





## Dates for your Diary

Date	Year group	Event
15th December	Whole School	Dolce Christmas lunch
16th December	Whole School	The Friends Christmas Raffle Draw
17th December	Whole School	Christmas Party Day- more information in the letter sent on Dec 3rd



## KS 1 Christmas Performance

Date	Year group	Time
Monday December 13th	Reception	1:30-2:00 in the school hall
Monday December 13th	Year 2	2:00-2:30 in the school hall
Monday December 13th	Year 1	2:30-3:00 in the school hall
Tuesday December 14th	Reception	9:30-10:00 in the school hall
Tuesday December 14th	Year 2	10:00-10:30 in the school hall
Tuesday December 14th	Year 1	10:30-11:00 in the school hall



Tickets for all performances must be booked prior to attending.

Please go to: **ParentMail - payments - shop** to do this



## Simon de Senlis Primary Weekly Update – 10th December 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have continued with great learning across the school with children in all year groups showing such enthusiasm for the subjects they are being taught. From geography to science, from music to DT, from art to PE, from RE to computing and of course from reading to writing to maths. There is an absolute love of learning from class to class and from year group to year group - you can feel it across the school and what a joy it is to be a part of this!

This learning and each enticing lesson is planned with care and diligence by our exceptional teachers who know your child and their skills inside out. Each day is planned based on the learning from the previous day and always with a mind on how to make it as engaging as possible. Our teachers and support staff are truly amazing, outstanding, tremendous!

As we end the penultimate week of the year and we begin the final week, we will carry on with the wonderful learning taking place.

Please enjoy the weekend ahead, rainy for Saturday and dry for Sunday!

I look forward to seeing you all next week.

Mrs Fennelly

## **U11/13 Cross Country taster session**

Rugby and Northampton  
Athletics Club will be holding a  
free Cross Country Taster  
Session on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>  
December at Abington Park, 2-  
30pm

If you are interested, please  
contact us at  
[contactus@rugbyandnortham  
ptonac.org](mailto:contactus@rugbyandnorthamptonac.org)





**Each Friday the classes have a poster that is shared within the Star of the Week celebration.**

**This week we discussed what we have learned in school today, yesterday, last week and even last month. Could we remember and if not, how can we try to trigger our memories? Remembering our learning from the past is key to understanding our learning today.**

## **NO BIRTHDAY SWEETS PLEASE**

**Please remember that due to Covid-19, we are not able to share birthday sweets between children in the classes.**

**Many Thanks**

## William Shakespeare's The Tempest

**We are excited to share that our first whole school writing unit in the new year will be our Royal Shakespeare Unit. This year we will be learning all about the exciting story of The Tempest.**

**Every child from Reception to Year 6 will spend three weeks learning about the plot, characters and the Shakespearian language.**

**Each child will then produce a piece of writing and art inspired by the story which will be showcased in school on Friday January 28th.**





Please use Danes Camp or Tesco car park when dropping off and picking up your children.



**Our collection for Re:Store Food Bank is growing day by day. Huge thanks for all of your donations so far - shampoo, shower gel, shaving foam, toothpaste, toothbrushes, plus any baby toiletries etc.**

**The items will be collected on Thursday afternoon so there's still time to donate. The items will be going to the families ready for Christmas.**



<https://www.whychristmas.com/cultures/>



## Christmas Around the World - WhyChristmas.com

Find out how Christmas is celebrated Around the World in lots of different Countries, Traditions and Cultures.

[www.whychristmas.com](http://www.whychristmas.com)



Dear Parents/Carers,  
Please see attached a list of accessible theatre Performances (relaxed, signed, captioned and audio described) this month available at the local theatres. For more information or to book please check the web pages for the individual theatres.

