



**Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp  
Church of England (Aided) Primary School**

*'United in a love for learning we will grow and succeed together'*

**Our Christian Value this term is:**



*"Trust in the Lord with all your heart"*  
*Proverbs 3:5*

**We would like to say a  
massive thank you from all  
the staff at Ashbury Primary  
School for the wonderful  
cards, gifts and good wishes  
we have received and would  
like to wish you all a very  
merry Christmas.**





## *Welcome from your Head...*

Dear Parents and Families,

As we reach the end of term 2 and the festive period in school, it is my pleasure to welcome you to our final newsletter of the term. Reflecting on the past few months, I am filled with immense pride and gratitude for the efforts and achievements of our students, staff, and wider school community.

This term has been one of growth, learning, and togetherness. From exciting classroom projects to school-wide events, our students have demonstrated remarkable creativity, resilience, and kindness. Highlights of the term have included Ashdown's climate change raps and Banksy style artwork, Ridgeway's progress with their times tables and violin lessons, Wayland and Berrycroft's fantastic Nativity walk around the village, our incredible Twinkly Nativity and Christmas service, which showcased the incredible talents and dedication of our young people. This term we have also embedded our new phonics scheme, our first set of assessments show fantastic achievement across Key Stage 1. A massive thank you to our team for embracing this change, led by Miss Randall and to our families for supporting the reading at home.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continued support. Whether you've helped with homework, attended school events, or simply cheered your children on from the audience, your partnership in their education is invaluable. I'd also like to say a huge thank you to our fabulous PTA, Friends of Ashbury, for organising such a brilliant Christmas Fair.

As we prepare for the Christmas break, I encourage everyone to take time to rest, recharge, and cherish moments with loved ones. This is a season of giving and gratitude, and I hope it brings joy and peace to your homes.

Looking ahead to the new year, we are excited to continue building on our successes, working together to ensure every child feels supported, inspired, and ready to achieve their potential.

On behalf of all the staff here at Ashbury with Compton Beauchamp CE Primary School, I wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

Warmest wishes,  
Mr Miller

## Dates for the Diary...

Term 2		
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	08:45	Celebration Worship – All Welcome!
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	13:00	Last Day of Term 2
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	18:30	Stations of the Nativity - Community Event
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	17:00	Christmas Carol Service at St. Mary's Church
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January		First Day Term 3

## Safeguarding

Over the Christmas break, if you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of the numbers below:

**POLICE: 999**

**NSPCC: 0808 800 5000**

Help for adults concerned about a child

**0800 1111**

Help for children and young people

**MASH: 0345 0507666**

For all immediate safeguarding concerns

**LADO Team: 01865 810603**

Safeguarding concerns against a member of staff



**Keeping  
children  
safe is  
everyone's  
responsibility**

## Clubs

These clubs are available now on the Parent App for next term:

### MONDAYS

COMPUTER CLUB WITH MR HORE  
RECEPTION, KS1 AND KS2



### TUESDAYS

TAG RUGBY CLUB WITH MARTIN  
KS1 AND KS2



### WEDNESDAYS

HOMEWORK CLUB WITH MRS APPS  
KS2



### THURSDAYS

CIRCUIT TRAINING WITH MR MILLER  
RECEPTION, KS1 AND KS2

## Attendance

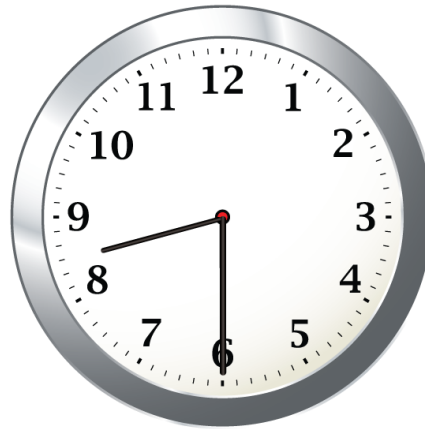
As the winter bugs and viruses are spreading, we are seeing a drop in our pupils' attendance across the school. If your child has a temperature or has had sickness and diarrhoea, then please keep them off school and inform the school office. Otherwise, we encourage you to bring your child to school, and if they become unwell we can then send them home.

When children regularly attend school, their attainment and reading skills improve. Children who regularly attend school feel more connected to the school community and develop strong social skills and friendships – important life skills. These children also are much more likely to develop healthy life habits and be successful beyond their years in school. The table below shows how missing school can have an impact on children's learning.



Research has shown that children who miss an average of two days of school per month struggle to keep up with their friends academically, resulting in lower attainment and reading skills. The effects of frequent absences are noticeable from as early as Reception.

