

# Buckland St Mary Primary School



## A Message from Mrs Staniland

Another month has flown by and what a month it has been - full of excitement, learning and snow!!!

Whilst Beech class sadly had to postpone their trip to Parliament, they were still able to enjoy a day learning all about Parliament and democracy and even went on a virtual tour in preparation for their rescheduled visit later in the year (details will follow once confirmed). Children also had the opportunity to attend a Basketball development day at Holyrood - thank you to Mrs Jessup for supporting our children at this event and to our parents for getting children to and from these events - we couldn't do it without you all!

Ash class have been busy being historians and have learned why memories are important. Thank you to Rev Jim for leading our memorial service for Remembrance day, and for everyone that was able to join us. Oak class had spent a morning learning about why people wear poppies and reflecting on the significance of this event. We were proud of how respectful all of the children were throughout the service.

Welcoming Numatic in for a STEM session has been a particular highlight this month. Children learned all about Henry and Hetty hoovers and worked in teams to build their own. A big thank you goes to Johnathan and Paul who came in to run this workshop for our children and to Mrs Henning for organising it.

We recently held our first Willow class pre-school Forest School session. These Forest School sessions are open to the wider community and allow parents and their pre-schoolers to come along, meet new people and enjoy getting outdoors in our new onsite Forest School area. Details for booking onto these sessions have been shared on our Facebook page - please do share this with any local friends who you think might enjoy bringing their children along to this - they would be made very welcome by Paloma and Mrs Napper.

As we move into December, we look forward to the month ahead full of excitement and festivities - the Community Carol Concert at the church on Wednesday 18th December being a particular highlight. Do pop it in your diaries if you haven't already - it really is such a wonderful event that brings the whole Buckland community together and leaves us all feeling ready for the joys of Christmas - we look forward to seeing you there!

Mrs Ethne Staniland



**Explorers**  
Aspiration & Resilience

Follow my passions and seek challenges in order to aspire to be the best version of myself

# Ash Class

Miss Nadine Luesley



Ash Class have fully immersed themselves into our History enquiry- 'Why are memories important?' We have been reminiscing about time spent with family and friends and have plotted key events over the past year onto a timeline. We understand that History refers to the past, and that our brains are responsible for keeping our memories alive. Ash Class have enjoyed sharing these memories by telling their friends, writing them down and drawing pictures.

Year 1 have been learning how to add and subtract using a number line. We have spent time to ensure we are drawing the correct number of jumps, counting accurately and stopping on the right number. Reception have been continuing to show off their amazing subitising skills and have been matching the correct number to the value shown in pictures.

In Literacy, Ash Class have continued to build upon their descriptive writing skills by describing exciting and varied story locations. Reception have begun writing the initial sounds to their captions, with some challenging themselves to write the whole word.

Year 1 have accepted their challenge to write more, whilst still incorporating amazing adjectives, brilliant handwriting and the correct punctuation.

We have started to rehearse the songs for our Community Christmas Carol Service. Ash Class have decided on their top three roles that they would not mind having in the tableau. Over the coming weeks please keep an eye out for your child's part which will be written at the top of the costume letter. We will provide the outer costume, the letter outlines what would be suitable to wear underneath to keep warm. The service will take place over at the Church, on the evening of Wednesday 18th December.



# Oak Class

**Mrs Henning and Mrs Staniland**

Since the last newsletter we have finished one enquiry and started another! The children all finished their books inspired by the story 'The Robot and The Bluebird' - illustrating them and producing a front and back cover on the computer. They are very proud of them and thoroughly enjoyed sharing them with Ash class.

Our next enquiry, which is science based, has been helping us to answer the question: 'How do temperature changes affect water and how does this relate to the water cycle?' We have looked at states of matter which was a new concept for many of the class. They are now able to articulate what it is and can discuss this together with how matter changes state. They learned about this through a fun practical experiment using cornflour and water. The children were amazed at how cornflour changes from a solid-powder - to liquid - and then when pressed together - a solid. We have also looked at gases and drank some water made in a soda stream and watched how plain flat water was made into sparkling water. They carried out an experiment called 'dancing raisins' where raisins placed in sparkling water danced up to the top of the glass and then sank again when the bubbles around them popped.

