

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

Christmas Productions

Christmas is drawing very near (just under three weeks until the holidays!) and the children are busy finishing their school work for this term (including a number of Christmas activities).

There is a wonderful feeling of Christmas in the air as the school is full of Christmas excitement and mischief from the elves who have once again decided to visit St. Mary's this year. The children are really enjoying the fact that these elves seem to be yet again extremely badly behaved this year.



Year 2 Performance

We are delighted this year that the Year 2 teachers and children have decided again to hold a Christmas Carol Service

in aid of the Nightingale Hospice.



Thank you parents for your support for the children always and a thank you in advance for your donations for the Hospice. The Year 2 Carol Service will be on Friday 12th December at 9.30am in school.

Year 1 and Reception Productions

The Year 1 performances will be on Wednesday 3rd December at 9.30am in the school hall (parents with babies and toddlers) and on Friday 5th December at 9.30am in the school hall (adults).

The Reception performances will be on Tuesday 2nd December at 9.30am in the school hall (parents with babies and toddlers) and on Thursday 4th December at 9.30am in the school hall (adults).



Many thanks to all of the children for filling the school with beautiful singing when they practise and to staff across the Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes for their hard work and dedicated effort in preparing the children.

Thank you too parents for your help in providing costumes where necessary and helping and encouraging your children to practise song words etc. at home.



Junior Choir Carol Service

We are also looking forward to the Junior Carol Service on the 9th

December at 5pm in the church.

We would be very grateful if you would donate to the Nightingale Hospice as you always do so generously at this time of the year. You can make cash donations on the evening of the performance or to the school office or donate via parent pay.

Nursery Christmas Performances

We have already greatly enjoyed the Nursery performance on Friday 28th November 2025.

There was a lovely festive atmosphere in the Nursery as all enjoyed some beautiful singing and acting by the children. A sincere thank you to Mrs Whytock for preparing and organising the children.

MERRY CHRISTMAS Leading Parent Partnership

As part of our work towards continuing to develop our partnership with you to enhance our children's learning

experience we had another 'Bring your Grandparent to School!' event earlier this term.

Again this event was very well supported and an orderly queue of grandparents lined up outside the school ready for the 9.30am start.

Thank you grandparents for your excellent help and support throughout the morning and for your very positive and encouraging written and verbal comments.



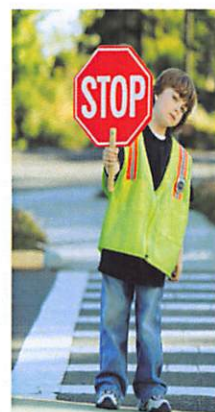
Illegal Parking

We had the zig-zag lines outside the school repainted a few years ago. Although we think they are very visible and we now have a School Street there are still a very small number of adults parking on the zig-zags generally in order to drop off or collect children from school.

Parents or carers parking on the zig-zags are parking illegally and putting our children in danger.

To avoid this please be prepared to park legally and walk a little bit with your child if necessary in order to keep the road in front of the school clear. This is also a healthier option as we focus on children having the option to walk / cycle/ scoot a little bit more each day. Please try not to park across the driveways of our neighbours in neighbouring roads or in the car park which belongs to the Italian Centre and Mary Mother of God. I know the majority of our parents and others who bring children to school don't do this.

Thank you to all who respect the zig-zags and keep them clear.



If you are late for school please do not abandon your child on the road outside. You must come in to school with your child and sign your child into the building.

I hope that during the rest of this school term all parents and carers will act in a responsible manner both for the safety of our children and a positive association with our neighbours. Thankfully so many already do.

Parents a huge thank you to so many of you for your wonderful support for our School Street. More and more children are walking, cycling or scooting to school. Lots of parents too are parking away from the school and walking with their children.

<https://letstalk.enfield.gov.uk/SchoolStreets>.



Sickness

We have been advised by the London Borough of Enfield medical people that any child who has been sick must not return to school for 48 hours. There are unfortunately a number of nasty bugs around at the moment.

Please continue to encourage your child to wash their hands with soap and water.



Uniform

Just to remind you that the office staff process uniform orders on a Thursday only although they will always help you if you need something for your child. Winter hats are now available at £5.00 each. School coats are very good value at £21.00.

