



Ryton-on-Dunsmore Provost Williams

Church of England Academy

@RytonPWAcademy



Newsletter 16th December 2024

"Let your light shine"

As we enter the final week of term, which is hard to believe, it is amazing to see all that has been achieved. From our Christmas fair last week which raised over £900 to the range of trips and experiences that the children across the school have been able to enjoy. Year 6 were the first to attend The Frontier Centre, our choir sang at the Cathedral as well as JLR Christmas party and we have held a range of opportunities for parents to come into school to share in the learning.

We finished last week off with a whole school trip to St Leonard's Church. The Christingle service was led by our new Minister-in-Charge, Malcolm Ingram. It was wonderful to be back at the Church and listening to the children sing and learn as a whole school. Each child was then able to make their own Christingle and understand what each element represents. Thank you to Tesco for their donation of oranges, organised by 2 of our parents, Miss Kelly and Mr Scott-Elder.

Looking forward to the final week, we have a jam-packed schedule, with our annual panto trip, two Nativity performances and two Christmas Carols performances before our final day of term, the annual Ryton Christmas Day event.

From all the staff at Ryton on Dunsmore Academy, we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Miss Cullen, Head Teacher





Lord, we ask that their joy will be full in this season!

We pray they will enjoy celebrating you, receiving gifts and presents, and being with their family.

Help us remind them of your great love towards them and why you deserve all the glory in this festive period.

Amen.



After a number of years at Ryton on Dunsmore Academy, Mrs Witter has decided that it is time for a new challenge and will be leaving us. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Witter for all that she has done for the children at our school over the years, including her support the PTA and school events. Mrs Witter, we all wish you the very best in all future adventures!