Many thanks,  
Ms Holland

## Northants Accessible Theatre Performances - Christmas 2021

### Royal & Derngate, Northampton: *Dick Whittington* (for all ages)



- Audio Described: Wed 15 Dec 2021 (7pm)
- Signed: Thu 16 Dec 2021 (7pm)
- Captioned: Mon 20 Dec 2021 (7pm)
- Signed: Wed 29 Dec 2021 (2.30pm)
- Audio Described: Thu 30 Dec 2021 (2.30pm)
- Relaxed: Fri 31 Dec (1pm)



<https://www.royalndderngate.co.uk/whats-on/dick-whittington/>

### Royal & Derngate, Northampton: *The Gruffalo* (for ages 3+)



- Relaxed: Sat 18 Dec 2021 (1.30pm)
- Relaxed: Thu 30 Dec 2021 (4.30pm)



<https://www.royalndderngate.co.uk/whats-on/the-gruffalo/>

### The Core at Corby Cube: *Sleeping Beauty* (for ages 12+)



- Relaxed: Sun 19 Dec 2021 (5pm)
- Audio Described & Signed: Thu 30 Dec 2021 (5pm)
- Audio Described & Signed - Thu 30 Dec 2021 (8pm)



<https://www.thecorecorby.com/whats-on/sleeping-beauty/>

Over the next 2 weeks, we will be sharing with you the 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas! Here are the first tips to be aware of.

# The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas

## FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!



- 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD**

If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).
- 2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'**

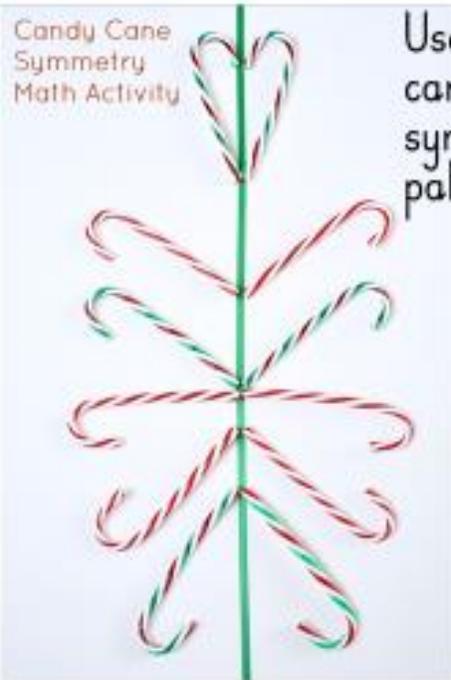
This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.
- 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS**

One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.
- 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE**

Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.
- 5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'**

Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.
- 6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY**

Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.



Use candy canes to make symmetrical patterns.

## Maths



### PASCAL'S TRIANGLE MATH PUZZLES

Write a 1 at the end of each row then add each pair of numbers above the triangles to give you the next number in the pattern.



Counting tree. You could use numbers or colours to create a pattern.



Use the Christmas sweets to count and represent number patterns.



Sort things by size.

Write a number or calculation on a peg.



Estimation Lego – estimate how much Lego fits in a bauble.

## The Winter Mini Challenge is here!

It's that time again, just like the Summer Reading Challenge, the Winter reading challenge is here for you to enjoy over the next few weeks.

<https://readingagency.org.uk/children/news/join-the-winter-mini-challenge-and-become-a-reading-hero.html>

Taking part in the Winter Mini Challenge is simple: all you have to do is read at least three books between **Wednesday 1 December 2021 and Sunday 16 January 2022.**

In order to take part in the Winter Reading Challenge you must sign up to the **Wild World Heroes** website, creating a profile to log the books that you read. This can be done by searching 'Winter Mini Challenge 2021' or by taking a trip to the Library. We have printed some Winter reading records for you to log your reading on and you will find these next week in the school library.

By reading 3 or more books of your choice, you will unlock a virtual badge and a special certificate to print off and keep!

There are a whole range of fun activities to take part in online, including reading recommendations and videos.