Please ensure that your child's clothing is labelled. Labelled clothing when found can be returned to its owner while unlabelled items generally remain in lost property.



Please encourage your child to wear the correct uniform (including hair colours and styles and tailored trousers for girls).

If your child wears boots or wellies to school he /she must bring school shoes to wear in the building.

Hair

Please ensure long hair is tied back in school colours only (blue / black / white). No highlights, designs, lines or dyes to be put in hair please.

Remember nits love long free flowing hair too!

Mohican hairstyles are not permitted.

Nails

False nails or nail polish are not permitted in school.

Please encourage your child to respect the uniform policy by leaving all jewellery at home. If earrings are worn please only allow your child to wear very small studs (no hoops please). These must be removed for PE.

Many thanks to the vast majority of parents who support us by encouraging their children to wear the uniform. It's an important part of St. Mary's identity. The majority of children look really smart every day.

Please encourage your child to leave all toys, football cards, jewellery, mobile phones etc. at home. Children become very upset if their personal belongings are lost or broken at school.

School Masses

Some of our children have led the readings, brought the gifts or Book of the Gospels forward or served at the various Masses and other services during the autumn term. Their excellent behaviour and enthusiastic participation is to be commended.

All children have sung and responded well and behaved respectfully. Many members of the parish community have commented on the children's excellent behaviour. Parents thank you for your diligent support with this always.



Thank you children for being so willing to take part and to you parents for encouraging your children always.

What is mental health?

We all have mental health. Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods.

Looking after our mental health is important. We all have small feelings every

day: These sometimes feel strong and overwhelming, whether happy or sad, but they go away before too long.

Sometimes we experience big feelings: These feel strong and overwhelming for a long time. They stop us doing what we want to in our lives.

Young Minds also has a parent helpline:

<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Christian Meditation

As you know the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) has worked to develop videos which provide short meditation sessions which children and young people can participate in, whether in school or at home. These sessions are inspired by meditation in the tradition of John Main OSB.

Full details are available here: <https://www.cathchilid.org.uk/meditation-with-children-young-people/>

Play Safe, a national safeguarding campaign (Football Association)

The Football Association and the NSPCC launched 'Play Safe', a national

campaign to focus attention on the vital importance of safeguarding in football. At the heart of the campaign are three short films to emphasise the importance of safeguarding for key groups of people, crucially children themselves.

One aspect of the campaign is prompting parents to ask questions:

- Do you know your child's club Welfare Officer?
- If so, do you have their tel no. in your 'phone, as well as that of the NSPCC?
- Are you up to speed with your child's club's safeguarding policies and procedures?
- Do you regularly check-in with your child to see what they are enjoying/not enjoying and why?

More information can be found here: <https://www.thefa.com/PlaySafe>

Talk PANTS resources for parents

From the NSPCC: We want all parents to talk PANTS. That's why we've created guides and resources to help them find the right words to talk to their children about staying safe.

> Find Talk PANTS resources for parents on the NSPCC website

Roblox Security Changes

The introduction of the Online Safety Bill earlier this year has brought welcome controls over what we and our children can access online. As internet speeds have increased and the digital world has expanded, the ability for anyone of any age to reach almost any content has grown at a pace far beyond our capacity to safeguard against it. The risks have become unmistakable.

Adults now face increasingly sophisticated attacks from hackers and scammers, while children remain acutely vulnerable to online predators.

Although some internet services initially resisted tighter regulation, the government's commitment to reducing online harms

has ultimately prevailed. For children, one of the most persistent avenues for predatory behaviour has been online video games. These are spaces where young users gather, communicate, and interact, often with limited verification or oversight.

Roblox, a platform widely associated with younger players, is now beginning to address this by introducing facial analysis age checks and optional ID verification for users over 13. These real-world verification measures are designed to confirm a user's age more accurately and to restrict interactions that could place children at risk. In practice, they signal an important shift in how major platforms are starting to manage online safety and respond to the expectations set out in the Bill.