Ryton on Dunsmore
Academy

Christmas Fair

An incredible £900 raised! Thank you
everyone



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

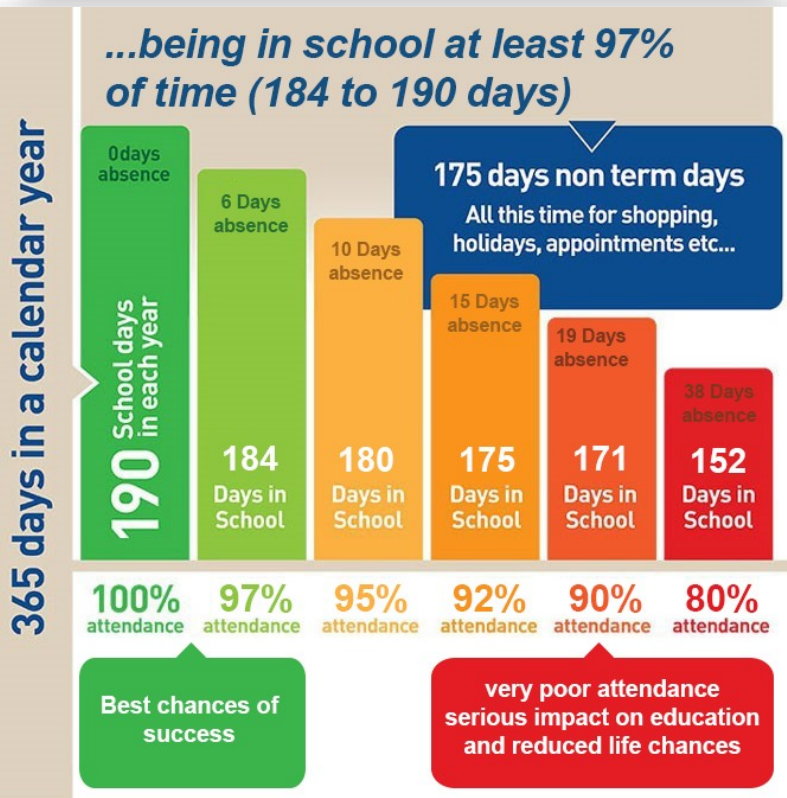
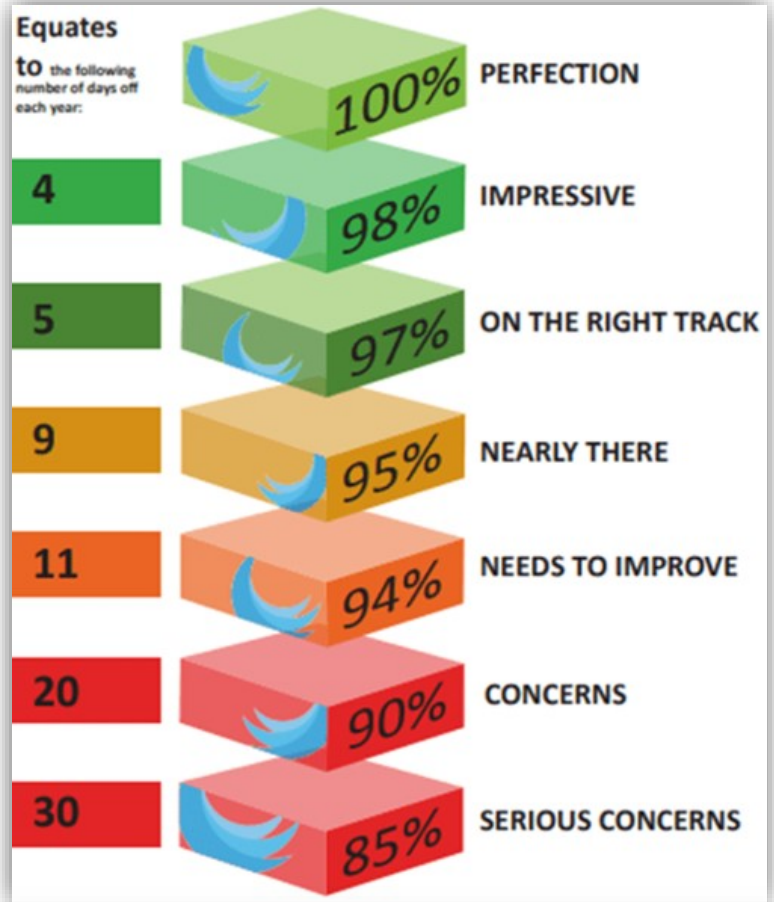
James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



The National College

Attendance Update

Attendance	
Nursery	93.1%
Reception	96.6%
Year 1	97.2%
Year 2	93.8%
Year 3	90%
Year 4	92%
Year 5	87.1%
Year 6	82.6%



Be In SCHOOL
Be On TIME



Tuesday 17th December	Whole school panto trip
18th December	Early Years/KS1 Nativity 9.30am KS2 Carol Service 10.30am
19th December	Early Years/KS1 Nativity 9.30am KS2 Carol Service 11.00am
Friday 20th December	Christmas Day in school (Breakfast in PJ's, a gift for each child, Christmas Dinner, games and activities) Break up
Monday 6th January	Teacher Training Day, school closed to pupils
Tuesday 7th January	Back to school
Monday 3rd February	Mental Health/Wellbeing Week with parent meeting 2.45pm
Wednesday 5th February	Year 2 Come and Learn 2.45pm
Monday 10th February	E Safety Parent Workshop 2.45pm
Tuesday 11th February	E safety Day
Friday 14th February	Break Up for half term
Monday 24th February	Teacher Training Day (School closed to children)
Tuesday 25th February	Back to school

Years 3 and 4 will swim again each Thursday for the whole of this term (to Easter)

Let's celebrate together!

