



Robert Miles Junior School Newsletter – 20th December 2024



Dear Parents,

The autumn term has come to an end this week with a flurry of events. It was lovely to see lots of you at the carol concerts earlier in the week – I hope you enjoyed them. The children really do sing beautifully. We were all impressed by their commitment to rehearsing, learning their lines and making sure they delivered an excellent performance.

Today we are sadly saying goodbye to two colleagues who are leaving us: Kerri Nunn, who works in the office in the mornings, and Sarah Thacker, who works mostly with the Year 6s as a teaching assistant. Both have made huge contributions to the school and will be missed enormously. We wish them all the very best for the future.



I always think of this holiday as being a family one where you catch up and see family from far wide. I hope you all have an enjoyable and relaxing time wherever you go and whatever you do. Thank you to all the parents for your support of the school these pasts twelve months. Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. We will see you all on Tuesday 7th January for what I am sure will be a busy spring term.

Best Wishes



James Evelyn
Headteacher, Robert Miles Junior School

Dates for the Diary

6th January Staff Inset Day
7th January First Day of Spring Term
Spring term dates to follow

School Attendance

Excellent attendance is vital to success at school. We track attendance closely and celebrate excellent attendance. Our target is for each child to have an attendance figure of at least 95%.

3B	93.1%
3J	95.2%
4H	89.3%
4M	94.2%
5AC	90.9%
5G	93.9%
6L	95.2%
6M	92.9%
All	93.1%



Congratulations to
6L and 3J for
having the best
attendance this
week!

House Points

Jupiter	1,880
Mercury	1,620
Neptune	1,516
Saturn	1,480

The final House Points for Autumn 2 have been counted – record numbers have been recorded meaning that we have almost ran out of House Points! Huge congratulations to Jupiter for their success this term and to all the children who have worked so hard and amassed all these House Points. They enjoyed a non-uniform day today.



Choice Chart – Gold Award Winners

At the start of this school year, we introduced the 'Choice Chart' – an interactive and visual system that recognises children's 'choice based' journey through the day. Getting to Gold is not easy to achieve and requires something exceptional. These 8 children have achieved Gold this term having done something exceptional!

Holly (6L)	Lottie (3J)
Isla (6L)	Hattie (6M)
Mason (6M)	Elliot M (6M)
Eryn (5AC)	Indi (5G)
Sophie (5G)	



The children then went into a draw for a 'Hot Chocolate with the Headteacher' with Sophie, Hattie and Indi's names coming out of the hat!

Christmas Lunch

On Wednesday, the children and staff enjoyed the traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings. A huge thank you to Mrs Dove and Mrs Dodd for all their hard work preparing everything – definitely a very busy day for them. They not only cook for our school but also for another local school. Thank you also to the school staff who helped serve and make sure everything ran smoothly.



Times Tables Rock Stars

Times Tables Rockstars

Congratulations to the following children who have topped the charts for their work on TTRS this week:

Most correct answers: Daisy, 3J

Most coins earnt: Harithraa, 3B

Biggest improvement in accuracy: Liam, 3B

Biggest improvement in speed: Liam, 3B

Year 5 Baking

Year 5 had their own RMJS Bake Off last week creating festive cookies for special people in their lives. After a very delicious biscuit tasting session in class (all in the name of Market Research!), we then designed our own cookies adding a seasonal ingredient for a delicious Christmas flavour. Ingredients added to our cookie dough included: chocolate chips, crushed up candy canes, cinnamon, ginger, vanilla and even crushed up oreos along with many other creative ideas. After decorating gift bags beautifully, our homemade gifts were ready to take home. Year 5 enjoyed their baking with many showing superb skills when measuring, mixing, rolling, cutting and decorating. Hopefully, some children may take these skills and enjoy some home baking over Christmas. A huge thank you to all the adults who helped with this as nearly 200 cookies were made and baked in one afternoon! A massive well done to all the children who behaved fantastically and worked so well in pairs to create their cookies.



Upcoming Dates w/c 6th January 2025

Monday 6th January 2025

- Inset day – School closed to all children.

Tuesday 7th January 2025

- Spring term begins
- Young Voices rehearsals, 3.30-4.30pm

Wednesday 8th January 2025

- Bible Explorers 12.45-1.15pm, Year 6 shared area.

Thursday 9th January 2025

- Year 3 swimming. Please ensure you remember your swimming kit (including towel and a bag to put wet items in) and any inhalers required.
- Martial arts club, 8 – 8.45am. Please wear PE kit, bring a drink and any inhalers required. (This club is now full)

Friday 10th January 2025

- No afterschool activities today.

A reminder that all children need to be collected from their afterschool clubs by family member/friend who are over the age of 16.

Weekly Menu - w/c 6th January 2025

All parents have received a link to a form where you can submit information about your child's dietary requirements. If you have not already done so, please complete the form here if your child has specific dietary requirements: <https://orders.lunchhound.co.uk/medicaldiets/request>

Monday

- Inset day

Tuesday

- Beef lasagne with garlic & tomato bread with a choice of vegetables or mixed fresh salad.
- Vegetable lasagne with garlic & tomato bread with a choice of vegetables or mixed fresh salad.
- Jacket potato with a choice of baked beans, cheese or tuna.
- Chocolate cookie & orange wedges.

Wednesday

- Roast chicken with gravy, Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes with a choice of vegetables or mixed fresh salad.
- Quorn grill with gravy, stuffing, roast potatoes with a choice of vegetables or mixed fresh salad.
- Jacket potato with a choice of baked beans, cheese or tuna.
- Chocolate crunch & chocolate sauce.

Thursday

- Beef and potato pie with potato wedges and a choice of vegetables or mixed fresh salad.
- Cheese, onion and potato pie with mash or skin on potato wedges with a choice of vegetables or mixed fresh salad.
- Jacket potato with a choice of baked beans, cheese or tuna.
- Strawberry mousse.

Friday

- Fish fingers and chips with a choice of vegetables or mixed fresh salad.
- Crispy vegetable fingers with chips and a choice of vegetables or mixed fresh salad.
- Jacket potato with a choice of baked beans, cheese or tuna.
- Lemon drizzle cake with custard.

We share E-Safety information from National Online Safety with parents in the Robert Miles newsletter. This is to help you in ensuring that your child can use technology safely. Please read the following information.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

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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