You can read more about these checks on the SWGfL website:

<https://swgfl.org.uk/magazine/roblox-announces-facial-age-checks-for-chat-features/>

[Roblox Announces Facial Age Checks for Chat Features | SWGfL](#)

Some Christmas Resources:



[The God Who Speaks](#) - The Christmas Donkey

[The God Who Speaks](#) - At the Manger, Family Celebrations for the Eight Days of Christmas

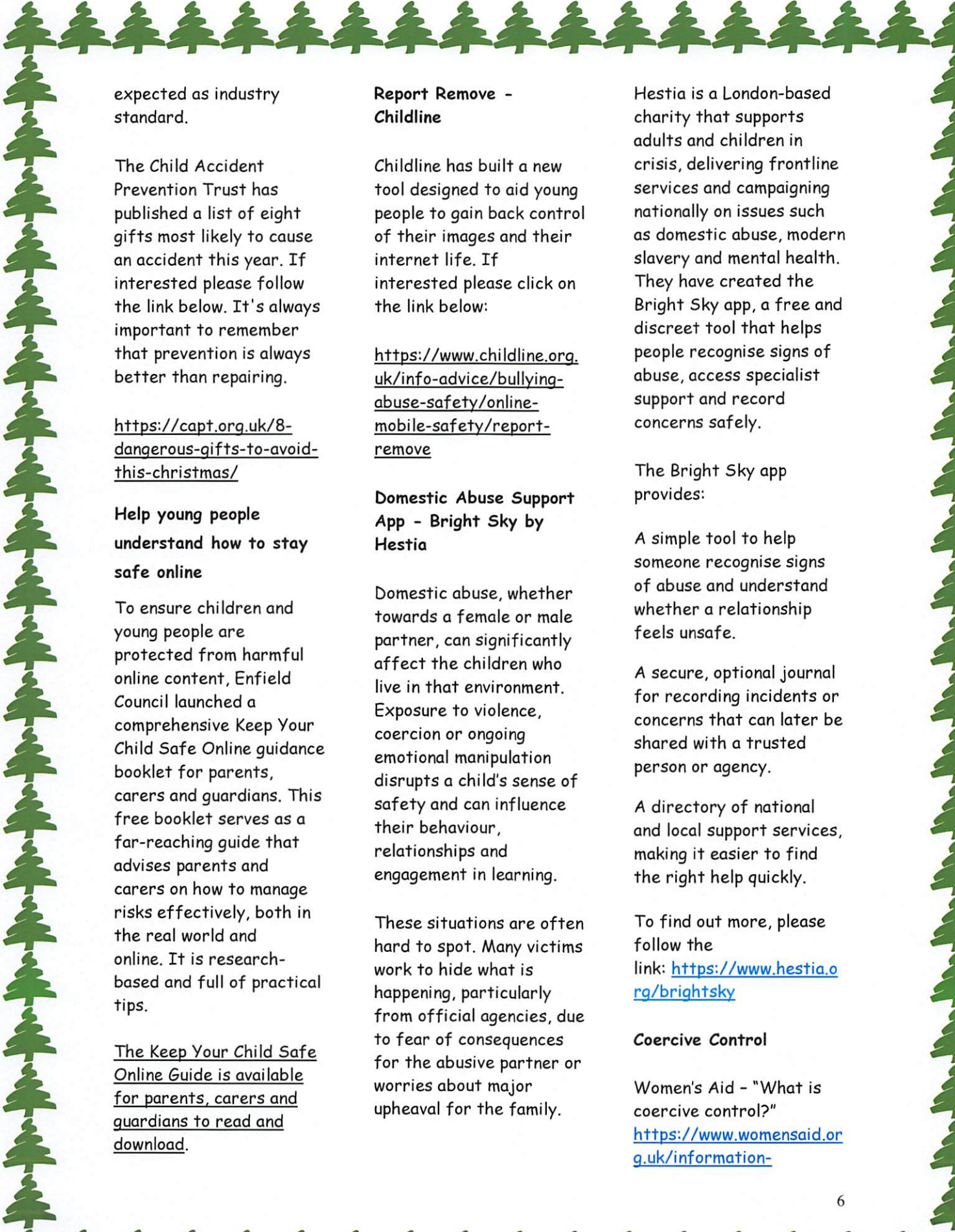
[The God Who Speaks](#) - Reflecting on Journeys in Luke's Infancy Narratives

[The God Who Speaks](#) - Christmas: The Lord Who Enters His Temple

[The God Who Speaks](#) - The Light Has Come: Christmas and Epiphany Through Art

A Note on Dangerous Gifts - Child Accident Prevention Trust

More than ever our Christmas shopping is done online from an increasingly varied list of providers. Production firms abroad or within a 'cottage industry' may not have the strict manufacturing standards applied in the UK, or



expected as industry standard.

