



# Richard Avenue Primary School

## Wednesday Flyer

**Weekly Update**

**Wednesday 20 December 2023**

### UPCOMING DATES

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

Monday 8th Jan 2024

**Spring term 2024 begins**

Bigfoot Theatre pantomime visit

Tuesday 9th January

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by Yr R & Y6

Swimming for Y3

Ukulele for Y4

Wednesday 10th Jan

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by Yrs 1 & 5

Thursday 11th January

RAPS PE kit to be worn to school by Y3

Basketball at City Space for Y5

**Swimming for 4G**

Friday 12th January

**Swimming for 4S**

Monday 15th Jan - Primary School admissions portal closes for reception Sept 2024

**RAPS assemblies.** Joy and Giving, 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 to bring others joy?

**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.

Its 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, 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 holiday period; enjoy spending quality time together. With very best wishes,

*Claire McKinney.*

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



**A message from Craig Hilton, Chair of Governors.** Hi, well what a busy term it has been. We had a visit from Ofsted early in the term with a wonderful result and report that followed. A huge thank you to all the staff for making this happen. I have every confidence in the quality of education taught in the school and safe environment in which this happens, that Ofsted could call into school any time and we would still have the same fabulous result. This of course is led by our inspirational Head Teacher, Miss McKinney, who has worked and continues to work tirelessly to build relationships, develop the staff team, the governing body and so much more, thank you one and all. We also welcomed back Miss McMaster and said goodbye and thank you to Mrs Stacey Graham. I want to thank all of you, the parents, guardians, families who support the school to continue to make it flourish. Thank you to my fellow governors, old and new, for making a difference and the time they give to do this. Have a wonderful break in however you choose to celebrate it. Keep safe and see you all in 2024. *Craig Hilton - Chair of Governors*

**Holiday activities.** This link might be useful to families as it includes lots of different HAF (Holiday Activity and Food) sessions available throughout the Christmas Holidays, all of which are free of charge. Here is the link: <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/HAF>

**Choir caroling at Sainsbury's.** Mrs Walsh and I were incredibly proud of our choir who sang with confidence at the local Sainsbury's last week. We walked there and back, and, in spite of the rain, the children were in good spirits and lovely company as we chatted together. We sang a number of carols and were supported by some of our families which was a welcome sight, as well as by a large number of shoppers who commented with delight that we had made their day. It was a wonderful morning, with a huge thank you to Mrs Walsh for preparing the children so well, and for all she does across our school to support and encourage singing confidence. Thank you Mrs Walsh, you are wonderful!



**Swimming helpers.** Huge thanks to our wonderful swimming helpers who have braved the elements and given their time each week to join Years 3 and 6 as additional adults alongside the staff team. We are very grateful to **Yayha in 6C's mam; to Maisie (6H), Sophie (4G) and Layton's mam (RM); to Zayan in 3D's mam and to Leo (4G) and Luna (3M)'s mam.** Thank you very much indeed - thank you all!



**Poppy Appeal.** Many thanks to our wonderful families for supporting the recent Poppy Appeal. We are delighted to tell you that a cheque for **£299.36** was sent off to the Royal British Legion, which will help to support the important work of this charity.

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



*We know holidays can be busy, but this does sound great. Please do let us know if anyone completes the challenge, thank you.*

**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.**

#### Santa Dash and Sunderland Foodbank.

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 Foodbank, 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!* See page three of our flyer for photographs of what was a wonderful day for everyone - in spite of the weather!

**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 **5W** who were last week's top class.

*Last week's whole school attendance was 94.51%.*

**Our attendance for the term is 94.6%**

CLASS	ATTENDANCE %	CLASS	ATTENDANCE %
NURSERY MORN	94.3	3D	95.2
NURSERY AFT	94.0	3M	96.7
RH	93.9	4G	94.6
RM	93.1	4S	93.9
1G	94.3	5B	93.4
1W	94.0	5W	97.6
2CW	94.1	6C	91.7
2W	96.1	6H	94.1

*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.*



# LAST WEEK'S SANTA DASH...





# SNOWTUBING FUN!

Children who completed their **PE values chart** this term enjoyed a visit to Silksworth Ski Slope last week where they took part in a morning's snowtubing, followed by a yummy hot chocolate with Santa Claus. Everyone loved flying down the slopes in their tubes showing great resilience and determination to keep going as many times as possible. A wonderful experience for our children with huge thanks to **Mr Spoors** for all he did to organise the morning and to **Miss Walker** for joining the team on the visit. A fabulous time was enjoyed by all with lots of glowing cheeks to be seen on their return!



## OUR PE VALUES ARE:

**PASSION**

**SELF-BELIEF**

**DETERMINATION**

**RESPECT**

**HONESTY**

**TEAMWORK**





# 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.

## 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.

## 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 (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.

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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.

## 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.



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**EVERYONE**

**CAN BOUNCE THIS CHRISTMAS**



**SUNDERLAND AQUATIC CENTRE**

**CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR**

**ATLANTIS ADVENTURE MEGA INFLATABLE**

**FRIDAY 29th DECEMBER, TUESDAY 2nd, THURSDAY 4th  
& FRIDAY 5th JANUARY**

**11.30pm to 12.30pm & 12.30pm to 1.30pm**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK YOUR SLOTS CALL  
0191 514 4300 OR ASK AT MAIN RECEPTION TODAY.**





# Step into Teaching with **NEW COLLEGE DURHAM**

## TEACHING ASSISTANT ACADEMY

**Would you like a career working with children?**

Join our Teaching Assistant Academy to gain the skills and knowledge required to get into apprenticeship roles, support roles and many others. On completion of the course our partners Education World will come in to chat to you about career opportunities.

The Academy will cover Preparing to Work in Schools, Mental Health in Children and Young People and Understanding Common Childhood Illnesses.

## Where and When?

**Location:** Richard Avenue Primary, SR4 7LQ

**Awareness session:** 11th January, 1pm - 3pm

**Course starts:**

18th Jan, 25th Jan, 1st Feb, 8th Feb, 15th Feb,  
29th Feb, 7th March (**Every Thursday**)  
9:30am - 2:30pm

To register your interest or for further information please contact Syeda Khaled E: [training@sb-international.org.uk](mailto:training@sb-international.org.uk)  
or call T: 0191 564 0888 | M: 07934871737

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