## Punctuality



Punctuality also forms a key part of school attendance. By arriving to school punctually your child has time to connect with their friends, greet their teacher and settle in before the day begins. At the start of the school day, teachers communicate important information about the day and what the class will be learning. Every morning, there is an Early Morning Learning Activity for children to complete, being late may also mean that your child misses out on this learning, for example in Ridgeway, they focus on times tables from 8:30-8:45, if your child is late they miss out on mastering this key skill. Missing out on this time can leave children feeling confused and unsettled. Children can feel embarrassed or uncomfortable about being late and may therefore become reluctant to come into school.

A reminder, the school gates open at 8:30 and closes at 8:40. Registration takes place at 8:40, after this your child will be considered late and will need to go to the school office to register.



**SCHOOL DINNERS ARE  
NOW AVAILABLE TO  
ORDER ON THE PARENT  
APP FOR TERM 3!**

## Ashdown Police Visit

Ashdown Class were recently visited by the local police to discuss online safety...



- Do you really know what your child is witnessing or experiencing online?
- Are they safe?
- Are they following age restrictions? E.g. Did you know that WhatsApp is 13+?

We encourage all parents and carers to get curious about your child's online presence, including social platforms and gaming. We have lots of useful tips later on in this newsletter.



## The Nativity Walk



'It was good. I loved it!' – Noah W,  
Year 2



'It was lots of fun playing with the  
animals' – Muzammil, Year 2



'I got to knock on a door. There was a  
real baby Jesus and real animals' –  
Delilah, Reception



## The Nativity Walk



'I thought it was good. We kept saying "is there any room at the inn please?" but there was no room until the last place' – Tate, Year 1

'There was no room at the pub or the house. We saw a real baby and the teachers wore tea-towels on their heads and pretended to be shepherds' – Noah A, Year 2



'I liked the horse. It licked me' – Asia, Year 2



## Ashdown's Climate Change Raps

### The Crazy Climate Change

By Dylan Oakley

Climate change is an important topic,  
So listen up children so we can talk logic,  
Let's get wise let's talk about ice,  
You're probably sitting there with lice,  
Feeling blue not having a CLUE.

All of it's melting in this day,  
So think about that in this way,  
Polar bears going with no idea,  
While you're out here shopping in IKEA.

Fossil fuels must be stopped,  
Blow it up pop, pop popped  
Stop eating so much beef,  
We all need to turn a new leaf.

Make an action make a choice,  
Everyone knows this is a solid point so use your VOICE,  
So lets make a change since this is a good parody,  
So let's all donate to this CHARITY!!!!

### The Climate change rap !

By Lilly

Climate change isn't cool  
It could be coming from your pool  
And if you don't help  
all the ice caps will melt

The planet is getting warmer  
It's becoming a sauna  
And the earth is sick  
So we need to act quick

Polar bears are Dying  
Kids are Whining  
We need to care, for the bears  
Because they're in a mere

It's not November  
it is December  
so remember  
Help us care for the bears  
That are in a mere

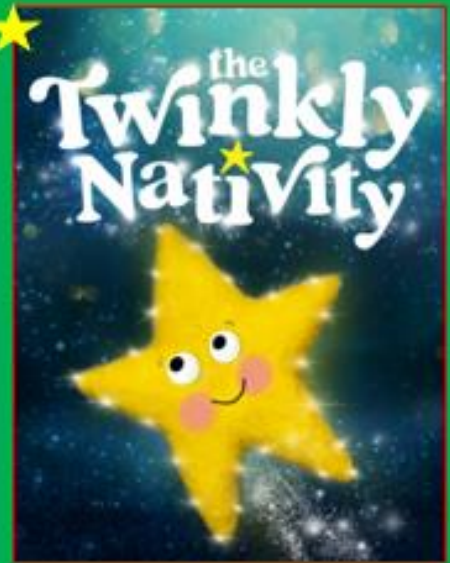
### Climate change rap

\_\_\_\_\_By Lillie

Polar bears need care  
It's important we all do our share.  
To help stop climate change,  
This is something we need to arrange.  
Use less water,  
To help stop slaughter  
The earth is sick  
we need help quick  
Ice caps will melt  
Say goodbye to your belt  
We need to make the earth cold  
Do you need to be told?

