

# Weekly School News Roundup

**Withycombe Raleigh  
C of E Primary  
School**

13<sup>th</sup> December 2024



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## News from your Headteacher

There has been so much going on this week, the Christmas celebrations are definitely well underway at Withycombe! Thank you to everyone who supported the PTFA Christmas Fair last Friday - whether you helped to set up, ran a stall or came along and spent your tokens - thank you! It was a wonderful evening, full of very happy and excited children. The PTFA have counted up the money raised and are pleased to share that it was **in excess of £5,000!** Well done, and another huge thanks to the PTFA for organising this event.



Last Sunday our school choir joined the Exmouth Town Band for their Christmas concert at the Holy Trinity Church. The choir sang beautifully and they all represented our school brilliantly. It was lovely to see our very own Mrs Wheeler multi-tasking in her role as Choir Lead and also playing flute for Exmouth Town Band.

On Thursday we had a special assembly for Miss Lee to celebrate her time at Withycombe. Miss Lee loves to read the children's 'wow' slips so we thought it would be fitting to create some special wows for her! These included:

*"You make all the learning FUN! Dolphin class are always smiling and singing because of you Miss Lee!"*

*"You always help us find the glimmer and sparkle!"  
"The most organised teacher in the world!"*

*"For being the best lipstick wearer at Withycombe!"  
"You are super lovely and a brilliant mentor"*

The staff also performed a rap for Miss Lee! We have some gifts organised to give to Miss Lee next week, as she's here teaching with her usual infectious enthusiasm right up until the end of term.

Next week please remember that we have **Christmas Lunch on Wednesday**. All children (both school lunches and those having their packed lunches) will eat together in the hall and enjoy the Christmassy atmosphere and music. Children and staff are encouraged to come to school in **Christmas Jumpers**, or other festive attire. We have other Christmas events planned for the last week of term too, including a Christmas quiz for KS2 on Tuesday, and church services on Thursday. These events are for children only due to space restrictions.

Have a lovely weekend  
Mrs. E Jones



Growing

Happy

Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



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## Our school website

Have you remembered to visit the school Advent calendar? There's a new door to open each day featuring a school-related festive photograph leading up to the last day of term!

The Home Connect page also has the main school calendar to help you keep track of all the upcoming events, and the term dates for this year and next year:

<https://www.wrpschool.org/homeconnect-2024>

We have enjoyed 3 wonderful nativity performances by our EYFS and KS1 children this week. It is always such a pleasure and privilege to watch our youngest children perform on the stage. To see them all dressed up, singing so enthusiastically is an absolute joy! I hope that everyone who came along to watch the nativities enjoyed them as much as I did. As I said at each performance, it is a miracle how the staff manage to get so many little people to do the right thing at the right time! It never ceases to amaze me how brilliant each nativity is and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the KS1 and EYFS teams for all their hard work and effort in putting together these performances. It is always stressful, but definitely worth it.

We'll share some more photos soon and put together a 'Nativities highlights' video for the school website (we need to edit out the children whose photos can't be shared, so we need a little longer to go through them).

## Year 2 Nativity



Here are the winners of Mrs Bull's (optional) colouring competition!

- Jack in Dragonfly Class
- Bertie in Barn Owl Class
- Amber in Seal Class
- Delilah in Maple Class
- Jessie in Lapwing Class
- Tabby in Kingfisher Class

They each got a prize and certificate in assembly on Thursday.



EYFS made a thank you card as they are very grateful for the generous donations from the Amazon wish list! If you wish to donate you can find the link to the wish list on the Home Connect page of our school website.

Thank you SO much!



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## Safeguarding: Internet Safety

With Christmas less than 2 weeks away, many children and young people will be using social media to share their excitement with friends and family. Being active on social media is a great way to keep in touch during the school holidays, and show friends how much fun they are having, but it's important that children know how to use social media safely and securely so that nothing regrettable or upsetting ruins their Christmas.

Remember to regularly stress the importance that their personal information stays private, that their posts are kept positive, and that their social media use overall is safe, responsible, healthy - and enjoyable!

