



PRIMARY WORD

We should be the best we can be for we are all God's Masterpiece

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Head Teacher - Mr Neil Tyler

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to write a short message to all of the school families and thank you all for the support you have given the school over the last twelve months.

We have had another fantastic autumn term and it has been great this month getting confirmation that, once again, across the school this year's academic results are significantly above both national and local Northamptonshire averages. It is also lovely to see our children succeeding at sport, music and other creative elements of their development, both in and out of school.

It has been a pleasure to see the school family grow and being able to welcome all those new children and their families to Brixworth school. We have, of course also had some difficult moments, particularly with pupils, their families and staff illness. There has been an awful lot of cold and flu bugs around during the autumn term. It has meant staff covering and taking on roles over and above their normal duties, which has been so very much appreciated and I want to send my thanks to every single member of the school staff.

I would also like to thank the Governors at the school for their hard work and dedication over the last twelve months and the members of the PTA for their support of the school and all those extra resources they have provided for our children.

Finally the biggest thank you must go to our truly wonderful children who make the school the special place it is. The school has had a focus this half term on the value of Kindness. We have considered the courage that is sometimes needed to do the right and kind thing; how small acts of kindness can be very powerful and how it is so important to be kind to yourself. As we move into the Christmas holiday and our focus is often on all the 'things' we have to do and the shopping, cooking, wrapping and organising needed; please make sure you take the time to consider the message of Christmas and show our love and kindness not only to others but to ourselves.

On behalf of all the staff, governors and pupils I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and the best New Year.

Neil Tyler

Neil Tyler



Events for week beginning Monday 6th January 2024

Day	Time	Event	Venue	Taken By
Monday 6th		Teachers Training Day		
Tuesday 7th	5.30-7.45pm	Teachers Training Day Taekwon-do	Main Hall	Mr Bonfield
Wednesday 8th	12.15-1.15pm 1.55-2.55pm	School Reopens Hotshots Basketball Woodwind (Catch Up)	Small Hall Small Hall	Hotshots Miss Retford
Thursday 9th	12.15-1.15pm 3.30-4.15pm 5.30-7.45pm	Hotshots Basketball KS2 Choir Taekwon-do	Small Hall Main Hall Main Hall	Hotshots Mrs Marsh, Deveruex, Varrier Mr Bonfield
Friday 10th	All Day 12.15-1.15pm 12.30-3pm	Years 3 & 4 Victorian Day Hotshots Basketball Selected Year 5 Swimming	Classrooms Small Hall The Mounts	Year 3/4 Teachers Hotshots Mrs Buck
Sunday 12th	10.30-11.30am	Brixworth Community Church - Informal Service	Main Hall	Rev Andy Lloyd-Williams



Please be Considerate when Parking

We have been contacted by some members of the local community about parking around the school. I know this is always an issue and probably is in every primary school in the country, however, it appears some people have been parking to drop off or pick up their children over residents' driveways. This is not only extremely inconvenient if people need to get in or out of their houses it is also very rude and makes the school and our school family look inconsiderate. I know the vast majority of our parents and carers would not do this but can I ask we think about others before we park, even if it means walking a little bit further.

Thank You!

We would like to thank all of you who were able to attend our Foundation Stage and KS1 performances this week and those of you who came along on Monday to the KS2 Carol Service. It was lovely to see so many families join us and it made such a difference to the children.



We would also like to give our thanks to the members of Brixworth Festival Committee who so generously donated all of our new sound and light equipment that we used on Monday. It is a fantastic contribution to the school and will make a real difference with our future productions and concerts.

Nut Free School

Due to several children with nut related allergies throughout the school, we ask that parents do not provide children with nuts in their home pack lunch.

In addition to actual nuts please avoid peanut butter sandwiches and foods which contain a high percentage of nuts. Kingswood Catering do not use nuts in any of their recipes or their production kitchens.



Primary School Application Deadline

Please note the deadline to apply for a place at Primary School is **Wednesday 15th January**. If you haven't yet applied for a place please do so via the following link -

[Apply for a primary school place - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

Assembly Theme Week
Commencing 6th January is **Global Citizenship**

Celebration Assembly

Congratulations to the following children who have won awards for consistently upholding one or more of the school values.



Academically

Emily E
Jake B
Emilia H

Spiritually

Lucas F

Socially

Millie A
Ted O

Praise Letters

Congratulations to the following children for receiving a praise letter from their teacher:

Amelie R, Noah B, Eliana M, Cherish E, Elodie B, Oliver M, Libby O,
Evie M, George J, Mira N, Eva F, Jessica K, Louie M,
Amelia D, Gracie B, Fatema R

Christmas Performances

Here are some photos of the children ready to take to the stage for their Christmas Performances! They all thoroughly enjoyed taking part and especially enjoyed performing to parents.



Christmas Festivities

Along with the Christmas performances, the children have enjoyed many other festive activities this week. They have all loved sharing their Christmas lunch with their friends and teachers, creating beautiful Christmas crafts, taking part in a 'decorating a Christmas biscuit' competition, a whole school Christmas assembly and enjoying the last day celebrating with a joyful Christmas party.



Foundation Stage Christingle Service

The Foundation Stage children took part in the annual Christingle Service at All Saints Church last week. The Christingle service is a festive candlelit Christmas celebration that brings together communities and families to share the light of Jesus and spread hope. All the children thoroughly enjoyed the service and behaved wonderfully.



The Song of the Week this week is..



All I want for Christmas is You
By
Mariah Carey

WWW.KINGSWOODCATERING.CO.UK

ONLINE MENU IS
NOW LIVE

PLEASE ORDER MEALS FOR WEEK
COMMENCING 6TH JANUARY 2025
ONLINE BEFORE THURSDAY 2ND
JANUARY 10AM.

House Award

Last week the winning house
was awarded to **Purple** house
with 40 points!



Well done Purple house.

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 ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Inley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>