



## Newsletter 4 - December 2024

As we are fully set into the festive season, there are lots of good new stories and notices to share from our community. As ever, we have included all of the important upcoming dates coming up at the end of the newsletter. Please also head to our [curriculum blog](#), where you will find examples of children's work from across the school.

### School Value - Curiosity



CURIOSITY

This term, we have been talking to the children a lot about curiosity. We want our children to learn about the world around them and being able to ask questions is a crucial part of this. We have been so proud to celebrate children displaying curiosity with our School Values Awards!

### Performances

It has been a busy schedule as all year groups have prepared a Christmas performance.

Year R and 1 have worked together to put on a performance of Tinsel. This was a wonderful performance full of brilliant singing!

Year 2 and 3 collaborated on the production of Sparkle. We particularly enjoyed the

makaton that was used for many of the songs. Well done everybody!

Year 4 and 5 put on this year's carol concert at Christchurch - this was such a special event in the school's calendar and a perfect way to spread Christmas cheer.

Finally Year 6 put on a Christmas performance for parents involving singing and dancing, all chosen by the children themselves.

We thank all of the parents who made time to attend these events - we hope you enjoyed them as much as our children enjoyed having the opportunity to perform! Our thanks also go to the staff who worked so hard to prepare the children for these performances.

## Music

A huge well done to our school choir who performed at Bluewater Shopping Centre earlier this month. In their hour-long set, they spread Christmas cheer to their parents as well as other shoppers with their wonderful songs.



We also enjoyed an excellent Christmas concert, where children from across the school played musical instruments, sang and made us very proud with their talents. My thanks go to Mrs Archibald for organising these events.



Once again, all our children have taken part in our annual Christmas Song recording. Every year group has learnt a Christmas song and these were performed and recorded this week. Look out on the school website for these at the end of this week!



## Christmas Fair

Our wonderful PTA organised our Christmas Fair which took place last Friday. There was a wide variety of stalls and activities available and great fun was had by all! Thank you very much to everyone who helped out at and supported this event.



## Christmas lunch

The children enjoyed their Christmas Dinner this week. Our thanks go to Independent Catering for putting on the wonderful spread, and even gifting the children santa hats to wear!





support in place, helping them to be successful and 'achieve happily.'

Next term, we will be inviting parents to an SEN coffee morning; date and time to be confirmed, so please watch this space.

If you have any concerns and would like to discuss these with the SEN team, please don't hesitate to contact me:

[lucy.thompson@wenworthonline.co.uk](mailto:lucy.thompson@wenworthonline.co.uk). 01322 225694 ext.5

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Lucy Thompson, SENCo

### School council

Across the term, our school councillors have received their badges and started to carry out their duties. We were particularly excited for our local MP (Jim Dickson) to visit and discuss some of the children's ideas for change in Dartford.



### Wellbeing at Christmas

It is important to look after ourselves during the Christmas period, as it can place additional pressures on us. The charity Mind have a [page on their website](#) dedicated to supporting you through what may be a difficult time. Beacon House, a service that provides support for families, young people and adults, also has a range of support on [their website](#).

### SEND - message from the SENCo

It's been a very busy but enjoyable start to the year. The children at Wentworth have made me feel very welcome, and I have had the pleasure of meeting lots of you as well. Over the last couple of terms, I have implemented new our Student Support Plans for all children at Wentworth who are receiving additional support in and outside of the classroom. These plans will enable us to work together to ensure all pupils have the right

## COPING AT CHRISTMAS

The Added Pressures of Christmas can be Tough, but it's Important to know there's always Someone you can Talk to...

 <p>Call 111 &amp; select option 2 to speak to the NHS Mental Health Crisis Response Service 24/7 <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/mental-health">Nhs.uk/mental-health</a></p>	 <p>Under 35s can Call 0800 068 4141, Text: 88247 or Email: <a href="mailto:pat@papyrus-uk.org">pat@papyrus-uk.org</a> 24/7 <a href="https://www.papyrus-uk.org">Papyrus-uk.org</a></p>	 <p>Call 116 123 to talk to Samaritans, or email: <a href="mailto:jo@samaritans.org">jo@samaritans.org</a> for a reply within 24 hours <a href="https://www.samaritans.org">Samaritans.org</a></p>
 <p>Call MIND's Mental Health Helpline 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday on 0300 102 1234 <a href="https://www.mind.org.uk">Mind.org.uk</a></p>	 <p>Text "SHOUT" to 85258 to contact the Shout Crisis Text Line, or text "YM" if you're under 19 <a href="https://www.giveusashout.org">Giveusashout.org</a></p>	 <p>Mental Health Forum &amp; Chat for Men from 5pm - midnight every day Call or Whatsapp 0800 585858 <a href="https://www.thecalzone.net">Thecalzone.net</a></p>

