

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DEC 1
UPDATE
TERM 2

WHAT'S
NEW?

Infant Nativity
& Farewell

Nativity

A huge thank you to all the parents and grandparents who came to our Nativity performances this week. The children were amazing! We are so proud of you all.

Thank you to all members of staff and adults who helped with the nativity production and costumes. We had so many positive comments about how confident the children were and their amazing singing and dancing.



Farewell to Ms Sandeford

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the departure of our School Business Manager, Ms Sandeford. She has been a valued member of the Lunsford community for over two years, and we are immensely grateful for her contributions and support throughout her time here, including her successful leadership of the Chess Club.

Ms Sandeford will be returning to her role as a school business manager at a local secondary specialist school, and we wish her all the best for the future.



Attendance matters



Week Ending

21st November

Panda Class 98.25%

Elephant Class 94.67%

Giraffe Class 95.17%

Lion Class 96.33%

Koala Class 91.38%

Tiger Class 95.67%

Zebra Class 96.45%

Week Ending

28th November

Panda Class 96.04%

Elephant Class 95.67%

Giraffe Class 97.59%

Lion Class 97.67%

Koala Class 94.48%

Tiger Class 95.33%

Zebra Class 98.39%

Whole School Attendance Target 97%

Whole School Attendance this Week 91.52%

Whole School Attendance this year 94.76%

Week Ending

5th December

Panda Class 89.52%

Elephant Class 93.67%

Giraffe Class 96.55%

Lion Class 93.67%

Koala Class 85.86%

Tiger Class 95.00%

Zebra Class 95.81%



Safeguarding Focus

Giving devices safely this Christmas

Getting a new device for Christmas is exciting - it can open a world of learning, creativity and connection. But it also introduces children to a digital world that isn't always designed with their safety in mind. Setting clear boundaries and protective measures early on helps children learn to use technology in healthy, balanced and age-appropriate ways.

Without guidance, young users can stumble into areas of concern: social media platforms that encourage comparison and oversharing gaming chats that expose them to strangers or apps that collect more personal data than you might expect. These risks don't mean children shouldn't enjoy their new devices - they simply mean they need structure and support to navigate them confidently.

Here are some ways to make sure your child's first steps with a new device are positive ones:

1. Set it up before it gets wrapped.

Before gifting the device, take time to install updates, set parental controls and review privacy settings. This includes switching on filters, limiting app store access and setting up family accounts. Doing this ahead of time keeps Christmas morning focused on joy rather than set up stress - and gives you peace of mind from the start.

2. Agree on clear expectations.

Talk as a family about when and where the device can be used. For example, no phones at the dinner table or gaming at bedtime. These routines help children learn balance and prevent screen time from creeping into every moment of the day. We would strongly recommend no children have unsupervised access to any devices eg. In their bedrooms or overnight.

3. Talk about social media early.

Many social platforms have age limits (typically 13+), but children often feel pressure to join sooner. Keep the conversation open about why these limits exist, what 'friends' really means online and how to handle content that feels uncomfortable or unkind.

4. Guide them through gaming safely.

Games are fun and social, but online play can include chats with strangers or in-game purchases. Encourage your child to only play with people they know, keep personal details private and tell you if something doesn't feel right. Use built-in parental settings on consoles and gaming apps to manage time and communication.

5. Keep passwords and downloads shared.

Agree that you'll know passwords and approve new apps or purchases, at least while your child is learning to manage their own digital choices. This helps you stay involved without needing to hover.

6. Encourage balance.

Screens are just one part of a child's world. Make sure there's time for outdoor play, reading and family time too. Children learn from what they see, so model healthy habits by unplugging together.

As technology becomes a bigger part of childhood, staying informed and involved makes all the difference. With a few clear boundaries and open conversations, you can help your child enjoy the best of their new device - safely, confidently and with balance. Small steps now set the foundation for healthy digital habits that will last well beyond the Christmas holiday

As ever, if you require any support, guidance or further information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of DSL team: Mrs Lomax (Deputy Head); Mr Anscombe (Headteacher); Ms Beckett (SENCO); Amy Taylor (FLO). All can be contacted via the school office.

The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas

FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!



1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It helps to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).



2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'

This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.



3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.



4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.



5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.



6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.



7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS

Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.



8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME

Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.



9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES

Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.



10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF

It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.



11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS

It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.



12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK

Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



Wreath Making

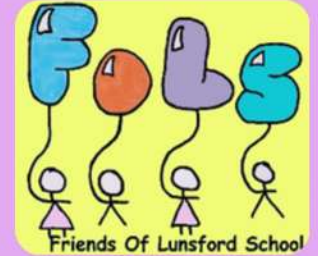
A huge thank you to all who attended our Wreath Making events.