**Join the Winter Mini Challenge now and let us know how you get on!**



**Mrs Parker and Miss Gedney**

**A 10-minute activity to get everyone moving!**

## CHRISTMAS CORNERS

クリスマス・コーナー | Kurisumasu Cōnā

### Did you know?

The traditional gift bringer in Japan is not Santa Claus but Hoteiosho, the Buddhist god of good fortune.



## How to play

**1**  
Choose four Christmas characters and give each one an action - a balance. For example:

**A. Santa Claus** - pretend to zoom into the sky.

**B. Christmas tree** - pretend to hold up baubles.

**C. Rudolph** - pretend to be a reindeer on all fours.

**D. Snowman** - pretend to be a big snowball.

**2**  
Draw a picture of each character (or write their names on signs). Place them so there is one picture or sign in each corner of the room.

**3**  
One player is the caller and stands with their back to the room. The other players wait in the middle of the room.

**4**  
When the caller shouts 'go', the players choose a character to run to. Without looking, the caller names a character. The players in that corner must hold the balance for 5 seconds - without wobbling!

**5**  
Return to the middle and play again. Swap the caller so everyone has a turn.

### Variations

- Make an active action instead of a balance.
- March on the spot while waiting in the middle.
- In a large area, run around while waiting for 'go'.

### Challenge yourself

- Can you hold your balance without wobbling?
- Can you hold the balance for longer?
- Can you make a more difficult balance?

**Try this activity to get you in the festive spirit.  
Enjoy, Miss Bland**

# Christmas Colour Raffle

*Books...*

*...Chocolate*

*Christmas treats...*

The draw will take place on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December**

Wiggins/  
Robinson class – **ORANGE**  
Year R – **RED**  
Year 1 – **BLUE**  
Year 2 – **GREEN**  
Year 3 – **YELLOW/GOLD**  
Year 4 – **SILVER**  
Year 5 – **PINK/PURPLE**  
Year 6 – **WHITE**

*...Stationary*

*Toiletries...*

*...Bottles*

*Please bring contributions into school  
by Monday 13th December*

*Tickets available now on ParentMail!*

## Why not have a go at some of these ideas for kindness through December?

**December Kindness 2021**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1. Give a gift to someone who is homeless or feeling lonely	2. Leave a positive message for someone else to find	3. Give kind comments to as many people as possible today	4. Spread kindness and share the December calendar with others	5. Contact someone you can't be with to see how they are	6. Offer to help someone who is facing difficulties at the moment	7. Support a charity, cause or campaign you really care about
8. Be generous. Feed someone with food, love or kindness today	9. See how many different people you can smile at today	10. Share a happy memory or inspiring thought with a loved one	11. Do something helpful for a friend or family member	12. Notice when you're hard on yourself or others and be kind instead	13. Listen wholeheartedly to others without judging them	14. Buy an extra item and donate it to a local food bank
15. Contact someone who may be alone or feeling isolated	16. Help others by giving away something that you don't need	17. Appreciate kindness and thank people who do things for you	18. Contact an older neighbour and brighten up their day	19. Look for something positive to say to everyone you speak to	20. Give thanks. List the kind things others have done for you	21. Ask for help and let someone else discover the joy of giving
22. Get outside. Pick up litter or do something kind for nature	23. Call a relative who is far away to say hello and have a chat	24. Be kind to the planet. Eat less meat and use less energy	25. Congratulate someone for an achievement that may go unnoticed	26. Choose to give or receive the gift of forgiveness	27. Bring joy to others. Share something which made you laugh	28. Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself
29. Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	30. Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	31. Find some new acts of kindness to do in 2022	32. Turn off digital devices and really listen to people	33. Let someone know how much you appreciate them and why	34. Find some new acts of kindness to do in 2022	35. Treat everyone with kindness today, including yourself

**ACTION FOR HAPPINESS** **Happier - Kinder - Together**



**PACESETTER**  
SPORTS & WELLBEING



# CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUBS

MONDAY 20TH - THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER

CHILDCARE  
VOUCHERS  
ACCEPTED

## ABINGTON PDC

9AM - 4PM  
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a Reception  
place**

[www.westnorthants.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/admissions)



**APPLY FOR A  
SCHOOL PLACE**

Does your child turn 4 on or  
before 31 August 2022?

