

SCHOOL CLOSURE

The school will close for the Christmas holidays on **Friday 20th December at 1:30pm**. After school club will close at 5:30pm on that day. Please could we ask that all children are collected on time.

The school will reopen on **Monday 6th January 2025**. We hope you all enjoy the Christmas break.

WELLIES

We've noticed that a few children have been coming to school in wellies. This is absolutely fine but please send them in with suitable footwear for the rest of the day – thank you.



ROTAKIDS

4P have been busy collecting toys as part of their Rotakids project. Thank you to everybody for their kind donations. The Rotary Club of Darwen will distribute them to families in need in time for Christmas. Well done 4P for making a difference to our community!



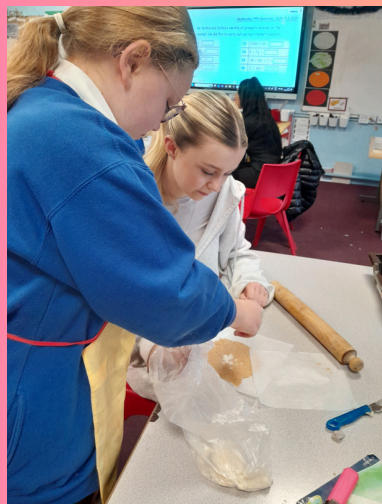
STARS OF THE WEEK

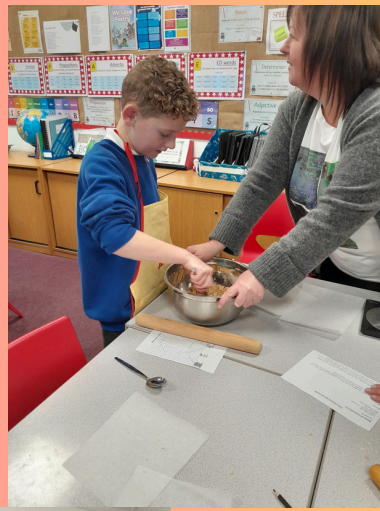
YEAR 1 1N: Roman 1S: Sienna	YEAR 2 2B: Skyla 2L: Isla	YEAR 3 3B: Declan 3L: Mylah
YEAR 4 4F: Nyla 4P: Grace	YEAR 5 5M: Kayley 5S: Ayaan	YEAR 6 6C: Emily 6J: Jack
CLASS	EYFS Gruffalo: Emily Elmer: Florence	Stars



PARENTS DROP IN

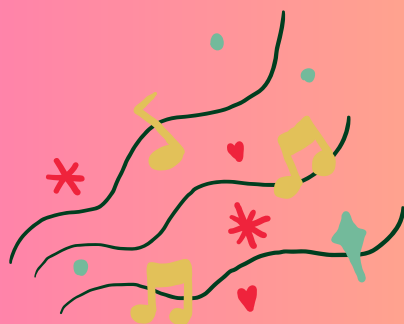
6J had a lovely afternoon making Christmas themed biscuits. They even had some Christmas helpers in the form of parents and grandparents. There were some fantastic designs and some interesting flavour combinations! Great fun was had by all! Thank you to those who could attend.





AVONDALE CHOIR

🎵 A huge well done to Avondale Choir who performed brilliantly for the residents of Oldfield House and Oldfield Manor yesterday. You were fantastic and brought a huge amount of festive cheer to your audience. Well done to all involved 🎄



ROALD DAHL DAY

Year 3 had a fantastic Charlie and the chocolate factory day on Thursday to link in with their class novel and topic this half term. They had lots of fun during chocolate coin treasure hunts, making chocolate crispy cakes and dressing up in some incredible costumes!



M E N U



Weekly Menu

WEEK 2

MONDAY

Savoury Mince & Pastry or Cheese Pie

TUESDAY

Sausages or Veggie Sausage & Hash Browns

WEDNESDAY

Turkey Meatball Pasta or Jacket Potato

THURSDAY

Turkey with Trimmings or Cheese Flan with Trimmings

FRIDAY

Fish Fingers or Veggie Fingers & Chips



EYFS Performance 16th December 2:15pm
EYFS Performance 17th December 6pm
Year 1-2 Performance 16th December 6pm
Year 1-2 Performance 18th December 2:15pm
Year 3 Carols around the Christmas Tree 19th December at 2.15pm
Year 4-5 Performance 17th December 2:15pm
Year 4-5 Performance 18th December 6pm
Christmas Lunch (bookings now closed) - 19th December
Christmas Jumper day - 19th December

**SAVE
THE DATE**

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Last chance to book your sessions for January 2025 to Easter. The online booking system will close on Friday 20th December. We cannot always guarantee a place after this date. It is parental responsibility to ensure that sessions have been booked. Please email outofschoolclubs@avondale.blackburn.sch.uk to receive confirmation of all sessions booked.



FREE Winter lunches

Monday 30th December

Tuesday 31st December

Thursday 2nd January

Friday 3rd January

11:30 – 1:00

at

Family Hub Livesey

Family Hub Darwen

Family Hub Shadsworth

Family Hub Little Harwood

To register please phone 01254 585000 or
drop in to one of our Family Hubs/Childrens Centres



**Family
Hub**

Darwen | Little Harwood | Livesey | Shadsworth



Scan me  

Blackburn and Darwen Band invite you to this magical performance of The Snowman!

Watch the heart-warming Christmas classic on screen, accompanied by a live brass band performance of Howard Blake's renowned score. What could be more festive!

The story follows a young boy named James who builds a snowman on Christmas Eve. At the stroke of midnight his snowy sidekick comes to life and the pair go on an enchanting adventure through the night.

The soundtrack carries the story, and this performance includes a special recital of 'Walking In The Air' by AKS Chamber Choirboy, George Brown.

Saturday 14th December

Performances at 2pm and 4pm.

Westholme School, Meins Road, Blackburn, BB2 6QU

Tickets: £10 standard | £5 under 16s

BOOK NOW



Online Safety

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.

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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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

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