Some lucky children might receive new phones or other devices for Christmas - perhaps games consoles, Smart watches, Smart TVs, PCs/Chromebooks, Kindles/Amazon Fire, Alexa/Google Chrome – they all have ways to access online content so this is definitely a time of year where online safety needs to be at the forefront in our thinking! To help with this, I have included a guide from National Online Safety featuring top tips for guiding your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. There's lots of guidance on the 'online safety' page of our website too, with a range of popular themes, games and apps so you can decide whether they are right for your children to have access to, and to ensure you are setting them up safely.

This festive season, as always, the best advice we can give you is to talk to your children regularly and openly about online behaviour and risk, so they know they can always come to you for help and support if something goes wrong.



Wishing everyone a happy and safe Christmas!  
Mr Smith, Designated Safeguarding Lead



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

## TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at [videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games](http://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games).

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## 'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

## DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

## APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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## CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

## IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

## WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

## STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

## LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

## CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like [systemrequirementslab.com](http://systemrequirementslab.com) can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

## MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

## BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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## Sports and Achievements



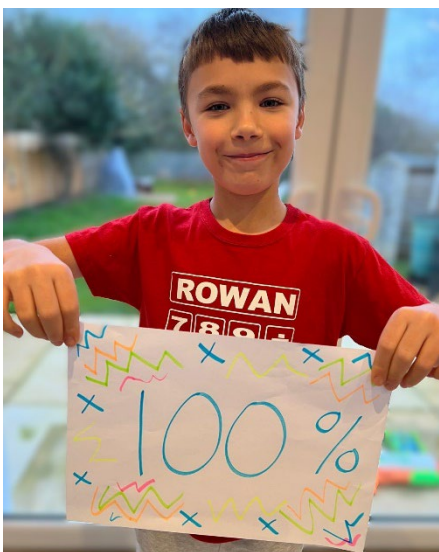
Arthur was very pleased to share with us that he passed his stage 3 swimming today!



Livi completed her stage 3 swimming at LED and will be moving on to stage 4. Well done Livi!



Ella was selected to join the official competition squad at her Gymnastics club in Exeter! Ella has been working really hard at gymnastics for 3 years.



Rowan in Maple Class became the first child in class to achieve 100% in the weekly written times table challenge. He answered 100 questions, under 10 minutes with 1 min 41secs to spare! He also achieved 10/10 on his spellings the same day.



On Monday Rowan was awarded "Player of the Week" for great drills, getting involved, and enjoying the matches at South West Soccer, Exmouth Community College.

What a hat-trick week, congratulations!



Coralie from Bumblebee Class has completed her Stage 1 swimming. Freddie from Seal Class has completed his Stage 2 swimming. Well done to you both!

We love to hear about your children's amazing achievements from outside of school so if you have something you'd like to share with us, please email us with a brief explanation and a photo or two: [admin@wrpschool.org](mailto:admin@wrpschool.org)

We aim to include them the same week if they arrive before Wednesday, or the following week at the latest.



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Oliver in Rabbit Class decided to do a litter pick on his way to school. He was inspired to do this after watching David Attenborough on TV! Nice work Oliver – we can't believe how much litter you picked up in one day, what a great way to save our local environment.



Luna got trainer of the week this week with her Exmouth United Under 10's Girls football team this week for her massive improvement in effort - she was loud and consistently finding lots of space, enabling the ball to be passed to her - and to score a goal!!



**SHE'S DONE IT!!!**  
Sophie has swum 10,000 metres throughout November!



**THANK YOU to everyone who baked, donated or bought cakes...**

**We SOLD OUT on Day 1 and raised £255 for the Year 6 Leavers Book. - The Yr 6 parents group**

Sadly we have had a few instances recently where our admin/reception staff Mrs Wilson and Mrs Bull have not been treated with the good manners and respect we would expect of our families when they visit the school. We are a large school and our admin team are very busy supporting all the teachers, over 600 children – and their families – with a wide range of issues and challenges. We remind you to please be respectful and polite while they aim to assist you.



**Please respect our school staff.**

Our dedicated admin staff are here to help you and your children.

We're a large, busy school - please be patient.



**be polite • be kind • be patient**

**Rude or abusive behaviour is not expected, and will not be tolerated.**

We don't expect it of our children. You don't expect it of our staff. We won't accept it from adults.

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