The Child Accident Prevention Trust has published a list of eight gifts most likely to cause an accident this year. If interested please follow the link below. It's always important to remember that prevention is always better than repairing.

<https://capt.org.uk/8-dangerous-gifts-to-avoid-this-christmas/>

Help young people understand how to stay safe online

To ensure children and young people are protected from harmful online content, Enfield Council launched a comprehensive Keep Your Child Safe Online guidance booklet for parents, carers and guardians. This free booklet serves as a far-reaching guide that advises parents and carers on how to manage risks effectively, both in the real world and online. It is research-based and full of practical tips.

The Keep Your Child Safe Online Guide is available for parents, carers and guardians to read and download.

Report Remove - Childline

Childline has built a new tool designed to aid young people to gain back control of their images and their internet life. If interested please click on the link below:

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove>

Domestic Abuse Support App - Bright Sky by Hestia

Domestic abuse, whether towards a female or male partner, can significantly affect the children who live in that environment. Exposure to violence, coercion or ongoing emotional manipulation disrupts a child's sense of safety and can influence their behaviour, relationships and engagement in learning.

These situations are often hard to spot. Many victims work to hide what is happening, particularly from official agencies, due to fear of consequences for the abusive partner or worries about major upheaval for the family.

Hestia is a London-based charity that supports adults and children in crisis, delivering frontline services and campaigning nationally on issues such as domestic abuse, modern slavery and mental health. They have created the Bright Sky app, a free and discreet tool that helps people recognise signs of abuse, access specialist support and record concerns safely.

The Bright Sky app provides:

A simple tool to help someone recognise signs of abuse and understand whether a relationship feels unsafe.

A secure, optional journal for recording incidents or concerns that can later be shared with a trusted person or agency.

A directory of national and local support services, making it easier to find the right help quickly.

To find out more, please follow the link: <https://www.hestia.org/brightsky>

Coercive Control

Women's Aid - "What is coercive control?"
<https://www.womensaid.org.uk/information->

[support/what-is-domestic-abuse/coercive-control/](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2023/impact-coercive-control-children-young-people)

NSPCC Learning - Domestic Abuse
<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/research-resources/2023/impact-coercive-control-children-young-people>

Book Fair!

Thank you for supporting the Book Fair this term. The school was given £326.28 in rewards thanks to your spending on books for our children.



Holidays and Absences

I would urge you to try not to book holidays during term time as time away from school can unsettle children and affect their progress.

Any requests for time off (for special circumstances only please) must be put in writing to the Headteacher.

It is not school policy to provide homework for

time off which is taken during term time.

We are required to ask for a written note to explain any absence from school and to report all absences.

Please remember that your child's absence from school affects our total absence figures. It was 4.46% at the end of the last school year (5.2% nationally). Our attendance was 95.54%.

Our absence was 4.36% at the end of the first half of the autumn term (4.56% nationally). Our attendance was 95.64%.

Well done everyone for trying your best in these times which are still a bit more challenging for all families trying to cope with these coughs and colds which seem to be around at the moment.

Up to the 28th November 2025, the classes with the highest attendance over the term were:

1. Year 3, St. Bernadette - 98.2%
2. Year 6, St. Christopher - 98%
3. Reception, Hope - 97.9%

4. Year 6, St. Catherine - 97.4%
5. Year 4, St. Peter - 97.1%
6. Year 5, St. Anthony - 96.7%
7. Year 3, St. Cecilia - 96.6%
8. Year 5, St. Joseph - 95.7%
9. Reception, Grace - 95.5%
10. Year 2, Fatima - 94.4%

Please (unless of course your child is ill) ensure your child is in school each day.

The DfE's persistent absence threshold is 10% (from Autumn 2015!)