Building on this enquiry the children have also been learning the meaning of precipitation, evaporation, condensation and looked at the water cycle. The children hypothesised, made predictions and then carried out an experiment where they created their own water cycles by drawing the water cycle onto bags, part-filling them with water and then watching as condensation formed and dripped back into the water. A wow moment!



In Maths Year 2 have completed their work on addition and subtraction and have now moved onto shape. Year 3 have also completed their addition and subtraction unit and are now focused on multiplication and division. Keep up the fantastic work with your TTRockstars Oak Class! - it has been great to see the fantastic progress the children are making and the impact this has on their confidence in Maths.

In Religion and World Views Education (RWE) we are learning all about the Holy Trinity and baptism. We are looking forward to visiting the church soon so that Rev Jim can show us what happens in a baptism.

Our next big event is 'The Community Christmas Carol Concert' and we are very busy practising our songs which help to make this such a lovely event. We look forward to seeing you there!

# Beech Class



Mrs Wells-Burr and Mrs Henning



What a week it has been! We had a very exciting visit from Numatic earlier this week. The children had the opportunity to put together a Henry vacuum cleaner without any input from the adults! It was an impressive sight to see—everyone pulled together and demonstrated immense teamwork. It's wonderful to witness such collaboration among the children, and I must say, they took on the challenge with great enthusiasm.

Now, while we were all looking forward to our trip to the Houses of Parliament, unfortunately, it was cancelled. However, we made the most of it by holding a brilliant 'Parliament Day' right here in school. The day kicked off with a delicious breakfast, setting us up nicely for the activities ahead. We enjoyed a virtual tour of Parliament, which was both informative and engaging, and we delved into the fascinating aspects of the State Opening. The children certainly absorbed a lot of knowledge!

In addition to these experiences, we've been doing a short enquiry into writing persuasive letters. The children are learning how to express their thoughts and feelings about topics they're passionate about. The exciting part? We'll be presenting our letters to Adam Dance, our local MP, when he visits us in a couple of weeks! It's a fantastic opportunity for the children to engage with our local government and feel empowered to make their voices heard.

As a gentle reminder, please ensure that the children complete 3 minutes on Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) daily.

Our times tables help us greatly within Maths, so it's important we continue this practice. Also, spelling tests are conducted every Friday, and reading records are checked then too—let's keep up the great work!



# Willow Nursery

Mrs Napper



Well, it is safe to say that we have experienced all 4 seasons within the space of a week!! And we have been outside in all of them! The children have shown resilience and determination in the wet and cold, as well as the snow and sun, and we have used each of them as a learning experience!

This week we started our Forest School sessions, and the children enjoyed learning and exploring as well as meeting new children and their grown-ups. This will now be a regular occurrence on a Wednesday morning which we are excited about.



Our new topic before Christmas is 'Why is Christmas Special?' We are looking forward to hearing all the ideas and experiences that the children can talk about, as well as sharing pictures with friends about their traditions and families.

We are also excited to be practising for our Nursery Nativity! We are learning songs and sign language to accompany the Christmas Story and are looking forward to performing it to family and friends at the end of term.



# FoBS

Hello everyone! With Christmas just around the corner and the arrival of snow, it is really starting to feel festive! We hear Father Christmas is on his way with a little bit of magic to surprise the children...

This month we have proudly purchased 12 gymnastic mats, renewed the subscription to Twinkl and contributed £2,850 to support Forest School. None of this would be possible without your support! The thermometer is back in the school porch and will be topped up after each event, giving a great visual of our progress and fundraising efforts.



Film Night is back! We'll be showing Dr Seuss 'The Grinch' on Thursday 19th December 3.15pm -5.30pm. Tickets £5.00, which includes a hotdog and drink. The event will run from the school hall, and is open to all Reception children through to Year 6. Bookable via ParentMail. Come and join us for a festive Film Night! You are welcome to drop off your children for this event, there's no need to stay.

