



Heaton Park Primary and Nursery School

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Headteacher

Miss R Senior

Chair of the Governors

Miss S Butterworth



Newsletter – 19th December, 2025



End of term Message

As we come to the end of the autumn term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly brilliant couple of weeks in school. The atmosphere has been filled with excitement, joy and togetherness, making it a wonderful way to finish the term.

We have been treated to a fantastic Nativity performance, which showcased the confidence, teamwork, singing and talent of our pupils in KS1. The EYFS Christmas sing-along was equally special, bringing plenty of festive cheer and proud smiles all around.

In addition, pupils have enjoyed a range of festive activities including Christmas dinner, parties, making calendars and cards, KS2 movie nights and our new end-of-term celebration assemblies.

These events do not happen without a great deal of hard work and support. Thank you to all staff for their dedication and organisation, and to parents and carers for your continued encouragement and involvement; it truly makes a difference. Thank you also for your kind and generous donations for our Christmas raffle.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank parents and carers for your support during my first term as Headteacher at Heaton Park. Your warmth, trust and partnership have been greatly appreciated and have helped make this term such a positive and successful one.

We are incredibly proud of all our children for their enthusiasm, behaviour and effort throughout the term. They have embraced every opportunity and helped make this such a memorable end to the autumn term.

We wish all our families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming everyone back for the spring term on **Monday 5th January, 2026**.

Fundraising

Thank you also for your support with our fundraising efforts this term. In addition to raising money for Children in Need and Save the Children, we have also raised:

£800 from our Pumpkin Parties

£1068 from our Christmas raffle.

The money will go towards improving our school library and purchasing playtime and lunchtime resources.

Vision and Values

We have been working with our children and staff to identify what matters most to our community and to shape our shared vision and values. We would like your opinion too. Please take two minutes to click on the link and complete this short questionnaire.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc1_w5sOPDR8ttY8nl0zst0TCil9cyWUjyVZj2IDStNgeVtGw/viewform?usp=dialog

PTA

We are excited to share our plans to set up a Parent Teacher Association (PTA) at Heaton Park. A PTA plays an important role in strengthening the partnership between school and families and provides valuable support for our pupils and wider school community.

The purpose of the PTA will be to:

- Bring parents, carers and staff together
- Support school events and activities
- Help raise funds for resources and experiences that benefit our pupils
- Create further opportunities for families to be involved in school life.

We will be sharing further information next term, where everyone can learn more and help shape how the PTA will work. Your ideas, skills and enthusiasm will be key to making this a success.

If you are interested in being involved, please look out for future information which will be sent out in the new year.

We look forward to working together to build a strong and supportive school community.

To see photographs and information about the wonderful things we get up to in school, please follow us on Instagram: [heatonparkprimary1](https://www.instagram.com/heatonparkprimary1).

Online Safety

Parental Controls for Phones

With electronic devices on lots of children's Christmas wish lists it is essential that devices are set up with parental controls so your child's online activity can be monitored and limited. You can install parental controls on your home broadband. Most Internet-enabled devices also allow you to set parental controls so you can manage what they can see online. For more support go to: <https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

These posters can be downloaded from the National Safety Online website alongside lots of other useful online safety guides. They also have an app for parents.

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for PRIVACY Android Phone

The settings on an Android device allow you to set certain rules to help safeguard your child's privacy when they are using it. For example, you can turn off location services to keep their whereabouts private; prevent third-party apps and sites from viewing their information; and stop apps from accessing other functions of the phone (like the camera or microphone, for example). We've produced step-by-step guides on how to tighten up an Android phone's privacy settings.

