



# Euxton Church of England Primary School



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Headteacher: Mrs Mairi Ash

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Dear Parents,

This is the last newsletter of 2024. Well done to everyone for a great term of fantastic learning, worship and fun events. We have taken part in many festive events over these last two weeks. If you would like to attend a Christmas service at our church, please see the poster at the end of the newsletter for more details.

## Santa Dash



Last Friday we had our first school Santa Dash. Children and staff had much festive fun running around the school grounds. Hopefully you've managed to see the photos and video footage on our school X feed. This was a PTFA event to raise funds for school and with your amazing generosity we raised a staggering £1520!! Wow – thank you so much to everyone who sponsored the children!

## Christingle



Thank you to our Year 5 and Year 6 children for leading a special Christingle service on Monday. It was a joyful celebration bringing families together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Thank you to Mrs Bolton and the church wardens at Euxton Parish Church for all their help and support.

There was a collection at the service for The Children's Society who are associated with Christingle services and support children who are in crisis. We raised £32 for the charity. Thank you for your donations.

## Christmas Card Donations

Donations from Christmas cards raised £50 for our link school Friends of Mikoroshoni School. Thank you for your kind donations – it will make a great difference to the children in Kenya.

## Barnardo's Appeal



Cotton Court came to collect all the amazing gifts for the Barnardo's Christmas Gift Appeal. Thank you for your generosity, spreading joy and making a real difference to children in North West communities.

## **Grandparents' Coffee Morning**



A great turn out at the grandparents' coffee morning yesterday. It was a lovely festive event and everyone enjoyed listening to the children's beautiful singing. Thank you to Mrs Bradley, our school cook, for making delicious shortbread and Mrs Hodges, Mrs Yarker, Mrs Tattersall, Mrs Platt and Y6 children helpers for making the event possible.

## **Extracurricular Clubs**

The club list for Spring term will be shared on our return to school in the new year.

## **Online Safety**

Please see attached the online guidance regarding safety over the festive season.

## **School Attendance**

As a school, we regularly monitor pupil attendance. We understand that some absences are unavoidable e.g. an illness. Our current average whole school attendance is 96.8%. For every 5% of absence at this stage in the year, it equates to approximately 3 missed days of school or around 15 hours of learning. Pupils whose attendance falls below 90% are in danger of significantly underachieving and classed as being persistently absent. Next term we will review children's Autumn term attendance and send out communications with parents if your child's attendance falls below recommended guidelines. We may also ask parents for a meeting to discuss how to improve your child's attendance and find ways to further support families. Addressing attendance is a nationwide priority for schools and we thank you for your support with this.

## **First Kick Holiday Club**

This club takes place at Southlands High School Monday 30<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Limited free spaces for HAF children. £18 one day, £36 two days, £50 three days and £65 four days. To book and for more information please call 01772 428086 or 07514 316534.

## **Child and Family Wellbeing Service**

Please see posters below about Christmas events on offer in our local area. Anyone interested in the Christmas Celebration on 20.12.2024 will have to book on, either via the QR code on the poster, or by calling 01257 516316. The Christmas Drop-in on 31.12.2024 is open to all. Please also see information about a new Dad's/Male Carers Group with meetings taking place in 2025.

## **Euxton Methodist Church**

'Meet Santa' is taking place this Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December from 10.30am-4.30pm at Euxton Methodist Church. £8 per child, including craft stalls and festive photo opportunities. To book a slot please contact Sarah on 0795 5380951.

### **Admissions – Primary Places September 2025**

You can now apply via [www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/schools) for school places for next September. Supplementary Faith forms are available in the school office for our school. The closing date for primary school applications is **Wednesday 15 January 2025**.

### **Rainbow Hub January Challenge**

Message from Rainbow Hub: *For our January Challenge; were we ask individuals to choose a challenge, and work throughout January on reaching the goal and raising funds throughout the month. This year a local teenager ran 5k every day and raised almost £3,000.00. It could be anything from walking, to giving up something for the month. Please see the poster below advertising the event and get in touch with Rainbow Hub if you would like to take part.*

### **Recycle Christmas Trees**

This year again Rainbow Hub are offering to recycle your real Christmas trees – see attached flyer.

### **Message from School Office**

As we approach the end of term, please could you all check your balances on ParentPay and ensure that they are all clear before we return in the Spring Term in January. Thank you.

