



AUTUMN 2 – WEEK 6

Feeling festive

We had a brilliant time at last week's Christmas Fair, and learners have enjoyed more festive fun this week with visits to see the Panto at Northcott Theatre and a delicious Christmas lunch prepared by Harry in school on Thursday.

Next week please note **school finishes at 1pm on Friday 20th.**

Dates for the diary

End of term: **1pm Friday 20th**

Learners back in school:

Monday 6th January

Coffee morning: Holly class,
16th January

Joke of the week by Benji

What do you call Santa in a spaceship?
- A U.F.Ho Ho Ho



Mel's memo

We have had a confirmed case of flu in school this week. Please familiarise your children with recommended hygiene procedures to protect themselves from illness this winter.

See
www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu

Headteacher's Award



This week the Headteacher's Award goes to
Isaac H

for being a great role model and making big decisions about his future

We had a brilliant time at last week's Christmas Fair. In addition to the great entertainment from Elfic and the brass band, there were so many great stalls and activities to enjoy, many of which were made, organised and run by our learners. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to all the parents and siblings who came along too!

Learners have also enjoyed festive fun this week with visits to see the Panto at Northcott Theatre. Outdoor Ed staff worked hard to get everyone there and back in one piece, so a big thank you to them.





Our Values
Stars of the Week

Respect
&
Resilience

Health
&
Happiness

Kindness
&
Independence

The value this term is **resilience** and we've seen some great examples of this quality in school this week.

Larch

Adam for working very hard to manage his emotions and continuing to communicate

Olive

Bonnie T for being resilient as a learner and asking for extra learning tasks

Elm

Ethan for facing up to tasks he really doesn't enjoy

Lime

Maisey Cole for showing a positive attitude to their learning

Maple

Jasmine for her effort and engagement at school and on Outdoor Ed

Beech

Maisie Brown for persevering with her reading comprehension and developing detailed answers to the questions

Holly

Beth for being resilient when things have been difficult

Ash

Holly for showing remarkable resilience despite a tricky start to the week

Birch

Louie B for joining our school community with confidence

Hazel

Arthur for dealing with issues effectively and maturely

Juniper

Nathan for always giving everything a go, even if unsure

We've had a fantastic week in Food Tech! Those learners that remained from the Panto trip in Larch class produced some mouth-watering cheese tartlets, making their shortcrust pastry from scratch, well done. Learners in Birch class enjoyed making ginger bread biscuit decorations which they loved decorating in their class later in the week. Learners in Ash class produced some lovely apple pies. Oak class made a really yummy cornflake tart, we also adapted the recipe for one of the tarts with a cranberry sauce which was a great festive alternative to strawberry jam. Learners in Aspen produced some amazing treacle tarts. Learners in Elm class made empanadas using handmade pastry and with a cheese and corn filling, hand crimped and dipped in chilli sauce straight out of the oven. Learners in Alley house made pizza scrolls, with homemade pizza sauce and using a scone base. Juniper class did amazingly well with helping prepare the learners' Christmas buffet lunch, preparing stuffing, carving turkey and preparing the pack up for Outdoor Ed, many thanks to them. Learners in Hazel and Maple completed end of term evaluations before making mince pies. Holly and Lime classes also completed end of term evaluations, some learners finished icing their Christmas cakes from last week with marzipan and icing fondant. Other learners tried their hand at preparing a fudge recipe. Olive class made a leek and potato soup with soda bread rolls, learners did brilliantly with practicing safe knife skills whilst preparing their soups.

Next week Larch class will be preparing ginger bread people. Birch class will be preparing Cornish pasties with a selection of meat and vegetarian fillings available. Oak and Ash class will be making some Reindeer chocolate muffins. Elm and Aspen will make pesto cheese straw trees. Learners in Alley house will complete evaluations and mince pies. Juniper class will prepare chocolate yule logs and complete end of term evaluations. Olive class will complete end of term evaluations and prepare mince pies. Hazel class will make cranberry and stem ginger Florentines. Learners in Lime and Holly class will choose to prepare fudge or toffee banana waffles.





AUTUMN 2 - WEEK 7



MONDAY

Outdoor Education
Birch & Larch

Food Tech
Elm & Aspen
Pesto cheese straw
Christmas tree
Ash
Reindeer muffins
Alley House
Mince pies

TUESDAY

Outdoor Education
Beech, Oak & Ash

Food Tech
Larch
Gingerbread people
Olive
Mince pies
Birch
Cornish pasty

WEDNESDAY

Outdoor Education
Elm, Aspen & Juniper

Food Tech
Oak
Reindeer muffins
Holly
Toffee banana waffles
Hazel
Cranberry & stem ginger
florentines

THURSDAY

Outdoor Education
Hazel & Maple

Food Tech
Lime
Toffee banana waffles
Juniper
Chocolate yule logs

FRIDAY

No Outdoor Ed

No Food Tech

School finishes 1pm

Safeguarding

This week's focus is on safety over the festive season. On the next page you'll find a guide with helpful information for parents and carers.

If you would like any support with any of our safeguarding topics, please reach out to Jane.

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. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. 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 a fire 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 mishandled. 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 preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College®

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