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

AT RYTON ON DUNSMORE ACADEMY

Monday 9th December	Monthly Movie Monday (Christmas Film)	3.15pm to 5.00pm	Sign up on Parentpay
Wednesday 11th December	PTA Christmas Fair	3.00pm to 5.00pm	Children who travel on school transport can go in early at 3pm. Fair opens at 3.15pm after children have been collected.
Friday 13th December	Christingle Service at St Leonard's Church	10.00am to 11.00am	In the afternoon, all children will make Christingles in class.
Tuesday 17th December	Beauty and the Beast Pantomime at Royal Spa Centre	Depart school 9.15am, return approx. 12.30pm.	Payment on Parentpay please, click the "consent" button then paying.
Wednesday 18th December	Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 performance of "Prickly Hay"	9.30am	Tickets are free. 2 tickets per child, per performance. A link will be sent to book.
	Years 3 4 5 and 6 Carol Service	10.30am	Tickets are free. 2 tickets per child, per performance. A link will be sent to book.
Thursday 19th December	Early Years, Year 1 and Year 2 performance of "Prickly Hay"	9.30am	Tickets are free. 2 tickets per child, per performance. A link will be sent to book.
	Years 3 4 5 and 6	11.00am (Years 3 and 4 will swim as normal)	Tickets are free. 2 tickets per child, per performance. A link will be sent to book.
Friday 20th December	Children can arrive in pyjamas. Open gifts by the "fire" in classrooms. Games and crafts. Christmas Lunch. Christmas Film.	Timings as normal.	Parents to send clothes in a bag for children who arrive in pyjamas. Festive clothes please (Christmas jumpers/dresses)

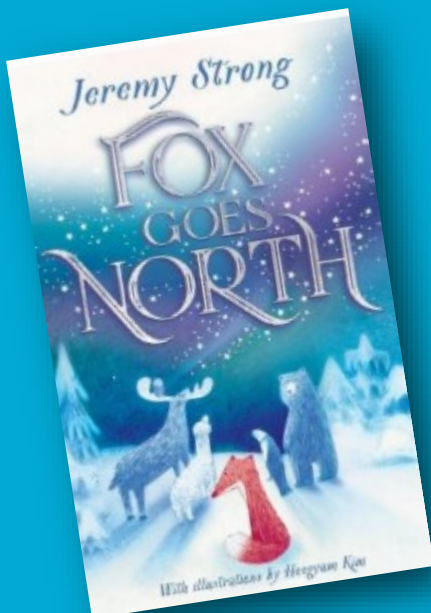


Miss Cullen's Recommended Reads



We're going on a sleigh ride, HO! HO! HO! Can you find the hidden gifts? Whoosh! Off we go! Ho! Ho! Ho! Climb aboard Santa's sleigh and join the fun as four bunnies set off on a thrilling festive adventure.

With ten presents to find hidden under the flaps, it's an action-packed treasure hunt! You'll need to watch out for the obstacles along the way - snowy clouds, church spires, flocks of flying geese - and help the sleigh back to the North Pole in time for Christmas! The perfect Christmas gift, full of festive fun and winter magic.



An extraordinary house on wheels is being towed along a forest track by doleful Moose. On board the house are philosophical Fox; distinguished Bear; theatrical Toucan, with his magnetic beak that always points north; argumentative Little Owl, and loving, excitable Young Llama.

With nothing but her little blue suitcase, Fox has left home to join the animals' expedition to the Snowlands to see the Northern Lights. They encounter many ups and downs on their journey, but it is beneath the magic of the Lights that they must face their most heart-wrenching loss...

By turns funny, thoughtful and heartfelt, this is a story about the importance of art, music, books, shortbread biscuits and, ultimately, saying goodbye to the ones we love.



St Leonard's Church, Ryton on Dunsmore
Christmas Eve at 5.00 pm

Crib Service



**Come and hear about the
birth of Baby Jesus
- everyone welcome**

St Leonard's Church, Ryton on Dunsmore
Sunday 22 December at 4pm



Carols
by Candlelight
*followed by mince pies
and something mulled!*

DANCE

Classes



Ballet, Tap
Disco/Street Dance
Pre-School Dance & Adult
Tap

Classes held in Bubbenhall
& Wellesbourne

Contact Sarah Cooke
sarah.cooke77@btinternet.com
or 07751470318

SCSD Dancer
Photo courtesy of Andy McCarty