



NEWSLETTER 13 - 12TH DECEMBER 2025

# SCHOOL NEWS

## BRISTOL MUSEUM VISIT

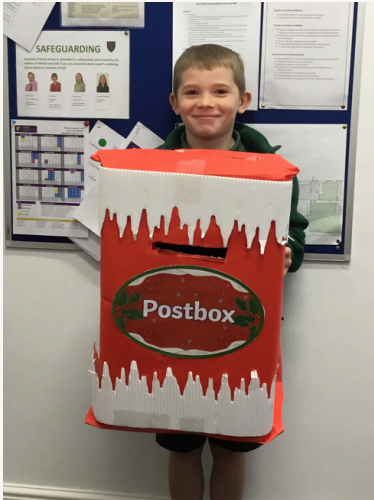
This week saw the whole school have an enriching day at Bristol's museum and art gallery. As well as learning about the wildlife that can be found across our region and the world, the children visited the galleries housing geological and palaeontological artefacts.

Foxes class also took part in a workshop linked to their learning in History about how life changed between the Stone Age and Iron Age.

The trip was fully funded by the PTFA, including the coach and workshop. As always, we are grateful to both their support and yours for making this trip possible.



# CHRISTMAS POSTBOX AND END OF TERM ACTIVITIES



As we head in to the final week of term, Christmas activities and end of term preparations are well underway. Thanks to one of our pupils, we have a Christmas card post-box, so if your child wants to bring in cards for other schools, please post them and the Year 6 pupils will hand them out over the course of the week.

As well as Christmas performances, there is Christmas Lunch, Christmas jumper day and other activities to keep the children entertained.

## WESSEX PODCAST

I am excited to announce the launch of the official Wessex Learning Trust podcast, *The Only Way is Wessex*. The first episode is now available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple Music](#). Discover how we support your child's learning journey and educational development. This is a great opportunity for families to find out more about the ways Wessex Learning Trust helps every learner thrive.



## KEEP KEWSTOKE TIDY



This week I met with the Kewstoke Village Orderly, Nick Ford, about how as a school we can support the 'Keep Kewstoke Tidy' campaign. As well as coming into assembly, Nick has asked the children to design some posters that will be hopefully made into signs that will be placed around the village. He has been very impressed with how clean the roads and paths near the school are, and is looking forward to working with the children in the future.



## CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Stars of the Week' are...

**Hedgehogs - Joy**

**Badgers - Josie**

**Foxes - Elodie**

Our 'Values Ambassadors'  
this week are...

**Hedgehogs - Kenji**

**Badgers - Arthur**

**Foxes - Reuben**

### **Attendance:**

The class with the best  
attendance this week was...

**Hedgehogs- 96.2%**

Our year to Date attendance  
as a school is...

**93.5%**

## KEY DATES

**16th December**

Christmas jumper day

**17th December**

Christmas in a Box (Foxes Class)

**17th December**

Christmas Lunch

**17th December**

Christmas Performance  
2pm

**18th December**

Christmas Performance  
2pm

**19th December**

Last Day of term

**5th January 2026**

School open

## CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

It is not long now until the Christmas performances of 'Christmas Around The World.' The two performances are next week on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, starting at 2pm on both days. We all look forward to seeing you all there. If you haven't yet reserved your seats, please contact Miss Taylor in the office soon.



