



Newsletter: Autumn 2 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are now at the end of our Autumn term at Erdington Hall. We are so proud of our children. We look forward to the break for our families. We hope you have a peaceful and restful Christmas holiday. May you have wonderful family time during the holiday. We will be happy to be back with you on **Tuesday 9th January 2024**.

What have our learners been doing? Here are just some of the activities that have taken place...

Visitors and Visits

Erdington Hall learners have been venturing around the Midlands. Our Year 3s performed at the Hippodrome, our Year 2s climbed the mighty hill to Tamworth Castle and our Year 4s are soon to take their singing voices to Heartlands hospital. They will also be taking Christmas cards they have written to bring festive cheer and hope to those who will be spending time in hospital during Christmas.



Parents and carers at our reading workshops



What a great turn out we had! Over 40 parents and carers came to read with their children at either Women, Words and Waffles or Boys, Books and Biscuits. The children were able to enjoy sharing reading with their parents and carers.

Christmas events including Whole School nativity and musical instrument performances

We are extremely proud of the children who spoke, acted and sang during the Nativity performance. We also had our musician performing. The parents and carers of children in Year 4 enjoyed Djembe drumming, Year 5 played clarinets and Year 6 played the baronet and trumpet. Those who came along really enjoyed the children's performances.



Project homework exhibition

Each half term, our learners showcase the work they have done at home. The work brought in has been wonderful and show a real commitment to learning at home. Thank you parents and carers.

Year 2 and Year 6 revision clubs



Well done to everyone who has taken part in revision clubs. You are superstars!

Clubs

- There have been sports, art, drama and dance clubs activities this term.
- Also our reading friends in Year 6 and 2 have been helping our Year 1 children enjoy reading at lunchtimes.
- There are lots of clubs on offer next term.

Attendance

Our attendance so at the end of this term is **93.3%**

- There have been 1.3% of children, which is low. You are helping your children to get to school on time. Well done to all of our children who are in school every day they possibly can be. This includes being on time. **Remember that 8:30am is the time they can arrive and the latest time they should arrive by is 8:45am.**

3C	6H	5M	6R	4G	5A	4A	1S	RG	NS
96%	95%	95%	94%	94%	93%	93%	92%	91%	82%

- If your child needs to go to the dentist or doctor, please make sure that you request an appointment that is not during the school day. **If your child attends a doctor or dentist's appointment that is not an emergency, their absence may not be authorised.** Please note that proof of appointment needs to be seen by our office staff.
- Term time holidays are **NOT** allowed. Taking a holiday during term time could result in your child losing their school place. Please make sure that you attend every day possible to give your child the best opportunity for achieving well now and for their future.
- We understand that at times our children can become ill and will not be well enough to attend school. **But please be aware that if attendance drops below 90%, we will contact you via text each Friday. Please do not be alarmed by this, it is necessary that we make you aware.** We can work with you to support you in your children being in as often as possible.
- How can we help one another? **Thank you to parents / carers who call on the first day of your child being absent.** This is a requirement and helpful so that we know how your child is when they will return to school.
- Our EWO (Education Welfare Officer) is Savita Rai. She works with us each week to support families with attendance. **Mrs Rai and Mrs Petkar, our pastoral lead, may call on you at home if your child is not in school. Again, please do not be alarmed by this, it is school's responsibility to ensure that we check on our children when they are not in school.**
- If there are any worries or concerns, we will try to help you. We work with all of our families to ensure that we can offer the best support possible. Please contact the school office if you require support.

Online safety

Please read the information about online safety with your child for this holiday.

How you can help children stay safer online over the winter break and beyond!

You're likely to be working with a child or young person who has asked for some form of internet-enabled tech for Christmas. Be it a new smartphone, tablet or the latest games console.

While their device will provide them with hours of entertainment and the opportunity to connect with family and friends they can't meet with face-to-face, it can also present new risks.

Here are 4 steps you can take to help them stay safer online over the winter break and beyond.