ChristmasCountdown.uk

Action for Happiness name December as 'Do Good December'. Sometimes helping others can give us a positive sense of wellbeing too.



- Responsible for paying the household energy bill (only one award per household) if applying for energy support.
- Combined household income (including both benefit and employment payments) less than £40,000.00 per annum.
- Are NOT in receipt of FSM support during school holidays
- Have not received support through the Pensioner Just Missing Out scheme

Over the Christmas period, North Kent Mind are running two Christmas wellbeing drop in's, open to anyone 17+ within the local area.

If successful, support will be provided in one of the following denominations depending on what the beneficiary requested:

- £100 energy voucher/e-card card to be used to pay for energy costs to the household.
- £100 supermarket food voucher used to pay for food costs.
- £60 supermarket voucher & £40 energy voucher/e-card

Applications made direct will require additional evidence to demonstrate residency within Kent. This can be achieved through a screenshot of a council tax bill/exemption form only; where an applicant does not have this, you can email [kcc-hsffoodandenergysupport@kent.gov.uk](mailto:kcc-hsffoodandenergysupport@kent.gov.uk). Any application made independently without being supported by a professional will require the above evidence. All applications made via this route will be subject to checks before approval.

If you are interested in applying please contact [www.kent.gov.uk/householdsupportfund](http://www.kent.gov.uk/householdsupportfund) from January 9th.



### £100 Winter Food and Energy Support Scheme

A new grant fund is being released 12pm on 9th January to 12pm on 5th March 2025 or until funds are allocated. Please see below for more information about the scheme.

Eligibility:

This criterion has been set to maximise reach to those most in need, including people in employment.

- Aged 16 or over.
- A Kent resident, permanently living within one of the 12 local authorities covered by Kent County Council (this excludes Medway, Bromley, and Bexley).

### Managing Children's Behaviour

Parenting is tough. Would you like to learn some new strategies or how to set and maintain your boundaries? How about praising and rewarding your child? Do you find school holidays a struggle? We are running a Managing Behaviour Course in January. Many of you said in the recent Parent Survey that you'd like help with managing behaviour at home. This course could help give you strategies to help. Scroll down to the poster for booking details.

If you would like more support from us on managing children's behaviour at home or anything else, you can contact Pamela Hill

directly by emailing  
[pamela.hill@wentworthonline.co.uk](mailto:pamela.hill@wentworthonline.co.uk).

### Parking

A continued reminder that we must be respectful to our neighbours around the school. I have again been contacted by local residents explaining that driveways have been blocked. Please be aware when parking.

Could we also point out that younger siblings are welcome to join parents on the school run and should not be left unattended in vehicles outside of the school gates.

### Scouts and Squirrels

Hello. My name is Milly and I work for the local Scout Association and I am helping to open up a Squirrel Drey (aged 4-6) in the Cambria Sea scout group in the new year. This will be operating on a Wednesday at 5pm, starting with our open event on the 19<sup>th</sup> of February. The aim is to help young people develop the skills for life and be engaged in more outdoor, adventurous activities. We are also looking for volunteers to help run the section too. Please see the posters attached for more information.

### Children In Need

As a school, we managed to raise over £500 for children in need - thank you all for the donations!



### Safe gifts

As we approach Christmas, we would like to share this [information](#) from the Child Accident Prevention Trust about some potentially harmful products which are widely available. Can we also ask that children do not bring any gifts / products / toys into school as they may also not meet UK safety standards.

### And finally...

Reuben in year 2 was particularly proud to meet Adam Gemili at his athletics club. What an honour to meet the man your classroom's building is named after!