The DfE's guidance on the 2014/15 school census explains that from the 2015/2016 academic year onwards, a pupil will be considered to be persistently absent if he/she is away for over 10% of school sessions in an academic year.

Pages 72-73 of the DfE's guidance, linked to above, contains a table which

sets out the estimated thresholds that will be used to define persistently absent pupils.

	15 per cent	10 per cent
Half-term 1	10 or more sessions	7 or more sessions
Half term 1-2 (autumn term)	22 or more sessions	14 or more sessions
Half term 1-3	30 or more sessions	20 or more sessions
Half-term 1-4 (autumn term and spring term combined)	38 or more sessions	25 or more sessions
Half term 1-5	46 or more sessions	31 or more sessions
Half term 1-6 (full academic year)	56 or more sessions	38 or more sessions

Is my child too ill for school? - What does the NHS say?

Schools should continue maintaining high attendance expectations and refer parents to NHS [guidance](#) to know when a child is too ill for

school. Pupils should not miss school on a precautionary basis and can normally attend school with a cough or cold, unless they have a fever or diarrhoea and vomiting.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

Top tips on how to keep your child healthy at school

For many the school term will mean mixing with different groups of people, which is why the autumn term is also known for its colds and bugs.

While it's usually safe for parents and carers to [send their children to school with mild illnesses](#), like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat, there are steps you can take to ensure your child is better protected against illnesses, so they don't miss out on vital time in [school](#).

[Top tips on how to keep your child healthy at school – The Education Hub](#)

New Best Start in Life Campaign

Please see below DFE communications toolkit for the Best Start in Life

campaign which aims to increase awareness of the importance of early years in a child's development and.

The [Best Start in Life website](#) brings together trusted advice, support and guidance for parents.

[New Best Start in Life Campaign Communications Toolkit | Enfield Council](#)

[The Story of You: Best Start in Life](#) celebrates the journey of early childhood, highlighting to parents the vital role they play in their child's lives and the support available.

Spring Term Reminder!

Don't forget the pattern of the Easter holidays this year.

Half -term holiday = 16th - 20th February 2026.
INSET Day (no school for children) = 23rd February 2026.

Easter Holiday = 30th March - 10th April 2026.

Summer Term Reminder!

School opens for the summer term on Monday 13th April 2026.

Half -term holiday = 25th
May - 29th May 2026.

May Bank Holiday=
Monday 4th May 2026.

INSET Day (no school for
children) = 5th May 2026.

Last Day of the School
Year = 17th July 2026.

Handwashing Advice



We know that it is important that everyone continues to wash their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.

Guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/best-way-to-wash-your-hands/>



Children in Need

The day earned £231.59 for Children in Need. Well done everyone!

Home School Agreement

Thank you to the parents who have already returned their child's Home School Agreement. Remember if you haven't already done so to read, sign and return one of the copies as soon as possible (you should have received two copies - one is for you to keep at home).



Just One Tree Day!



£201.08 was donated. Thank you to everyone for supporting the day.



Play Equipment

Parents please support the school by not allowing your children (including toddlers) to play on the playground equipment at the end of the school day. This request is made purely for health and safety reasons.

Children are also asked not to cycle or use their scooters / bicycles / tricycles while on the playground after school.

As the area is very crowded it is easier and safer for all if children walk with their bikes or scooters until they leave the school premises.

Parents / childminders please keep your children with you once you have collected them from the classroom / teacher.

Thank you as always to the great number of parents who are very supportive of all school requests. We have only noticed a minority of pupils doing the wrong thing. With the support of their parents or child minders this will easily be sorted out.

Birthday Celebrations!



It is lovely that so many children now like to celebrate their birthdays by bringing in sweets for their classmates.

Please remember though parents that different parents have different rules about sweets and the kinds of sweets their children are allowed to eat.

If it is your child's birthday, and you do want to mark the day, please just send in one very small bar for each child. It is probably better to send a known brand of chocolate with which all parents are familiar rather than lots of very sugary sweets or party bags. *Lollipops and hard sweets, or anything containing nuts are not permitted for health and safety reasons.*

Also we are unable to cut up and distribute cakes or organise birthday parties during the school day. We are unable to take birthday photographs for you.

Remember you are not obliged to send in sweets at all.