- A fantastic £ 53.90 was raised from Beech Class 'Bake for Books'. Well done Beech Class and Thank you for your support!
- A huge Thank you for all the festive hamper goodies that will be going into Christmas Hampers!

## Spooky was Spooktacular!

We are thrilled to share the fantastic news that our Spooky Disco raised a profit of £226.26, and thanks to Lloyds Banks generous support, this amount has been doubled! Which is amazing!

We extend a huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who made this event possible. The craft room provided additional space and allowed for a calmer atmosphere, which was appreciated by all.

A THANK YOU to those who attended, for all of the kind and generous donations, to those for their extra hard work, clean up and support. Special thanks to the extra helpers whose assistance was greatly appreciated and to the Arts and Crafts club for their decorations. We also thank Mrs Luesley for helping decorate the hall and to Mrs Staniland and Mrs Henning who kindly stayed to support and oversee the event. THANK YOU! Highlights included, the bake table brimming with goodies, face painting and tattoos were very popular and we witnessed some great dance moves and Spooky creations! We hope everyone had a great time.



# FoBS

'Guess the Name of the Elf' is now ON SALE in the SCHOOL PORCH  
£2 a guess / Prizes of 1st £50, 2nd £30 and 3rd £20 / 100 Names to be Chosen  
Please include your name and telephone number  
Monies to be given to a member of FoBS or paid online  
Winners to be announced once all names are taken and before the end of term.  
GOOD LUCK!

Christmas Coffee & Craft Morning - Saturday 14th December 10-12pm, Buckland Church  
Join us for a festive coffee and craft morning. Get creative with free crafts, connect with the community and enjoy the display of the children's schoolwork. Raffle tickets and 'Name the Elf' will also be on sale. Donations wanted please and gratefully appreciated.  
We are looking for extra helpers. If you can help, please let a member of FoBS know.

Community Church Service, Buckland Church 6pm  
FoBS will again be supplying the mince pies. We are in need of mince pies, all shapes and sizes, homemade or bought, to continue to make this event special and serve alongside mulled wine. Please bring donations to school ahead of this lovely event: Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th December. Thank you.  
We are delighted to again be supplying party snacks for the end of term celebrations and treating the whole school to the pantomime 'Beauty & The Beast'. Penny Crackers will also be made and decorated at school, ready to bring home for the Christmas break. To be filled with loose change and donations. All efforts go towards the school and a prize for the top class!

Wishing you all a wonderful and joyful festive season. May it be filled with peace, happiness and memorable moments. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Our Next Meeting is: Thursday 5th December at 3.15pm, School Hall.  
Everyone is very welcome



**WINNER**

Novembers 100 Club winners are: -  
1st Prize £10 Mrs Kelly Napper  
2nd Prize £5 Rafe Larcombe

Decembers 100 Club winners are: -  
1st Prize £10 Alfie Coombe  
2nd Prize £5 Mrs Staniland

£2.50 entry to be paid monthly into the FoBs bank account via standing order.

If you would like to be added to / or increase your monthly prize draw, please speak to a member of FoBs.

Jennie Farmer  
Secretary

Friends of Buckland St Mary School  
CHRISTMAS COFFEE &  
CRAFT MORNING



14th December, 10 - 12am  
Buckland St Mary Church  
Donations wanted and gratefully received



## FoBS Cash Prize Draw



Hello everyone!

**Don't Forget!** As Friends of Buckland School we launched a monthly Cash Prize Draw, giving you the chance of winning a cash prize of (1st) £10 and (2nd) £5 **EVERY MONTH.**

A **GUARANTEED** cash winner every month!

Not only does this give supporters a chance to win, but it also easily contributes funds back to the schools' fundraising efforts, directly benefitting our children and our school community.

**Don't miss out – you've got to be in it to win it!**

We greatly need your ongoing support. This is a fantastic and easy way to contribute to the school with just a **monthly payment of £2.50.** We encourage as many parents, family members, friends and generous community members to please get involved.

