

Volume 5|  
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**November**  
**2024**

# Newsletter



## Winter is Here!

It feels like winter has come upon us almost overnight – I knew that the weather had changed as I couldn't open my car door one morning! We appreciate all of your support in making sure that every child has a suitable coat in school each day as well as their school jumper.

This week, we hosted Headteachers from two local Hounslow schools as part of a peer review. They were very impressed with the behaviour of the children and confirmed our judgements about how successful the children are in their learning. It was a pleasure to show off our wonderful school!

We also had a record high turn out to Parents' evening this year, which was wonderful. I also appreciate everyone who took the time to complete our parent sample survey, we had 102 responses – you can read about the headlines in the newsletter this month.

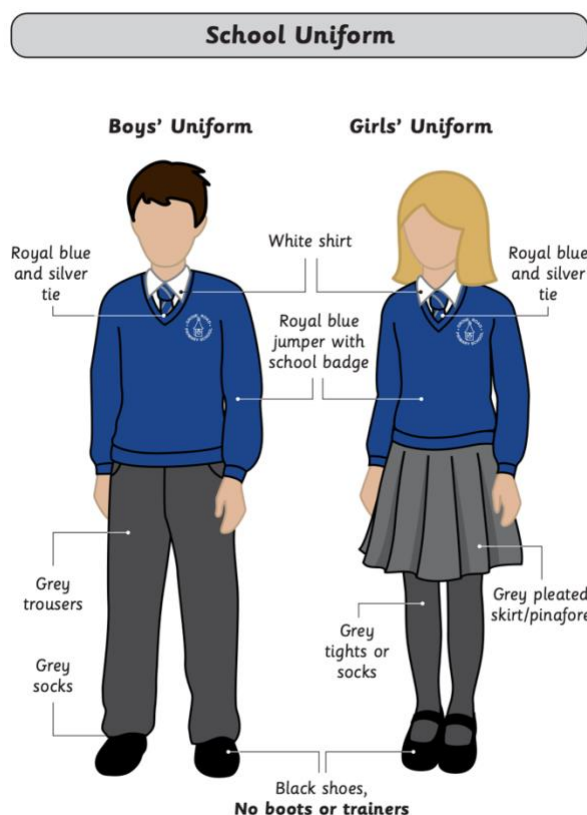
We have lots of wonderful activities and celebrations coming up this month, as well as the school production of 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw' – details of all of these events will be sent out in separate letters but there is a summary of dates at the end of the newsletter also.

Best wishes,

Mrs Grace Beckford

Acting Headteacher

## Uniform



I wanted to thank parents regarding last month's message about uniform – a visitor this week complimented me on how smart our children look.

We are noticing however, that there are a number of children who are still coming to school without ties. This is a vital part of the uniform and should be worn every day, except when children are in PE kit.

We also have children coming in with several layers, jumpers and thermals on under their uniform. Children are often overheating and then removing – and losing – their school jumpers. I can reassure you that we do have central heating on during this cold weather and make sure that children wear their coats outside.

## Birthdays



This is a repeat reminder about birthday treats – children are welcome to share a small box of nut-free chocolate or sweets (an example size is the picture on the left), or a small cake/biscuit on their birthday with their class, but we will no longer be distributing any party bags or large items of any kind.

Children need to bring their item to share with them on the morning that they want to share them so that the teacher can arrange the best time for these to be given out. Any large party bags or items sent to the office will unfortunately be returned.

## Children's Leadership Trip to Hounslow Community Foodbox

Written by Japleen, Aisha, Mannan & Ivo

On the 15<sup>th</sup> November, we visited Hounslow FoodBox. We learnt where our donations went and how they are then distributed. We learnt that 70% of the parcels are delivered to homes and 30% are collected from the Rose Community Centre.

There are many people that collect parcels from the FoodBox for many different reasons, we had the opportunity to volunteer by packing some parcels, organising shelves, tidying the work areas and exploring the building ourselves.

We enjoyed learning so much about the FoodBox from our guide Sunny, he was very kind, he praised our school for our huge donation from our Harvest Festival this year.