### **Staffing news**

This term we say goodbye to Mrs Johnson and Mrs Growden who are leaving the staff team. We thank them both for their fabulous support to staff and children and wish them all the best in the future. New members of staff have recently joined the team. Miss Earnshaw joins the After School Club team. Mrs Cooper, Mrs O'Grady and Mrs Tadman join our welfare team supporting the children at lunchtimes. Miss Jaweria will join us in January and will be supporting children in Year 2.

### **Merry Christmas!**

As this will be the last newsletter this year, on behalf of all the staff and governors at school, we would like to wish you all a very happy, peaceful Christmas and new year, spending special time with your families and loved ones. Thank you, as always, for your incredible support for our wonderful school, it really is appreciated so very much. Merry Christmas and wishing you all a joyous 2025! We look forward to seeing everyone after the festive break on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 😊



With my very best wishes, Mrs Mairi Ash, Headteacher

In our Christian family, we all **SHINE** in the light of Jesus.  
Wisdom Compassion Humility Friendship Peace Trust Forgiveness Hope

# Christmas Services

**Sunday 15th December**

**5pm - Carol Service**

**Wednesday 18th December**

**11am - Carol Service**

**Sunday 22nd December**

**9.15am - All Age DIY Nativity Service**

**Christmas Eve**

**4pm - Family Carol Service**

**11.15pm - Midnight Communion Service**

**Christmas Day**

**10am - Family Communion Service**



Euxton Parish Church

# 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, topping 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 modeling 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

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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**Monday 30th Dec**  
**Duke Street Family Hub**  
**Duke Street**  
**PR7 3DU**  
**11am-3pm**



## **CHRISTMAS CRAFT DROP IN**

**Non-bookable event**

**Tuesday 31st Dec**  
**Highfield Family Hub**  
**Wright Street**  
**PR6 0SL**  
**11am-3pm**



# JOIN US FOR OUR *Christmas Celebration*

MEET SANTA IN HIS GROTTO, MAKE SOME ARTS AND CRAFTS  
AND JOIN IN WITH FUN GAMES AND ENTERTAINMENT FOR  
ALL THE FAMILY



FATHER CHRISTMAS  
SANTA'S GROTTO  
REINDEERLAND  
XM4 5HQ

20th  
December  
2:30-4:30pm

DUKE STREET FAMILY HUB, PR7 3DU



CALL 01257 516 316 OR VISIT QR CODE TO BOOK

**HOME  
START**

Central  
Lancashire

# Dads & Male Carers Brunch Club

Children and Family  
Wellbeing  
Service

FREE

Duke Street Family Hub  
(Duke St, Chorley, PR7 3DU)

Quality time  
& FUN  
With your  
Children  
0-11yrs

Saturday 1st Feb  
Saturday 1st March  
Saturday 5th April  
9.30am till 11.30am

**NO BOOKING NEEDED!**

**FREE BREAKFAST!**

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NETWORK



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**Lancashire**  
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# JANUARY 2025 CHALLENGE

## 31 DAYS... YOUR WAY!

Set yourself any challenge this new year, and support Rainbow Hub whilst you smash your goal!

Whether you choose to kick start your new year by completing a daily challenge of a set distance each day, or knit every single day, do 'Couch to 5K' or give up chocolate or alcohol for January, do it to raise money for Rainbow Hub!

For more information and to sign up for free please visit:  
<https://rainbowhub.enthuse.com/cf/january-challenge-2025>  
And/or scan this QR code:



Kindly Supported by:



01704 823276

[rainbowhub.org](https://rainbowhub.org)

[joanne@rainbowhub.org](mailto:joanne@rainbowhub.org)



**RAINBOW  
HUB**

Every day is a life changing day

Rainbow Hub,  
Salt Pit Lane, Mawdesley,  
Ormskirk, L40 2QX



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# RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Rainbow Hub will collect & recycle your real Christmas tree to save you time & hassle

Collecting Friday 10th - Sunday 12th January 2025

To book your tree collection, please scan the QR code or visit:

<https://www.rainbowhub.org>



We will be collecting trees in the following postcode areas:

PR1, PR2, PR4, PR5, PR6, PR7, PR8, PR9, PR25, PR26, WN6, WN8, L39, L40, BL6

With thanks to our event sponsors:



TMT



☎ 01704 823276 🌐 [rainbowhub.org](https://www.rainbowhub.org) ✉ [e.parish@rainbowhub.org](mailto:e.parish@rainbowhub.org)



**RAINBOW HUB**

Every day is a life changing day

Rainbow Hub,  
Salt Pit Lane, Mawdesley,  
Ormskirk, L40 2QX



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