



Dear Parents/Carers,

This is our final newsletter of the Advent Term and what a busy and successful term it has been! As the Christmas break approaches, I would like to thank the children, parents, staff and governors for all of their hard work and commitment to the school. Working with such caring and enthusiastic families is a great privilege.

We are also very proud of the excellent work and the outstanding behaviour shown by the children at CTK. The children never cease to amaze me with their talent, knowledge, and kindness towards one another.

We will continue to nurture them, academically and spiritually, in 2023 to enable them to Believe and Achieve! I look forward to seeing you in all in 2023 and wish you a happy and holy Christmas from all of your friends at CTK.

Our Catholic Mission

Sponsored Sleepover for City of Sanctuary

A huge thank you to all our friends and families for your very generous sponsor donations during Advent. So far we have raised £350. This is an incredible amount of money and your generosity is greatly appreciated. A polite reminder to bring in your sponsor donations as soon as possible.

Christingle Liturgies

We always look forward to the Christingle Liturgy on the last day of the Advent term. A huge thank you to our Year 2 children, the junior chaplains and the adults who worked with them to plan and lead such a prayerful liturgy. It was a beautiful candlelit celebration and a perfect way to end the term in preparation for Christmas.

Parish Links

Bishop Patrick has issued a message about returning to church for Christmas:

*Christmas is a time for families. So often we visit family at Christmas and exchange cards and gifts with loved ones. We see at the heart of Christmas the Christ child, Jesus, coming into the world and into his earthly family of Mary and Joseph. **This is a time for me to encourage you to join with your parish family**, to connect, or perhaps to reconnect, with fellow parishioners who make up the family of our parishes, of our diocese, and indeed who make up the family of the Church, the Body of Christ.*

Our school serves two parishes: Blessed Sacrament and St Peter's and Mother of God RC Church. The parish websites contain information about Mass times and other notices for the festive period.

<https://www.westleicesteratholic.org/>

<http://motherofgodleicester.co.uk/>



Faith in Action - 3GH

As part of our Harvest Liturgy this year, each class were asked to make a pledge of something they could do to help those in need.

3GH made a pledge to practise the virtue of justice by raising money through sponsors to give to charities such as Braunstone Foodshare.

Pupils in 3GH asked family and friends to sponsor them to complete 4 laps of the playground each day for a week. This is a total of two and a half miles!

Over the past two weeks, they have completed their pledge, raising a tremendous £394.41 for Braunstone Foodshare.

Children, we could not be more proud of you. Parents/carers, thank you so much for your generous donations. The money the children have raised will make such a difference to those living in our local community.





Attendance

Overall our attendance last week was 92.1% This is due to pupil illness.

Miss Nokes' class were the winners last week with 99.3%. This is a great achievement and we are very pleased.

2nd place: Miss O'Brien's class with 97.3%

3rd place: Miss Ross' class with 96.3%

As part of our aim to raise standards and improve pupil outcomes we will continue to closely monitor the attendance and punctuality of all our pupils after Christmas.

Word Count Competition on the Junior Site

The word count competition has continued on the Junior Site this half term! The children have been working hard on their reading and quizzing and we have winning classes in each phase...

Middle phase: 4GO with 1,551,741 words read

Upper phase: 5SN with 1,928,749 words read

Well done to both classes! They will choose their class treat after Christmas.

Christmas Reading Race track

To inspire our children to continue reading over the festive period, we are holding a reading racetrack competition just for the Christmas holidays. The children have been given a Christmas race track which they should aim to try to complete by Friday Jan 6th. Every child who returns a completed racetrack by this date will be awarded 10 house points or Dojo points and be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win £15 worth of books!

Staffing Update

Miss Laycock will be starting her maternity leave over the Christmas holidays. We wish her all the very best as she embarks on the incredible journey of motherhood and we look forward to welcoming Baby Brant to the CTK family in January 2023! Mrs Bayliss and Mrs Gibson, two very experienced teachers at CTK, will be covering in 1SL for the rest of the academic year.