How to manage location services

1. Open the Google Family Link app
2. Select your child's account
3. On the 'Settings' card, tap 'Manage'
4. Tap 'Location'
5. On the card with the correct device's name, tap 'Settings'
6. Tap 'Location Settings'
7. Turn 'Device location' to off
8. To reactivate location services in future, repeat these steps and turn 'Device location' back on

How to control access for third-party apps and sites

1. Sign in to your Google Families account
2. Under 'Members', select your child's name
3. Select 'Account info' and then 'More'
4. Select 'Third-party apps with account access'
5. Turn 'Allow third-party apps to access XX account' to off by toggling the switch

How to manage app permissions

1. Open the Google Family Link app
2. Select your child's account
3. On the 'Device' card, tap 'Settings'
4. Tap 'App permissions' then choose a permission
5. Below your child's device, switch the permission off
6. Alternatively, you can manage permissions by downloading the app you wish to restrict
7. On the 'Apps installed' card, tap 'More'
8. On the 'Allowed' list, tap the app you want to change the permissions for
9. Tap 'App permissions'
10. Switch the permission off

Parental settings

FOR EXAMPLE:

- Control on Google Play
- Filters on Google Chrome
- Filters on Google Search
- Filters on YouTube
- Android apps
- Location
- Account info

App permissions

FOR EXAMPLE:

- Calendar
- Camera
- Contacts
- Location
- Messages
- Microphone
- Phone
- SMS
- Storage

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www.nationalonlinesafety.com

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for PRIVACY iPhone

The privacy settings on your child's Apple device give you control over the information stored on it. This allows you to select which apps can access features and information on your child's device; for example, you might wish to block a social networking app from connecting to the camera reel, or specify which apps can use the device's location data.

How to make changes to privacy settings

You can block certain apps from obtaining information from your child's device. You can also prevent your child (or anyone other than you) from altering these settings.

1. Open 'Settings'
2. Tap 'Screen Time'
3. Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'
4. Scroll to 'Privacy'
5. Choose the settings you wish to restrict
6. After you've made any changes, select 'Use Screen Time Passcode' to lock your changes with a PIN

How to prevent changes to other settings/features

You can also stop changes being made to the iPhone's other settings or features by anyone but you. For example, you can prevent your child from altering their passcode, accounts or mobile data settings.

1. Open 'Settings'
2. Tap 'Screen Time'
3. Tap 'Content & Privacy Restrictions'
4. Scroll to 'Allow Changes'
5. Select 'Allow' or 'Don't Allow' on the settings for which you wish to enable or disable changes

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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 labeling 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

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

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Notices in blue will be in every newsletter:

Promoting Independence

To promote independence, please ensure your child has everything they need for the school day-water bottle, lunch box, PE kit, glasses etc.- with them when they come into school. This also makes for a calmer start to the day for your child. The school office is extremely busy, and the staff do not have capacity to take forgotten items to classes.

Morning Organisation Matters: Help Your Child Start the Day Right!

Morning Checklist: Have You Got Everything?

- Book bag
- Water bottle
- Lunch box (if needed)
- Homework or reading books
- Musical instrument (on relevant days)

Name It to Keep It!
Make sure all belongings are clearly named, including:

- Book bag
- Water bottle
- Lunch box
- Musical instrument

Top Tip for Parents
Use a "morning station" at home with everything your child needs for the day.

The graphic includes illustrations of a book bag, water bottle, lunch box, and musical instrument, all with 'Name' labels. It also shows a 'morning station' with a hanger, a book bag, and a water bottle.

Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance

There is an expectation that children are in school, on time, every day. If your child is unwell and cannot attend school, please phone the school office and leave a message on the absence line or speak to a member of staff. Please make sure all non-urgent medical and dental appointments are made outside of school hours.



We require evidence of medical appointments for every child to be able to authorise these absences.

Punctuality – Dropping off and Picking Up

The school gates open at **8.45am** and are locked at **9.00am**. Please ensure your child arrives on time so that learning is not lost and for the smooth running of school.

All late children must come into school via the office, and a member of the office staff must then escort each late pupil to their class. We do not have the capacity to do this, and it also wastes a lot of time. Pupils who arrive late without good reason receive a late mark or unauthorised absence, so it is very important to ensure your child is on time.

All late children, coming in through the school office must be accompanied by an adult, who must sign them in on the IPAD.

After school, please be on time to collect your child as class teachers and staff have additional responsibilities and our After School Club is at capacity and cannot accommodate additional children. The school Attendance Champion is monitoring pupils' punctuality and attendance carefully. Many thanks for your active support with this.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Senior'.

Miss R. Senior
Headteacher