# THE CHRISTMAS SERVICE







# The Christmas Fair



It was fun. We went to meet Santa and he gave me a candy cane – Asia, Year 2

It was really good playing all the games – Brody, Year 1



It was good. I won the pick the snowman prize – Otis, Reception

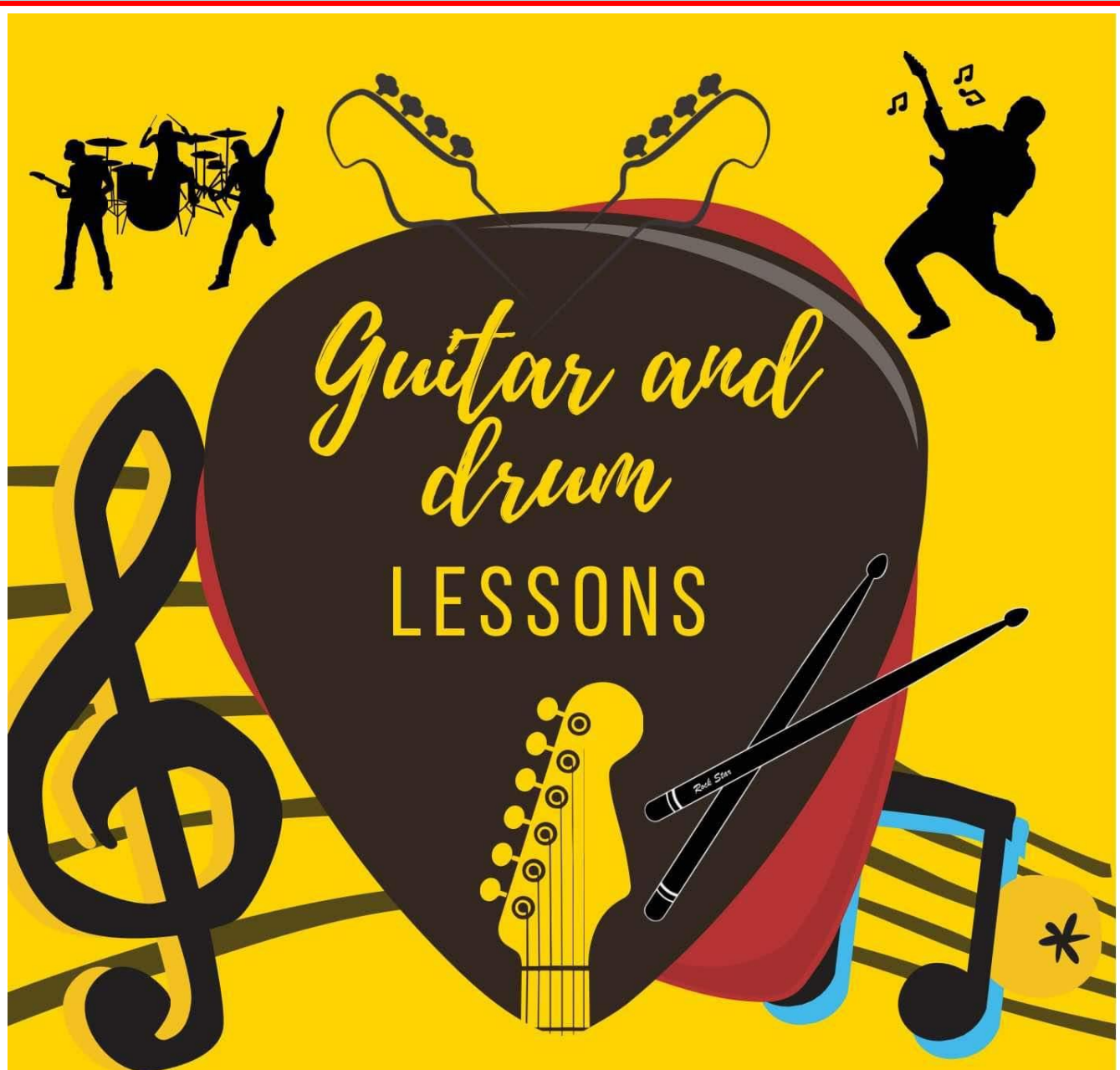


All the games were really good. Our beanbag game was the best – Glen, Year 4

It was really good. I won the massive jar of sweets – Rupert, Year 6



I loved it because it was so beautiful – Eliza, Little Berries



Places available for both Guitar and  
Drum lessons

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To book a place or for more details please  
get in touch with Lyn on 07761186304 -  
Jamie.lwaugh@talktalk.net

**CHRISTMAS**

**CAROL**

**SERVICE**



**ST MARY'S CHURCH**



**SATURDAY**

**21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

**5PM**

**EVERYBODY**

**WELCOME**



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](https://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.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>

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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

## 1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

## 2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

## 3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

## 4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

## 5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family; discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

## 6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

## 7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

## 8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

## 9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

## 10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices)

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# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this: filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

## 1 KNOW THE TYPES

While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

## 2 COVER ALL DEVICES

Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

## 3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH

While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

## 4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS

Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

## 5 BLOCK APP SPENDING

Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

## 6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT

Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

## 7 MIND THE GAPS

There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

## 8 KEEP THINGS SECURE

Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

## 9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY

Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

## 10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP

The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alpha. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, PC Pro, Macworld, Techradar and Trusted Reviews.



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## Parenting Puzzle Workshops

Children are rewarding, stimulating & fun, but looking after them can be stressful & challenging.

The Parenting Puzzle Workshops help deal with those challenges so that you can have a calmer, happier life.

**FREE 4 week course**  
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**@ The Place**



Make positive changes and become the parent you want to be



**Please note this course is for parents/carers, we are unable to provide a creche.**

For more information contact Lucy on 01367 244825 or email [manager@theplace-faringdon.org](mailto:manager@theplace-faringdon.org)

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