Term Dates for 2023-2024

There is a slight change to the term dates for the academic year **2023-2024**. We will be returning slightly later at the start of the school year on Thursday 31st August 2023 and finishing on Friday 12th July 2024. I appreciate that this is some distance away, but I wanted to give you the maximum notice. Please find the *amended* term dates on our website: [Christ The King Catholic Voluntary Academy - Term Dates \(ctkleicester.co.uk\)](https://www.ctkleicester.co.uk)

Online Safety

Please see the Parent guide below for setting up Apps, Games and Software this Christmas.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold 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 www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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.

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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 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.

'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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

HELLO OSCAR

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.

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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Christmas Dinner Day

Our kitchen managers, Miss Williams and Mrs Basten, and our assistants, Mrs Limbachiya, Mrs Chinn, Mrs Okposio and Mrs Russell cooked up a festive feast for us on Wednesday! Thank you ladies!

The children thoroughly enjoyed Christmas dinner with their friends whilst listening to some Christmas music. There were smiles everywhere!

Thank you also to the staff and lunchtime supervisors who helped during the mammoth two hour lunchtime.

Christmas Carol Performances

The children enjoyed learning new carols and the opportunity to perform them to parents this week. Thank you to the children for singing so beautifully and to all the parents who attended. We hope you have enjoyed them. The children have certainly filled us with Christmas spirit this week and we are very proud of each and every one of them. A huge thank you to the CTK team who have worked hard to support the children.

Pantomime – Cinderella

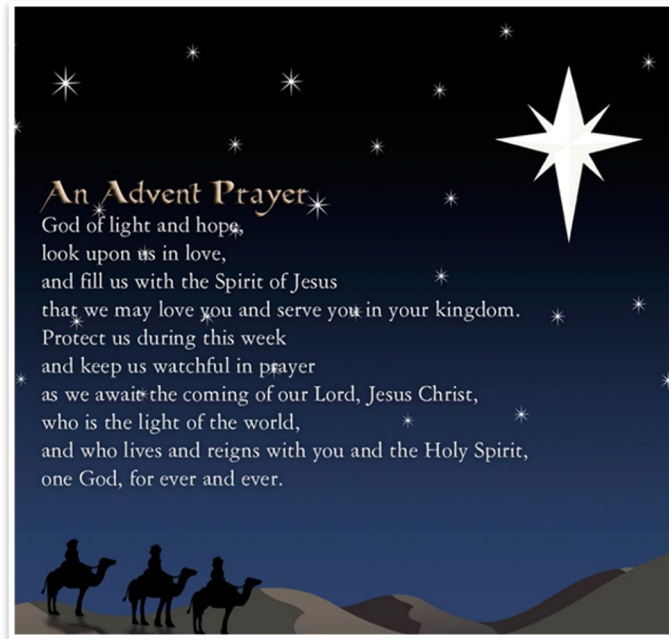
What a lot of excitement on Monday! All our children in Years 1-6 went on a trip to see Cinderella at De Montfort Hall which was a huge success. Not only did the children have lots of fun, but for some of them, it was their first trip to the theatre.

Thank you to the Parents' Association for subsidising the cost of the trip for our families.



Friends of Christ the King Parents' Association

I would like to thank our fantastic Parents' Association for hosting the Christmas discos this week. They were a huge success and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves! I would also like to thank them for arranging a special visit from Father Christmas this week, where chocolate treats were delivered to each and every child at Christ the King! We are very lucky to have some very dedicated parents who are willing to sacrifice their time to create these special memories for our children **but we need more volunteers if we are going to organise any future events for our children and families. If you would like to get involved and help, if only for a short time or at one event, then please contact the school office.**



On behalf of all the staff and Governors at CTK, we wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas with your families.

God bless,

Mrs Annie Carter and the CTK Team

Key Dates

Tuesday 3rd January	Staff training day
Wednesday 4th January	Children back to school!
Wednesday 4th January	6EG swimming today until Wednesday 1st March
Tuesday 31st January	St Thomas Aquinas Feast Day celebration
Tuesday 7th February	Safer Internet Day
Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th February	Parents' Evening
Friday 17th February	School closes for February Half Term