Thank you also to those who helped, our events couldn't go ahead without any help.

We raised a whopping £1,102.25 for the children at School!

The night was full of fun and festivities 😊

Hopefully see some of you again next year!



iRock Concert

Well done to all the children involved in last weeks iRock concert! Thank you to all the parents who came along and supported the band! They did so well and have such fun doing it!



Family Trust

A big thank you to the Family Trust who put on a great Christmas show for the children last week. The children thoroughly enjoyed it!



Eco Litter pick



Well done to all the children in the Eco Group who did a litter pick around the school last week – helping to keep our school environment litter free! They were surprised at the amount of litter that they were able to find and have asked to remind everyone to please use the bins provided to put their litter in or take it home. Thank you.

Secrets Room

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed funds for their children to attend the Secrets Room.

A special thank you to Mrs. Webb for organising the sessions.

We raised just over £720—how amazing!



Lunsford Primary School Festival Choir

On Saturday 29th November we performed at the Maidstone League of Friends Christmas Fair in Larkfield Village Hall. The children sang some of the songs from their upcoming Christmas Carol Concert.



For the grand finale the children were joined by some special guest stars! Santa Claus also paid the children a visit and brought chocolate coins to reward them for all of their beautiful singing.



Come and join the celebration, Our Saviour is born

DECEMBER & CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT St. JAMES THE GREAT AND HOLY TRINITY, LARKFEILD

- 7th Dec Holy Communion at St. James & Family Toy Service at Holy Trinity
4pm Evensong at Holy Trinity
- 14th Dec Holy Communion at Holy Trinity & Morning Prayer at St James
- 21st Dec Benefice Holy Communion at Holy Trinity (No 10am service at St. James)
4pm 9 lessons and Carols at Holy Trinity
6pm 9 Lessons and Carols at St. James

Christmas Eve

- 4pm Christingle at St James & 4pm Christingle at Holy Trinity
- 11pm Midnight Mass at St James. (No service at Holy Trinity).

Christmas Morning

- 8am Holy Communion (Said) at St. James (No service at Holy Trinity)
 - 10am Benefice Holy Communion (Sung) at Holy Trinity (No service at St. James)
- All services are at 10am unless otherwise stated.

We are an all-inclusive church, Everyone is welcome at any of our services.



Christmas Activities

29th December - 31st December

Tonbridge & Malling

For children aged 5-16 who are eligible for Benefit Related Free School Meals

EM Forster Theatre "Jack and the beanstalk"

Bounce into 2026



Find us on Facebook or Instagram at Tonbridge and Malling family Hubs
Contact us: 03000418008
TonbridgeandMallingFH@kent.gov.uk
Family Hub Sites are run by Kent County Council

CHRISTMAS Tree Festival

LARKFIELD AND EAST MALLING METHODIST CHURCH, ME20 6PN

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER, 11AM TO 5PM
SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER, 12PM TO 5PM
COME AND ENJOY OUR TREES AND FOLLOW OUR NATIVITY STORY TRAIL.

CAROLS AMIDST THE CHRISTMAS TREES SUNDAY AT 3PM. SING YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS

REFRESHMENTS AND LIGHT LUNCHES AVAILABLE (SMALL CHARGE). GIFT STALL

ENTRANCE FREE (DONATIONS WELCOME FOR CHURCH FUNDS)

Tonbridge & Malling Family Hubs

Monday 29th December

Bounce into 2026 (SEND) - 10.30am-11.30pm



Join us at **Snodland Community Centre** for a post Christmas pre new year **Bounce** experience.
FREE Healthy snacks available at the event.
SEND session reduced numbers
FOR AGES 5-16 ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT
[Snodland Community Centre Paddlesworth Rd, Snodland ME6 5DP.](#)



Monday 29th December

Bounce into 2026 - 11:45am-1.15pm



Join us at **Snodland Community Centre** for a post Christmas pre new year **Bounce** experience.
FREE Healthy snacks available at the event.
FOR AGES 5-16 ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT
[Snodland Community Centre Paddlesworth Rd, Snodland ME6 5DP.](#)



Wednesday 31st December

'Jack and the beanstalk' Panto EM Forster Tonbridge



Get ready to laugh and shout this December as the festive family favorite **'Jack and the Beanstalk'** bursts onto stage in Tonbridge.
FREE Healthy snacks available at the event.
11am performance (Est time of finish 1:20)



FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 516

New Years Eve Hampers

All families registered HAF and attending one of our events will receive a New Years Eve hamper. Food with recipe cards and a game for the family to play.
Collection at events



BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Scan the QR code next to the activity to register
Please add all children to the form