**DEADLINE:**  
5 p.m. Saturday  
15 January 2022

# **A NEWSPAPER FOR OUR CHILDREN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES**

10TH DECEMBER 2021





# Picture News

Your weekly  
school newspaper

6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2021

## Insulation Made From Popcorn!

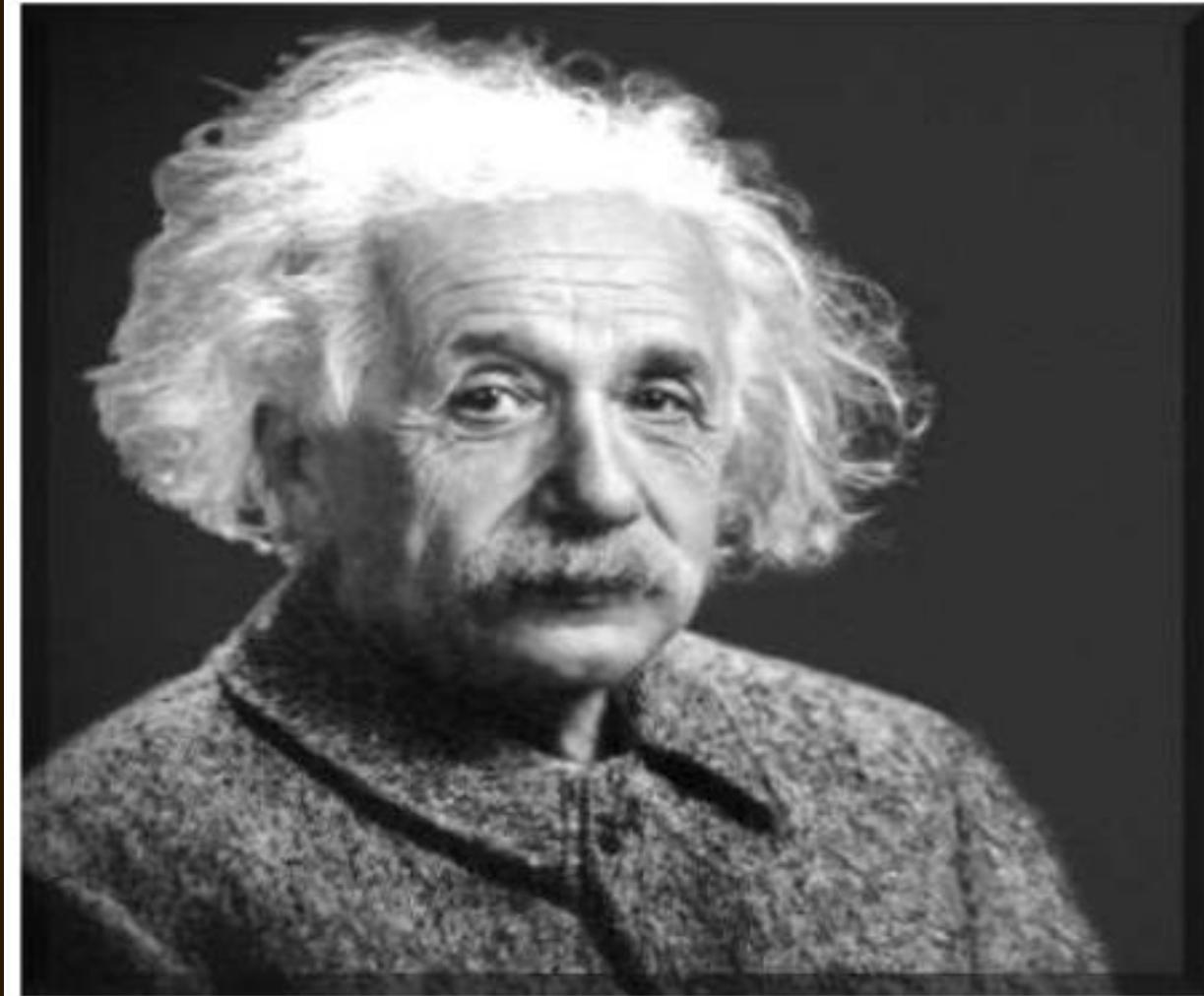
Many homes use insulation to help keep them warm or cool and with many buildings contributing to a large percentage of global emissions, good insulation is a must. At the moment, about 90% of materials used to make insulation for buildings is plastics or mineral fibres, which are non-biodegradable. The insulation also generates carbon dioxide in its manufacturing process, contributing to pollution and making it unsustainable. However, scientists may have found an alternative: a favourite film snack! The team from Göttingen University, Germany, have devised a technique to turn popcorn into insulation boards. They said the boards had: 'excellent thermal insulation properties and good protection against fire'. They also added: 'the great advantage of this granular material is that it