## UK Parliament Week

School Council planned and prepared a successful UK Parliament week. Children all across the school took part in activities such as quizzes and debates.



## Odd Socks Day



Thank you for your generous donations for Odd Socks Day – we raised £88.61 for a worthy cause, spreading awareness to combat bullying.

## EYFS Ice Adventures!



## Parent Survey

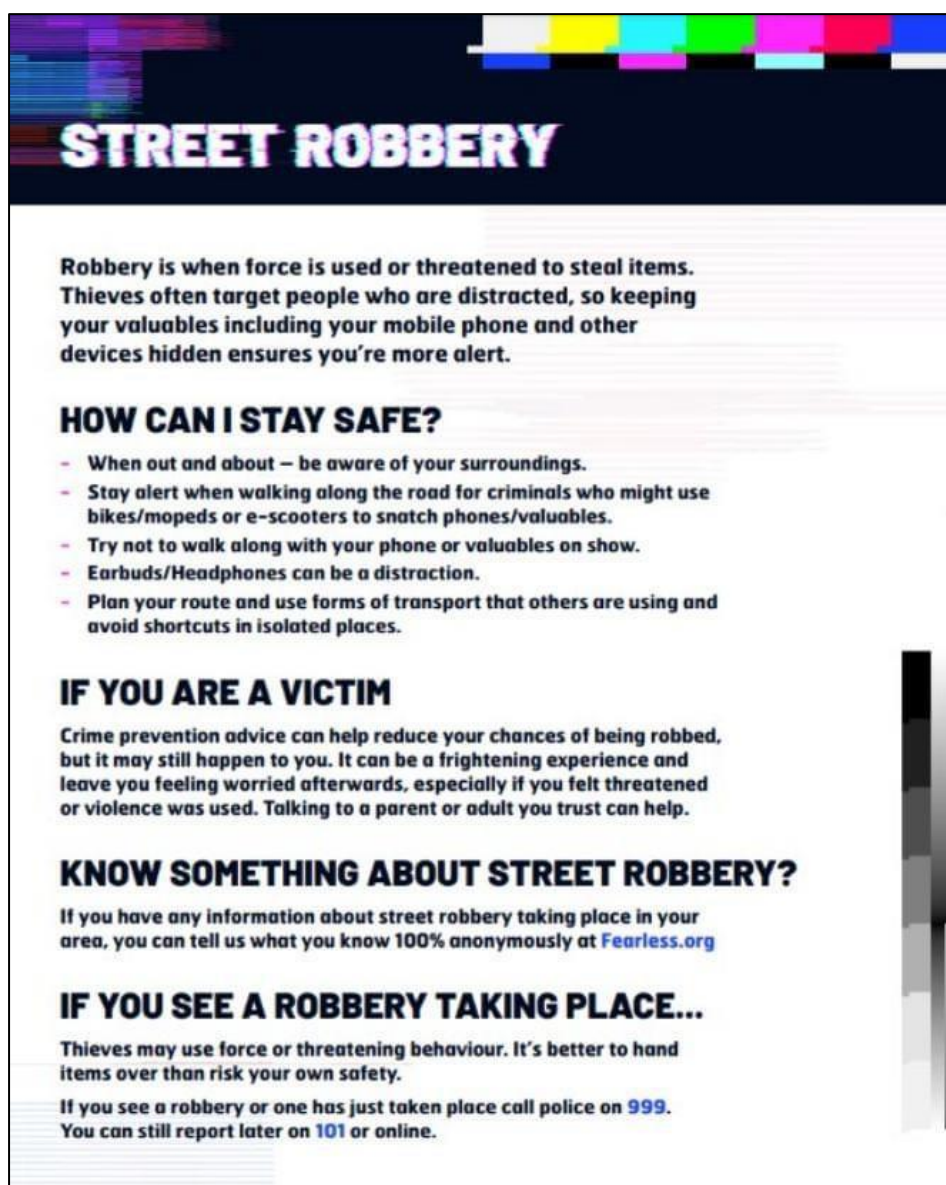
Thank you again to the parents who completed our Parent's Evening survey, some of the headlines are below:

- 99% Strongly agree or agree that their child is happy at school
- 100% of parents believe their child is safe at school, with 63% strongly agreeing
- 60% of parents strongly agree that the school makes sure pupils are well behaved, with 39% agreeing
- 100% of parents agree or strongly agree that any bullying is dealt with quickly and effectively
- 100% of parents agree or strongly agree that the school makes you aware of what your child will learn

- 93% of parents believe that concerns, if raised, are dealt with properly – 58% of those asked strongly agreed
- 100% of parents agree or strongly agree that if their child has a SEND need, that the school supports them to help their child succeed
- 98% of parents agree or strongly agree that their child does well at the school
- 99% of parents agree or strongly agree that there are a good range of subjects available and that their child can take part in clubs
- 100% of parents would recommend the school to another parent.

There were also some wonderful comments shared, as well as some good suggestions to support making things better, which we are very grateful for. It was very heart-warming to know that our parent community supports us and believes in what we are doing.

## Local Police News



**STREET ROBBERY**

**Robbery is when force is used or threatened to steal items. Thieves often target people who are distracted, so keeping your valuables including your mobile phone and other devices hidden ensures you're more alert.**

**HOW CAN I STAY SAFE?**

- When out and about – be aware of your surroundings.
- Stay alert when walking along the road for criminals who might use bikes/mopeds or e-scooters to snatch phones/valuables.
- Try not to walk along with your phone or valuables on show.
- Earbuds/Headphones can be a distraction.
- Plan your route and use forms of transport that others are using and avoid shortcuts in isolated places.

**IF YOU ARE A VICTIM**

Crime prevention advice can help reduce your chances of being robbed, but it may still happen to you. It can be a frightening experience and leave you feeling worried afterwards, especially if you felt threatened or violence was used. Talking to a parent or adult you trust can help.

**KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT STREET ROBBERY?**

If you have any information about street robbery taking place in your area, you can tell us what you know 100% anonymously at [Fearless.org](https://www.fearless.org)

**IF YOU SEE A ROBBERY TAKING PLACE...**

Thieves may use force or threatening behaviour. It's better to hand items over than risk your own safety.

If you see a robbery or one has just taken place call police on **999**. You can still report later on **101** or online.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

## CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

## NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

## CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

## WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

## TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

## WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

## WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

## BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

## ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get easy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

## SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

## GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

## GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

## Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national\_online\_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.12.2023

## Class Emails

We continue to have class mailboxes for you to contact your child's class teacher. There is no need to also copy in the office to your emails – this can sometimes confuse the lines of communication. Class inboxes are monitored daily but please allow up to 48 hours for a response. For anything urgent, including reporting your child absent, please continue to contact the school office.

Red Class: [red@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:red@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk)

Orange Class: [orange@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:orange@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk)

Yellow Class: [yellow@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:yellow@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk)

Green Class: [green@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:green@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk)

Blue Class: [blue@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:blue@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk)

Indigo Class: [indigo@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:indigo@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk)

Violet Class: [violet@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:violet@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk)

Gold Class: [gold@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:gold@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk)

Rainbow Class: [rainbow@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk](mailto:rainbow@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk)

## December Upcoming Dates

2<sup>nd</sup> – Flu Immunisations

3<sup>rd</sup> – Orange Class Height, Weight & Vision Checks

4<sup>th</sup> – KS2 Pantomime Visit at Hounslow Arts Centre

9<sup>th</sup> – Indigo Class Fulham Palace Visit

9<sup>th</sup> – EYFS & KS1 Pantomime in the Hall

9<sup>th</sup> – Speech & Language Parent Workshop at 2.30pm

10<sup>th</sup> – School Production Dress Rehearsal

11<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Production – Evening Performance

12<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Production – Afternoon Performance

13<sup>th</sup> – School Council Trip to Cloisters Care Home

17<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day

18<sup>th</sup> – Rocksteady Concert

20<sup>th</sup> – End of Term – 1.30pm finish



[www.groveroadprimary.co.uk](http://www.groveroadprimary.co.uk)



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