**The next prize draw will be drawn in October 2024.**

Entries are £2.50 each and a counter with your name will be entered each month for each £2.50 paid, eg. £5 per month would be two entries, two counters. There is no limit to the number of entries. You might even want to increase your chances!

1st and 2nd prizes of £10 and £5 will be drawn monthly by the school children.

Your payments can be made in an annual lump sum (£30 for one entry per month for a year/ £60 for two entries per month for a year) or monthly by standing order.

**Cheques made payable to:**

**Bank details:**

Friends of Buckland St Mary School

Friends of Buckland St Mary School

**Lloyds**

Sort code **30 96 26**

Account number **21465368**

**Please use 'FoBS prize draw' as your payment reference**

If paying annually by cheque please write your name and contact number on the back of your cheque. If setting up a monthly standing order or making a one-off bank payment please send an email confirming your payment to our FoBS treasurer Nikki Scale via [nikkinoodle9@hotmail.com](mailto:nikkinoodle9@hotmail.com) and CC our Chair Jessica Hodges via [tom.hodges27@gmail.com](mailto:tom.hodges27@gmail.com)

If anyone has any further questions, please give Jessica a call on 07901 861 037.

***A GREAT BIG THANK YOU FOR YOUR NEW OR CONTINUED SUPPORT,  
"THANK YOU"***



# Upcoming Events This Month

Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Beauty and the Beast Panto for the children (in school time) <b>Kindly organised by FoBS</b>
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	Under 9 Basketball development - Holyrood sports hall (12-3pm - details to follow)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Save the Children <b>Christmas Jumper Day</b>
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christingle Service, 9am, St Mary's church
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	FoBS Christmas Coffee and Craft Morning 10am-12pm)
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Community church Service, 6pm start of service
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Lunch- Bookable on <a href="#">Parentmail</a>
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Class Christmas Parties in school (Lunch as normal)
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery Nativity, 2pm, Parents welcome
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Break up for <b>Christmas holidays</b>