it is a plant-based, environmentally friendly and a sustainable alternative to the products derived from petroleum currently used in the industry'. Göttingen University has signed a licence agreement with a building materials company, Bachl Group, so popcorn insulation boards may appear in the not-too-distant future!



*Pictured: A bowl of popcorn  
Source: Canva*

# Relativity Document Sells For £9.7m



*Pictured: Albert Einstein*

*Source: Canva*

Albert Einstein is often acknowledged as one of the greatest physicists of all time. He is perhaps best known for his theory of relativity, which helped scientists understand how the universe works. A manuscript containing calculations made by Einstein, as he attempted to formulate his theory, has recently sold at Christie's auction house, Paris, for £9.7m. Vincent Belloy, an expert at the auction house, said, 'Einstein is someone who kept very few notes, so the mere fact the manuscript survived and made its way to us already makes it extraordinary.' The manuscript has broken the record for the highest amount an autographed scientific document has sold for. However, the buyer has not been revealed.



## Reading Shed - Up And Running!

After sharing the Picture News big question 'Should all schools have a library?', the Year 2 children of St Helena's CE Primary School were spurred into action. Alongside their class teacher, Mrs Roberts, they began to contact various people in an attempt to acquire a reading shed. Within a week, the pupils had managed to source not just one but two reading sheds and enough funds to purchase new books especially for the little, wooden shacks. Headteacher, Mrs Belton, said: 'It's amazing - a little reading haven of their own for breaktimes. They and especially their teacher are fabulous people! Thank you (Picture News) for the inspiring news story and look what it has achieved in just a week... 136 children and 8 teachers eager to read again!' One reading shed is officially up and running and was opened by author, James Mayhew, last month and they hope

to have the second up and running soon! Well done everyone at St Helena's CE Primary.



*Pictured: James Mayhew opening a reading shed with the 'Page Turners', St Helena's CE Primary School's reading for pleasure club.  
Source: St Helena's CE Primary School*

# Your thoughts on last week's news...

*I think you shouldn't swim with dolphins because they should be FREE.*  
River-Rose – age 5

*They should not be held captive so it's best if we swim with them in the wild. Also, we should not overwhelm them so a good stroke on the back will do.*  
Michael – age 9



What was your opinion on this week's news? Visit our discussion area, found here:

[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)  
to share your thoughts!

*I want to go and free that dolphin so it can be with its family..... But what about the tigers in the zoo. They shouldn't be there either!*  
Toby – age 5

*We should be allowed to swim with dolphins but we must be extra careful to tell whether it's harmless or harmful.*  
Jayden – age 8

I think...



**YOUR  
COMMENTS**

Share your thoughts on our online  
discussion board:  
[www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss](http://www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss)

Email: [help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk) Tweet: @HelpPicture  
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