please email school at office@stmarysdenton.com. If you include a phone number, you will be added to the FOSM WhatsApp group.

Solar Panels

Bishop John is always asking schools to consider their role in sustainability and to keep the environment at forefront of all decisions we make. With this in mind, I am pleased to tell you that yesterday we had solar panels installed on the hall roof. We were fortunate to receive funding for the solar panels. As well as the benefits for the environment, the cost savings on electricity bills can now be spent on other resources which will benefit the children.

Stars of the week

Congratulations to Kirsty, Michael, Charlie, Aria, Aiden, Leo, Annabelle, Olivia, Redd, Lottie, Nathan, Hollie, Annalise, Kiera and Archie who have been nominated as stars of the week by their class teachers. Well done and keep up the good work.

Attendance

Good attendance at school gives your child the best possible chance to succeed. Each week we monitor attendance across school. Our target as a school is to have an attendance above 96.5%. Our current school attendance for this academic year is currently 96.4%. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at which pupils have 100% attendance for the Autumn term. Congratulations to Year 2 who have the highest attendance this week.



	Reception	95%	
Year 1	96.5%	Year 2	98%
Year 3	96%	Year 4	95%
Year 5	93%	Year 6	91%

School Admissions

Reception Applications:

The local authority portal for applications for Reception is now open. Please apply online for your child to have a place in school. The deadline is 15th January 2024.

Decorations

We are in desperate need for Christmas decorations! If you have any spare decorations which you no longer need, please consider donating them to school. They can be left in the school office or given to staff at the start or end of the day. Anything will be greatly appreciated.

Reconciliation

Our Year 3 children are busy preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 14th December. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Jacob, Myla and Imani who have celebrated their birthdays this week.

PE stars of the week

Congratulations to Alfie, Charlotte, Kenji, Olivia, Nico, Charlotte, Jayden, Lucy, Dan, Alex, Nancy, Mollie, Ava, Taylor, Hollie, Kiera, Conor, Lillie-May, Coady and Daisy who have been nominated as PE stars of the week by their class teachers. Well done and keep up the good work.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

12 Social Media Online Safety Tips FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES



With Christmas only a few weeks away, many of you will be using social media to share your excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to show others how much fun you're having, but it's important that you know how to use these apps safely and securely so that bad things don't happen. By following our safety tips below, you can make sure that your personal information stays private, your postings are positive and that your social media use overall is responsible, healthy and most of all enjoyable.



1 DON'T ACCEPT FRIEND REQUESTS FROM STRANGERS

Make sure that you set your profile to private so that people you don't know can't find you online. Always tell a trusted adult if a stranger or somebody you don't know sends you a message or a friend request.



2 NEVER SHARE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION WITH PEOPLE YOU DON'T KNOW

Keep your personal information personal. Sometime people online aren't always who they say they are and might ask you to share things that you don't feel comfortable sharing.

3 DON'T SHARE EMBARRASSING PHOTOS OR VIDEOS OF OTHERS ONLINE

This could really upset them and could get you into a lot of trouble. Always think twice before posting anything on social media and treat people online as you would in real-life.



4 NEVER SEND NAKED PICTURES OF YOURSELF TO OTHERS

This is illegal if you are under 18 and you could get into trouble with the Police. If you are being pressured by someone, always say no and tell a trusted adult. Even if you think it is innocent fun, the photo could be shared with other people and you won't be able to control who else sees it.



5 CREATE A POSITIVE ONLINE REPUTATION

Always be kind and polite when posting comments on social media and only upload pictures and videos of things you are proud of. This forms part of your digital footprint. Everything you do online can be tracked and monitored and could affect what people think of you in real-life if it is negative.



6 LIMIT YOUR SCREEN TIME

Social media can be addictive, and it is easy to keep checking newsfeeds or your notifications every 5 minutes which can affect your behaviour and stop you from doing other things. Remember to only use your phone at certain times of the day, turn notifications off at bedtime and go out and have as fun as much as possible. This will keep you fit and healthy and make you appreciate there's more to life than just what's on social media.



7 BLOCK ONLINE BULLIES

Sometimes people might say nasty things to you online or post offensive comments on your pictures or videos. If this happens, always tell a trusted adult who will help you block them from your profile and support you in taking further action.

8 REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

If you see something on social media that you don't like, offends you or upsets you, you should always report it to a trusted adult. You should also report it to the social media app who will be able to remove the content if it is against their user policy and can block the person who posted it.



9 ONLY USE APPS WHICH YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO USE

Before downloading any new social media app, always check the age-rating. If you need help, ask your parent or carer to make sure that the app is safe for you to use and never download anything which you are too young for as it may contain content that isn't safe for you to see.



10 ALWAYS SECURE ALL YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILES WITH A PASSWORD

This will help to keep your private information safe and won't allow others to access your profiles without your permission. Make sure your passwords are memorable and personal to you but something which other people can't guess, and always share them with your parents just in case you forget them.



11 ASK PARENTS TO SET-UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS' FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

When you download a social media app, you should always ask a trusted adult to help you set it up for the first time. This will help you control who sees what you post, who can contact you and make sure you are able to enjoy using the app safely and securely.



12 ALWAYS TALK TO YOUR TRUSTED ADULT IF SOCIAL MEDIA IS MAKING YOU UNHAPPY

Sometimes, social media can make us feel bad about ourselves or sad that we aren't the same as someone else or doing the same things as someone else. Remember, if you ever feel this way, it's really important to talk to your trusted adult(s) like your parents, carers, other adult family members or a teacher, all of whom will be able to support you and discuss your feelings with you to help make you feel better.

