



Richard Avenue Primary School

Tuesday Flyer

Weekly Update

Tuesday 20 December 2022

UPCOMING DATES

RAPS daycare: Reading Breakfast Club from 8-8:45am & Homework After School Club from 3:30pm-5:15pm

Wednesday 4th Jan 2023

Spring term 2023 begins

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by Yrs 5&6

Thursday 5th Jan

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by RECEPTION & Yr 4

Friday 6th Jan

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by Yr 1

Bigfoot Theatre pantomime visit

Sunday 15th Jan

Primary School admissions portal closes for reception Sept 2023

A message from Craig Hillton, Chair of Governors.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would firstly like to thank all the staff for their hard work over the last term. On top of this, it takes a lot of preparation and energy putting together the festive programme, so a special thank you from all the children for the shared fun and laughter. Secondly, and I speak for all the Governors to our children's families, I hope you have a lovely winter break, enjoying it however brings you joy and happiness.

Head Teacher comment

Dear Richard Avenue families, Wow! We'd like to begin by shouting a huge well done to the children from nursery all the way up to the OAPs of Year 6. The children have worked incredibly hard to prepare for each performance, and weren't they FABULOUS? Top marks to everyone! The singing was superb and children with lines blew us away with their confidence. We are so proud of you all. Just to also repeat our thanks to our wonderful staff team who have dedicated many an hour to support the children with learning of lines and songs words for both plays and the carol concert #topteam

It has also been great to welcome so many parents and grandparents into school to see our Christmas performances. We are so proud of your children for giving their best at each and every performance. We hope that you enjoyed watching them and that your attendance started to get you in the Christmas spirit.

It's been another fantastic term in school. The children have worked incredibly hard. Their laughter has filled classrooms and corridors and brings great joy to our very special school. As we approach the end of another challenging year for us all, we would like to repeat our sincere thanks to RAPS families for your support and trust in us during this time. We are extremely grateful for the many messages of appreciation we have received for our wonderful staff, who, at the end of another long term, have found new and exciting ways of sprinkling their magic. We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated staff team. Thank you is not enough for all they do for our school community, but it is sincerely meant. Have a lovely holiday with your fabulous children. Wishing all of our families a safe and happy Christmas; enjoy spending quality time together. With very best wishes,

Claire McKinney.

Miss McKinney and all of the staff at Richard Avenue Primary School



RAPS assemblies. Joy and Giving is the fourth theme of advent and our theme this week. We have talked about how gifts are not always bought and the gifts of, love, peace, hope and time are often priceless to others. We looked at the Christmas story and how Christians believe Jesus was a gift from God for his people. What gift would you give?



Primary school admissions. The online admissions portal for **primary schools is now open** and will close on 15 January 2023. **If your child's date of birth falls between 01/09/2018 and 31/08/2019, you will need to apply for a reception place for September 2022.** Allocations day is 19 April 2023. The Admissions Handbook and full guidance on how to apply can be found on Sunderland County Councils' website: <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/schools-admissions-infant-junior-primary>

Safeguarding and wellbeing update.

More than 80% of primary age children suffer from sleep anxiety, with pupils waking up an average of 2.2 times a night. A national poll featuring 2,000 children aged four to 11 found that only 18% were getting the recommended 10 hours. Sleep deprivation can have a major impact on the daily lives of children including hyper-active behaviours, low emotional resilience, shortened attention span, reduced memory recall and poorer hand-eye coordination affecting fine motor skills tasks such as handwriting. If your child is affected by sleep anxiety, [please see this parent advice guide](#). It is produced by Natalie Costa who has over 14 years' experience in working with parents to develop better sleeping routine.



After School Clubs. All clubs have now taken a break for the holiday. **Many thanks to our fabulous team for all they do to provide such a wonderful variety of after school clubs and for your superb support at home** without which we couldn't offer anywhere near the variety the children have so enjoyed during the year. **Thank you team RAPS.**

Sporting round-up.

Goals. Our football club had a great trip to Goals football centre last week. It was a cold and snowy day, but that didn't stop the children having fun, even Mr Spoors and Mrs Robson were goal-keepers for the final match.



Snowtubing. Year 2 enjoyed a fun-filled morning at Silksworth Ski Slope last week. They took part in snowtubing, flying down the hill in their round inflatables. The children also got to meet Santa and slurp a delicious drink of hot chocolate. Saarah in 2CW, said "It was the best day ever!"



After the holiday, Year 4 will be receiving dance classes from Dance City in their PE lessons-how wonderful does that sound?

The Christmas Mini-Reading Challenge.



Ho! Ho! Ho! Christmas is just around the corner and so is the Christmas Mini-Challenge! It's simple... **Just read three library books between 12 December and 6 January**, and log them on the website using the link below:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/join-the-christmas-mini-challenge>

We know Christmas is a busy holiday, but this does sound great. Please do let us know if anyone completes the challenge, thank you.

Santa dash and Sunderland Food-bank.

We would like to say a huge thank you for your generous food donations on our Santa dash day. The children had lots of fun running around the track with Santa and his sleigh on the day. Your food donations have been taken to the Sunderland Food bank, who would also like to share their gratitude. This is such a worthwhile cause in our community and your support is very much appreciated. *Huge thanks also to our wonderful Mr Spoors who merrily donned the all important red suit for the day, and did a fabulous job Santa dashing with every class. Mr Spoors wore the biggest smile as he supported and encouraged the children at every point. Thank you Mr Spoors!*



Poppy Appeal. Many thanks to our wonderful families for supporting the recent Poppy Appeal. We are delighted to tell you that a cheque for **£335.37** was sent off to the Royal British Legion, which will help to support the important work of this charity.

Thank you to Mr Taylor. Huge thanks to our site manager **Mr Taylor**, who looks after our school so well. We are very grateful to Mr Taylor for the many hours he spends in school, making sure everything is just right for the children and staff.

School lunches. A HUGE thank you to the amazing **Cathy** and the catering team for providing such a scrumptious Christmas lunch and choice of puddings for children and staff in this busy of busiest weeks. It took quite some organising as you might imagine, with catering for over 300 adults and children. Thank you so much catering team RAPS!



Cleaning team. Huge thanks to our wonderful school cleaning team who do such a fabulous job ensuring our school looks it's very best. They are never without a smile or a kind word. A wonderful team doing a wonderful job with our sincere thanks to them

Attendance of the week. Congratulations to **3B** who were last week's top class.

*Last week's whole school attendance was **83.6%***

*Our attendance for the term is **91.4%***

CLASS	ATTENDANCE %	CLASS	ATTENDANCE %
NURSERY MORN	81.4	3B	93.3
NURSERY AFT	70.6	3G	93.3
RM	78.8	4G	67.5
RW	86.4	4S	88.8
1B	71.3	5M	87.2
1S	89.0	5W	80.7
2CW	92.7	6C	86.1
2H	73.3	6H	92.4

Let's hope we can shake off the nasty bugs which have dogged us in recent weeks and return fully refreshed and raring to go in the New Year.



Book Recommendation of the Week



We recommend 'The Worst Witch and the Wishing Star' because it really fun. It tells the story of a character who couldn't do much but then she changes.

By Lydia & Georgia 6C



Active Sunderland School Holiday Guide

The Active Sunderland School Holiday Guide is back for the Christmas school holiday - hooray!

We've worked with partners across the city to create a one stop guide for all your school holiday fun.

From family games and football kick-about to snow tubing and a Christmas quiz, we have all the information you need to keep the family happy and healthy this holiday.

Click on the button below and start planning your family fun!

<https://sunderland.foleon.com/as-school-holiday-christmas-2022/as-school-holiday-club-christmas-ht-2022/>

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.

18

'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.

16

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 (Fortnite 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.

16

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.

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 written regularly about internet safety issues.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.12.2022