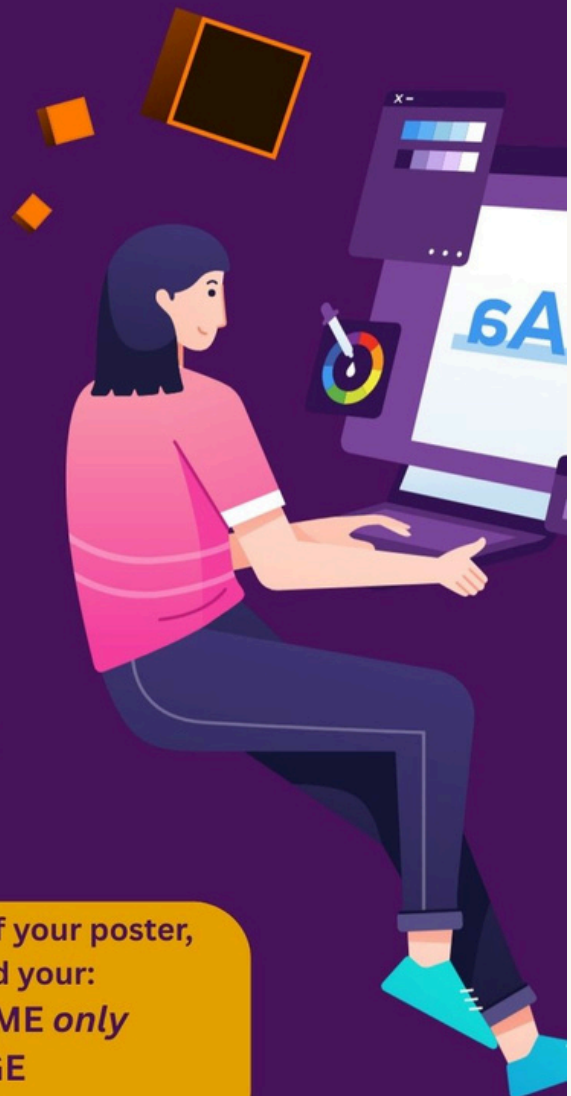
# SAFER INTERNET DAY POSTER COMPETITION

## WESSEX LEARNING TRUST POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION

Poster theme about - Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI

### COMPETITION RULES:

1. The design should promote Safer Internet Day on **February 10<sup>th</sup> 2026**
2. Poster size - A4 Portrait
3. Posters must be submitted to your school by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January
4. Winning posters will be shared across all Wessex Learning Trust Schools



**Wessex**  
Learning Trust

On the back of your poster,  
we need your:

*First NAME only*

*AGE*

*Name of SCHOOL*

## PUPILS ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

As a school, we have a duty of care to you and your children to ensure they attend school every day if possible.

We are noticing some children are regularly arriving late to school. This can not only affect your child's attendance but also their attainment and ability to learn. Being late also disrupts the rest of the class' learning.

If you need support from school to get your child in on time, please do speak to Mr Champs or a member of staff.

### Every minute counts



#### Lateness = lost learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

## Don't let your child miss out!

### What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

Get your child to school on time. If they are late they have a bad start to the day.

### If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could affect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

## TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

As of September 2013, no school is allowed to grant holiday requests under new legislation.

Therefore, any request for term time absence will need to be put in writing, in advance, to the Headteacher. Each case will be considered individually and the absence will only be authorised in specific circumstances.

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority of all unauthorised absences and a penalty notice may be given by the LA.

DID YOU KNOW that if a child is taken away for a two week holiday every year during term time and has an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, then by the time they leave at sixteen they will have missed a year of school?

## PARKING

I am very grateful to those parents who choose to park away from the school entrance and off the zig zag yellow lines. We have, however, had a recent issue with one of our neighbours where a parent had parked their car over a neighbour's driveway who needed to get out.

Please consider our neighbours when parking. I have asked North Somerset Council to send an enforcement officer to the school at pick-up times to talk to parents who cannot park respectfully or correctly.



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. Encourage children to engage positively online and be difficult without proper modelling. 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 an 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 mismanaged. 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 preventive strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.

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

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# SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season is a time for celebration, relaxation and spending well-earned time with loved ones. While this period will hopefully be calm, it's important that parents and educators acknowledge there are still things we can do to make these weeks as safe as possible for the young people in our care.

Of course, it's not immediately obvious what can or should be done to stay safe over the festive season. This guide offers expert advice on the steps you can take to enjoy a less fraught winter break.

## SAFEGUARDING

If you have a concern about any child in our school, then it is your responsibility to say something to us. Remember, 'Safeguarding' is everybody's responsibility! You can speak to any member of staff in school. We also have a team of designated safeguarding leads - Mr Champs (DSL), Mrs Mann (DDSL), Miss Speller (DDSL) and our School Safeguarding governor, Mrs Phippen.



They can be contacted on 01934 623430 or [office@kewstokeprimaryschool.co.uk](mailto:office@kewstokeprimaryschool.co.uk)

As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:-

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Care Connect: 01275 888 808

A photograph of Santa Claus with a white beard and red hat, wearing gold-rimmed glasses. He is peeking over a red rectangular sign, with his left hand pointing at the text on the sign and his right hand gripping the top edge. The background is a green wooden fence.

# **SANTA SLEIGH ROUTES 2025**

**Monday 1st - Milton/Worle High Street**

**Tuesday 2nd - Ewart Road/Locking Road/Mead Vale**

**Wednesday 3rd - Morrison / Balmoral Way**

**Thursday 4th - Morrisons / Milton / Summerlands**

**Friday 5th - North Worle**

**Saturday 6th - Weston High Street**

**Monday 8th - Weston Village**

**Tuesday 9th - St Georges**

**Wednesday 10th - Morrisons / Worlebury**

**Thursday 11th - Morrisons / St Marks / Wick St**

**Lawrence**

**Friday 12th - West Wick / Mead Fields**

**Saturday 13th - Weston High Street**

**Saturday 20th - Weston High Street**