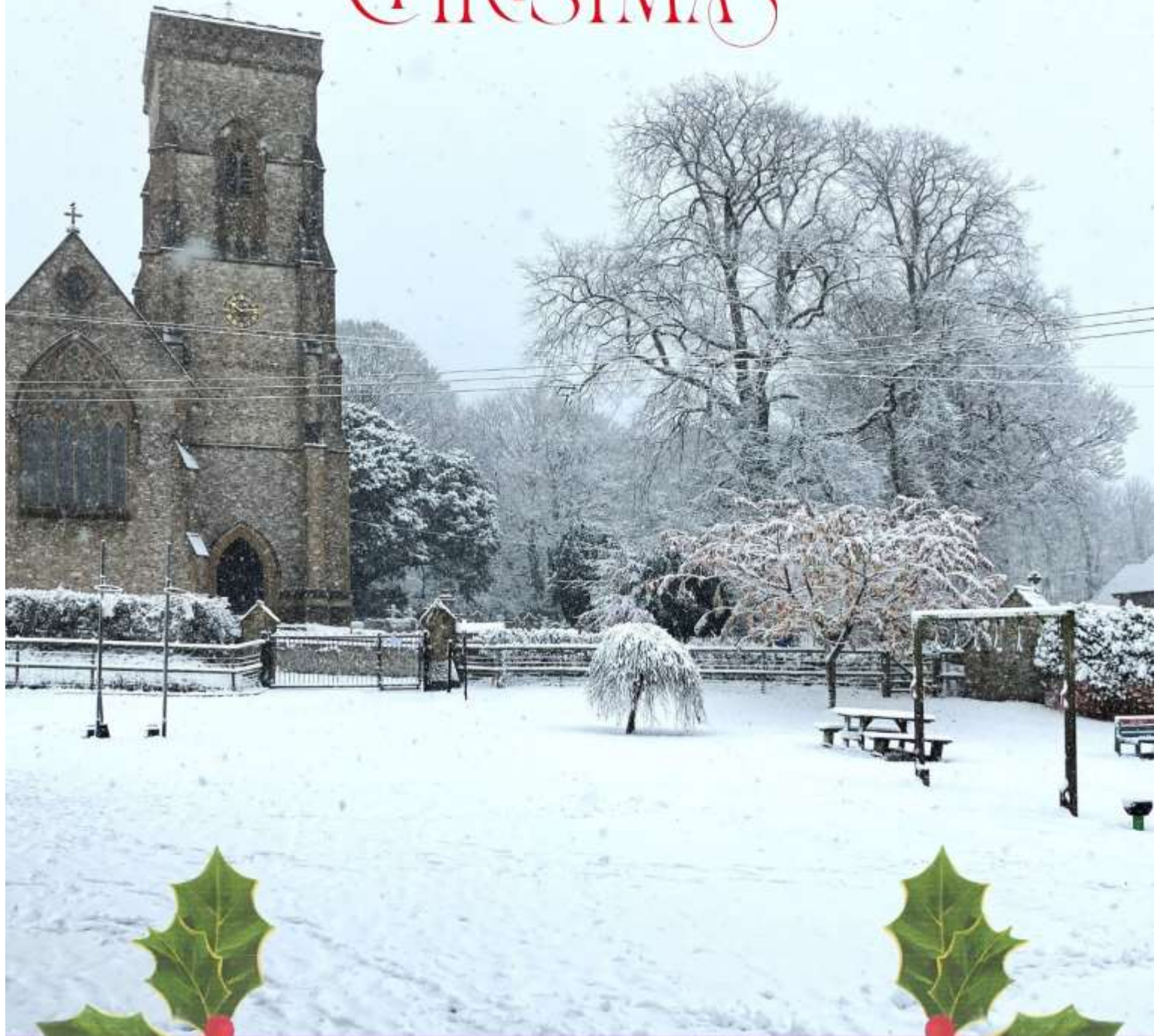
**We will be open again on Tuesday 7th January**



*"Blessed is the season  
which engages the  
whole world in a  
conspiracy of love."  
Hamilton Wright  
Mabie*



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



**We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a joyful  
and restful Christmas and  
thank you for all your support this year.**

**The Staff at Buckland St Mary CofE Primary School**

# School Information Board

## EVERY DAY COUNTS!

School and future success starts with good attendance!



Remember - your education is important - don't miss out!

## Attendance

Whole School - 96.67%

Ash - 94.63%

Oak - 96.51%

Beech - 97.83%



### Contact Information

If you change any of your contact details, please inform the school office as soon as possible so that we may update our records. It is imperative that we have up to date details at all times.

Phone: 01460 234251

Email: [admin.buckland@acexcellence.co.uk](mailto:admin.buckland@acexcellence.co.uk)

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding is high priority at Buckland St Mary Primary School. We take every opportunity to ensure that our pupil's safety is paramount. We want our pupils to be healthy and happy and to develop well, both physically and mentally. The school follows the latest Government Guidance to ensure we are fulfilling our duties in this important area.

Our Designated Lead (DSL) is Ethne Staniland and our Deputy DSL's are Nadine Luesley and Kelly Napper.

Our school's Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found online at: [www.bucklandstmaryceprimaryschool.co.uk/577/safeguarding](http://www.bucklandstmaryceprimaryschool.co.uk/577/safeguarding)

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child you can either talk to our DSL or DDSLs or you may phone Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224.

There is lots of online safety advice on our website - please follow [this link](#) to help keep your child safe.

### Our School Vision

*'That they may have life, life in all its fullness.'* John 10:10

**At BSM C of E Primary School everyone matters. We strive to be an inclusive community providing an outstanding education for all. Our lives are enriched through the teaching of Christian Values to grow as global citizens in an ever-changing world.**

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

### 1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

### 2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

### 3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

### 4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

### 5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family; discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

### 6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

### 7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

### 8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

### 9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

### 10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at 8CyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at [nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices](https://nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices)