



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

A Voluntary Academy

(Romero Catholic Academy Trust)

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Newsletter

Friday 16th December 2022

Christmas Holidays

School closes for the Christmas break at 1:30pm on Friday 16th December. School reopens on Wednesday 4th January at the usual time. We hope you have a happy and holy Christmas.

Sunday's Gospel

"She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet:"

Matthew 1: 21-22

Caritas Social Teaching Award

Bishop John has given St John's this award to present to a pupil each half term, who we as a school feel is making a difference to our school. This half term, the award goes to Raven in Class 3. Staff have nominated her as she always looking for ways to help others. Well done!

Staffing news

Sadly, we say goodbye to Mrs Holmes, our Year 5 TA, who has worked at St John's for 8 years. We thank her for all of her work and wish her well in her new role at Unity High School. We will miss her.

Christmas Mass

Christmas Masses at St John's church are as follows: Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve) First Mass of Christmas 5:30pm. Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day) 10:45am.

Raffle

Thank you to all who bought raffle tickets for our Christmas Raffle. It raised £111 towards sponsoring a child in Uganda. We will update you in the new year with details of the scheme.

Christmas Concerts

The support for our Christmas concerts in school was amazing! Thank you to all who came to watch. We are very proud of all our performers.

CAFOD World Gifts

Thank you for the generous donations towards World Gifts. We raised £53 and the Chaplaincy Team decided to use the money to buy a goat, a chicken and a vegetable garden.

Online Safety

The attached guide gives parent's and carer's tips and guidance for setting up new apps, games and software which will help your child use any new tablets, games and consoles safely this Christmas.

Library Warm Spaces

Libraries in Burnley are open during the holidays as Warm and Welcoming Spaces. Please follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/cost-of-living/warm-and-welcome-places/>

Epiphany Mass

We will be walking to St John's Parish Church to attend the 9.30am Mass for the Feast of the Nativity on Friday 6th January. Parents and Carers are most welcome to join us.

Times Tables Rockstars

Class 5 have the best participation this week. Most played this week: Class 3 - Anisha, Class 4 - Aaryaan, Class 5 – Ben, Class 6 – Finley and Class 7 – Abel.

Our top performers this week are Aaryaan (Class 4), Finley (Class 6) and Ben (Class 5).

Please make sure your child keeps practising during the holidays.

Anti-Bullying Competition Winners

Well done to the winners of the Anti-Bullying Poster Competition. Thanks to our Art and Design ambassador Larrissa in Class 7 for helping judge the competition this term. The winners are: Class 1 – Chiara ,Class 2 – Lilly, Class 3- Favour, Class 4 – Lily, Class 5 – Zahra, Class 6- Gracie, Class 7- Dion

	Class Winners	Readers of the Week	Writers of the Week
Class 1	Whole class	Harper	Esme
Class 2	Whole class	Oliver	Sofia
Class 3	Whole class	Mahir	Anisha
Class 4	Whole class	Giorgio	Bailey
Class 5	Whole class	Maddison	Logan
Class 6	Mrs Holmes	Xenia	Maia
Class 7	Whole class	Bella-Rose	Vivienne

Faith Life Winner: Ellis Lord (Class 1)

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to make an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of those issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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 side of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher to see. 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.

'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 tablets so that 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 is 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.

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 rape videos or sites featuring child sexual abuse images. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

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 card 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 titles 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 sexual abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family console (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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 World and ComputerWeek. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and on TV News on Xtra. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.





#WakeUpWednesday

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