### Upcoming dates for the diary

Thurs 19th Dec - Carols by Candlelight

Fri 20th Dec - Last day of term

Mon 6th Jan - Term 3 starts

Mon 13th Jan - Clubs start

Wed 15th Jan - Y3 swimming starts

Thurs 23rd Jan - Young Voices @ O2

Mon 10th Feb - Y4 Kingswood trip

Fri 14th Feb - Last day of term

Monday 24th Feb - Term 4 starts

Wed 5th March - Open evening (from 3:30pm)

Thurs 6th March - Open evening (from 5:30pm)

Fri 28th March - Y6 to PGL

Wed 2nd April - KS1 Easter Bingo

Thurs 3rd April - KS2 Easter Bingo

Fri 4th April - Last day of term

Tues 22nd April - Term 5 starts

We would also like to congratulate former pupil Isaac for his appearance in the new "Wicked" film. Isaac has attended many auditions, demonstrating our school value of resilience, and it was fantastic to see him secure a part in such a large project!



Well done Isaac!

Logan in year 3, with his sister Briar, his dad and his mum are all doing a 5k walk on the Evening of 21st December for NSPCC and are looking to raise donations. The link is as follows;

<https://nspcc.enthuse.com/pf/anne-rae-norman>. Good luck everybody!

# Should I keep my child off school?

## Yes

### Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for **health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

For all parents/carers – Is parenting sometimes a struggle? This free course is for you.



## Managing Children's Behaviour

### Do you need help with:

- Setting and maintaining boundaries for your child?
- Understanding your child's behaviour?
- Praising and rewarding your child?
- Showing your child affection effectively?
- Communicating with your child?
- Do you sometimes find school holidays a struggle?

**Dates:** 21, 28th January & 4 & 11th February 2025. **Time:** 9.00-11.15am.

**Venue:** Wentworth Primary School, Wentworth Drive, Dartford DA1 3NG

This is a 4 week course for adults only. Please attend as many sessions as you can.

To book please [click here](#) or scan QR code and complete the online booking form. Any questions contact Pamela Hill M: 07552 634463 or 01322 225694 ext 214 or email [pamela.hill@wentworthonline.co.uk](mailto:pamela.hill@wentworthonline.co.uk)



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# Scouts



Cambria Sea Scouts

## Squirrels Open Event

19th February 5-6pm



### Are you aged 4-5?

Want to try something new and exciting? Go on adventures? Meet new people and have lots of fun? Why not come along to our open evening to take part in these exciting scouting activities and learn those all important #skillsforlife



Come along for **free** and find out more!

**Sign up** by scanning the QR code below or search:

<https://forms.office.com/e/4tdLwvZm41>



Join the adventure and learn #skillsforlife

# Squirrels



(age 4-6)



## New Squirrel Drey at Cambria Sea Scouts Volunteers needed!

COMING  
SOON

We're recruiting a team of volunteers to help out with our new Squirrel Drey we are opening - want to contribute to an amazing life-experience for you and your local community? Then being a volunteer with Squirrels is for you.

There are lots of different roles you can get involved in from administration tasks, programme planning to helping behind the scenes as a Trustee. Scan the below QR code to find out more about helping out at Squirrels.

We'd love to hear from you if you're interested!

[squirrels@CambriaSeaScouts.org](mailto:squirrels@CambriaSeaScouts.org)





16 November - 15 December

Donation Points

**Baby Ballers**

**Dartford Florist**

82 St Albans Road, Dartford DA1 1TY

**David Lloyd**

Darenth Road, Dartford DA1 1NJ

**Fox Estates**

94 Brent Lane, Dartford DA1 1QX

**Horse and Groom Pub**

15 Leyton Cross Road, Wilmington DA2 7AP

**Orchard Garage**

128 Park Road, Dartford DA1 1SZ

or 157-161 Heath Lane, Dartford DA1 2TW

**Pet & Garden Supplies**

148 Colney Road, Dartford DA1 1UH

**Reeds Rains Estate Agent**

2 Hythe Street, Dartford DA1 1BX

**St Edmunds Church**

St Edmunds Rd, Temple Hill, Dartford DA1 5ND

**Sally Sue's Sandwich Bar**

118 St Vincents Rd, Dartford DA1 1XE

**Slimming World**

**Stephen Oliver: Studio and Gallery**

Orchards Centre, Dartford DA1 1DN

**YMCA**

Round House, Overy Street, Dartford DA1 1UP



*Stephen Oliver*



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# 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>

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