1. Start a conversation about communicating safely online

A new device enables children and young people to access new communities through online gaming and social media.

If you can, make time before the end of term to start a conversation with children and young people about how they use online technology and what it means to them. Use this opportunity to remind them of some key strategies for safer internet use, such as:

- being careful with what they share, including images, videos and personal information
- taking control of who sees what they post by using privacy settings
- being mindful of who they are chatting to and gaming with – do they really know and trust them? If not, they shouldn't share personal details or agree to meet them in other online spaces.

2. Remind young people how to report anything worrying

It's important that young people know where to go if they come across something online that worries them or makes them feel uncomfortable – especially as contact with trusted sources of support may not be available over the holidays.

You should:

- help them to identify a trusted adult that they can approach during the holiday period, and encourage them to speak to the adult immediately if they have any concerns.
- talk them through how they can make [a report to CEOP](#) if something has happened to them online or they're worried about what a friend is doing online and they feel they can't tell a trusted adult
- remind them that they can contact [Childline](#) if they have any other worries, for example if they are being bullied. They can also use the Internet Watch Foundation and Childline's [Report Remove tool](#) to report a nude image or video of themselves that's been shared online

Reinforce this by sending this information out to parents and carers too. Consider using the following resources as a starting point:

- [A parent's guide to being social online this December](#)

- [Home Safety Activities](#)

3. Talk to parents and carers about parental controls

Parental controls can be a great tool to help protect young people online, and should be installed on any new device that they use.

Give parents and carers the information they need to use these controls effectively by signposting them to our [parental controls article](#).

Remind them that controls are not a single solution to staying safe online and ongoing conversations with their child are just as important.

4. Plan learning opportunities for the new year

Build on these conversations and develop their skills and knowledge by using the following resources to deliver online safety education in the new year:

- [Jessie & Friends](#): 3 animated films for 4 to 7 year olds with session plans, activities and storybooks
- [Play Like Share](#): 3 animated films for 8 to 10s with session plans and activities
- [#LiveSkills](#): resources for 8 to 18s on live streaming
- [Send me a pic?](#): 3 session plans and film clips for 12 to 14s on consensual and non-consensual image sharing
- [Online blackmail](#): a session plan and worksheets for 15 to 18s

If you're struggling for time...

Use our [online safety toolkits](#) to deliver 15-minute activities on themes such as live streaming, gaming, and online friendships.

They will help children and young people to understand healthy and unhealthy behaviours within friendships and relationships, respond safely to manipulative or pressurising behaviour, and understand the importance of seeking help from a trusted adult when they need it.

For children learning at home...

Share our [#OnlineSafetyAtHome packs](#) with parents and carers for 15-minute activities that can be done at home. They can also access conversation starters and online safety actions that families can take.

Provide a balanced view

Throughout, remember that your focus shouldn't be to put young people off using their new device or encourage parents not to buy it in the first place.

Scaremongering is not effective and makes young people far less likely to ask you for help if they encounter a threat online.

Aim to provide a balanced view that encourages them to share their thoughts and engage with new ideas about staying safe.

Term Dates for this year

Autumn Term 2023	
Training Day - School Closed	Monday 4th September 2023
Training Day - School Closed	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Term Starts - All Pupils	Wednesday 6th September 2023

Autumn Term 2023	
HALF TERM - School Closed	Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November 2023
Training Day - School Closed	Friday 24th November 2023
Last day of Autumn Term	Friday 22nd December 2023
Spring Term 2024	
Training Day - School Closed	Monday 8th January 2024
Term Starts - All Pupils	Tuesday 9th January 2024
HALF TERM - School Closed	Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February 2024
Last day of Spring Term	Friday 22nd March 2024
Summer Term 2024	
Term Starts - All Pupils	Monday 8th April 2024
BANK HOLIDAY - School Closed	Monday 6th May 2024
HALF TERM - School Closed	Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May 2024
Training Day - School Closed	Friday 5th July 2024
Last day of Summer Term	Friday 19th July 2024