

Kenningtons Primary Academy

20th December 2023

What a wonderful end to what has been a fabulous term!

The last two days have been lots of fun for the children. Christmas Dinner was a big hit. We love serving the children at their tables, enjoying their Christmas dinner with their friends. It really is a military operation, thankfully the staff have done this for many years, so it runs like clockwork. Thank you to Chef Cliff and his able Kitchen Staff for what many described as ‘the **best** Christmas Dinner we have had at Kenningtons.’ A big thank you also to the staff who served, cleared and laid the tables for the pupils.

Christmas Day is a special tradition at Kenningtons. We really do have the most wonderful children who love to work hard, but also know how to have fun. Thankfully the weather was kind to us so that Mr De Wet could play us into school. The children have enjoyed their Christmas festivities and are now ready for a much-deserved rest.

Thank you from all the staff for your kind gifts. As always, they are much appreciated.

I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year, ready for another busy term.

Mrs Sawtell-Haynes

Dates for the Diary

Wed 3 rd Jan	FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM 1
Fri 12 th Jan	Reception. TeachRex – In School
Thurs 18 th Jan	Year 3. Light Workshop – In School
Thurs 18 th Jan	Year 5. Young Voices – O2

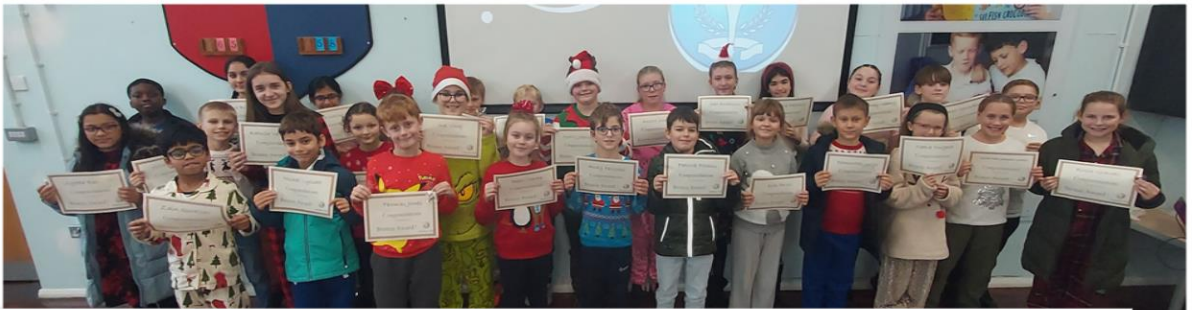


Merit Awards.

The merit system has been designed to encourage, reward and promote exemplary work and good behaviour. It has also been designed to give recognition to pupils who make a positive contribution to the school that may otherwise go unnoticed.

Number of Merits required to achieve each level:

- Bronze = 50 merits (bronze certificate and bronze badge)
- Silver = 60 merits (silver certificate and silver badge)
- Gold = 75 merits (gold certificate, gold badge and a special trip reward)





We wish Miss Wallin all the best as she goes on Maternity Leave
BOY or **GIRL?**

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparking stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

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Fabulous Feedback

Head over to the website to see some of the fabulous comments that have been left about your school. Look in the 'About Us' Tab

<https://www.kenningtonprimaryacademy.co.uk/about-us/fabulous-feedback>

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to have an informed conversation about online safety with their children. Should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unboxed. At myaccount.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on these TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computerfile. He's reported regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 4's and the iD series of Tech. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of parental safety.



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Your Local Community

There is lots to do over the Christmas period. Click the link below which will take you to our 'Local Events' page in our 'Information for Parents' Tab on our website.

<https://www.kenningtonprimaryacademy.co.uk/information-for-parents/local-events>

Friday 22nd December

Mar Dyke Valley Rotary Club's Christmas Sleigh and 'Santa' will be at Kenningtons Estate.

Starting at 5.30pm from the **'bottom'** of **Usk Road**.

The route can be viewed on the **Mar Dyke Valley Rotary Club** Face Book Page.



Contact Us

School Office: 01708 865663

Email: enquiries@kenningtons.thurrock.sch.uk

Child Absence : Study Bugs App

Website: www.kenningtonprimaryacademy.co.uk

