



'Our school, our church, our community'

## Elsecar Holy Trinity Primary School

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Elsecar Holy Trinity is a **nurturing, inclusive**, Church school where everyone is **valued** as a child of God. We warmly **welcome** people of all faiths/worldviews and backgrounds, fostering **respect, compassion** and **forgiveness**. Rooted in **faith, family** and **community**, we aim to **grow** together in love, developing **wisdom, knowledge** and **aspirations** for a **brighter future**.

### What a Wonderful Week at School!

We've had an amazing time together, filled with festive cheer and community spirit. From our delicious Christmas Dinner and cozy Jumper Day to the excitement of the Christmas Fair and the magical Carols Around the Tree event, it's been a week to remember! And the celebrations aren't over yet—there's just one week to go, and we've got plenty more to look forward to. Let's make this final stretch before the holidays just as special!

### Attendance Matters

Well done to this week's attendance WINNERS!

**Y3 (100%)**

Whole school attendance:

94.3%

Year to date:

94.5%

School Target:

96%



### Dates for the diary

Diary Dates

**Christmas Disco (Book on Arbor)**

Thu 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 3:30 – 4:30pm

**End of Autumn Term**

Fri 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

**Return to school**

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Art Club Y2 – Y6 (Book on Arbor)**

Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Lego Club Y1 – Y6 (Book on Arbor)**

Tues 6<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Gymnastics Club Y4 – Y6 (Book on Arbor)**

Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Class Photographs**

Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Christmas Dinner

A huge thank you to our amazing catering staff who prepared and served over 120 Christmas dinners this week!



### Attendance Competition!

We've got a very exciting last few weeks in school where we are putting a spotlight on attendance.

Each day your child comes to school, they will be entered into an exciting competition where they will be in with a chance of winning a prize.

**It could be you!**



### Parent and Carer Survey Results

The results of our recent Parent and Carer Survey have been published today. You should have received a copy via email—please check your inbox.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share your views and contribute; your feedback is invaluable in helping us continue to improve and provide the best education for our children.



As you may have noticed we have already implemented a new end of school routine for children in years 3 and 4 which was one of the key recommendations from the survey.

### A Huge Thank You to Our PTA!

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the members of our PTA for organising such a fantastic Christmas Fair on Thursday. Your hard work and dedication made the event a wonderful success, bringing joy to our school community.

The PTA will also work with school on how best to spend the money raised from our events throughout the year.



### Collective Worship

In Worship this week the children lit the second candle on the advent wreath to mark the second week of advent. Our bible story was about the shepherds and the angels visit to tell them that Christ the Lord was born in Bethlehem. An important part of the Christmas story is Jesus being born into an ordinary family.

What can we do to make Christmas about the message of love and compassion that Jesus brings rather than just about the giving of presents?

### Celebrating Holly's Kindness

Holly in Year 6 is currently fundraising to help the homeless this Christmas. We are so proud of her for showing such a caring attitude towards others at this special time of year. Her compassion and commitment truly reflect the values we hold as a school.

### British Values



#### Democracy

The Warm in Winter project shows what can happen when people in a community choose to work together to help others. When we listen to one another and make decisions together, everyone's voice can be heard, and we can all make a difference.





At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# 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.



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

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