Holidays

It's almost the end of term already! Time seems to have flown by again this year.

The last day of term is **Friday 19th December**. The school will close at 12.45pm on that day for the infants and at 1pm for the juniors. Please try very hard to pick children up promptly.

The school will open again for the new spring term on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

December Dates

Monday 1st December: School Mass in church for Years 2-6 at 9.30am for Blessing of Advent Wreath.

Tuesday 2nd December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Wednesday 3rd December: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (parents with babies and toddlers).

Thursday 4th December: Reception Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Friday 5th December: Year 1 Christmas Performance AM (adults).

Monday 8th December: The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - School Mass in church for Years 3-6.

Tuesday 9th December: Junior Carol Service in church, 5pm (for the Nightingale Hospice).

Wednesday 10th December: Flu Immunisations.

Thursday 11th December: Years 5 and 6 to Mass at 9.30am followed by Confessions.

Friday 12th December: Year 2 Carol Service for parents / relatives, 9.30am (for Nightingale Hospice).

Monday 15th December: Christmas Lunch.

Wednesday 17th December: Christmas Class Parties PM.

Friday 19th December: Last day of autumn term - School Mass (Mrs. Derwin's 21st anniversary Mass) in church for Years 2-6.

Early Closing (12.45 Infants and 1pm Juniors). Own Clothes' Day.

Monday 5th January 2026: Return to school for Spring Term.

On occasions it is necessary to change dates. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause.

Volunteers

A sincere thank you to all parents who have volunteered to help in classes this term. We

really value the time and support you give to children and staff.



Tissues

We have very few tissues and hundreds of runny noses! We are no longer able to afford to provide tissues for classrooms. Donations of boxes of tissues would be so very gratefully received.

If your child has a cold please try to send some tissues to school in his / her school bag.



Phone calls

Your child is welcome to phone home (in emergency only). We would welcome a voluntary contribution towards the cost of any phone calls your child makes

Parish Christmas Bazaar



Thank you parents and children for your **very generous** donations of bottles of wine, boxes of chocolates, biscuits and sweets, toys, books, tins, toiletries and a host of other items for the Parish Bazaar.

Your willingness to give and support our parish is wonderful. I know your donations made a difference to the success of this event and earned much needed funds for our church.

Best Wishes

Many thanks for all of your support both for me personally and for the members of our school staff throughout the term and always.

It is really appreciated by all at St. Mary's and I know contributes greatly to the happy atmosphere we are so fortunate to have in our school.

I would like to wish you all a happy, holy and restful Christmas when the time comes. Enjoy this special family time together.

I hope to see you all in January well rested and ready for a new year.
Mrs R. Martin
Interim Headteacher

A Prayer for Christmas

What shall I bring Him,
Poor as I am.
If I were a shepherd I
would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man I
would do my part.
What can I give Him.
Give Him my heart.



These are the prayers we say each day with the children. You might like to say these prayers with your child during the holidays. It's good practice to have a little quiet prayer time each day. I know many of you already encourage your child to pray at home.

Morning Offering

O My God, you love me,
You are with me night and day.
I want to love you always
in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you
Father.
Bless me through the day.
Amen



Night Prayer

God our Father, I come to say,
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family,
And all the things you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night.
And in the morning send your light. Amen.

Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord as we sit together,
Bless the food we eat today.
Bless the hands that make the food.
Bless us O Lord. Amen.



Grace After Meals

Thank you God, for the food we have eaten,
Thank you God for all our friends.
Thank you God for everything,
Thank you God. Amen.

POWER
of
PRAYER

The Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.



The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.



Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in

the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



ADMISSIONS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

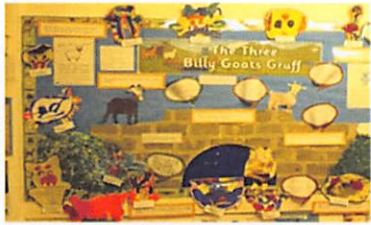
Due to the fact that there are now fewer pupils in London (there is a continued decrease in the population of children) and the issues with finding affordable housing we currently have places in our Nursery and in some of our year groups.

Thank you parents for recommending our school and helping to build up our pupil numbers. Please continue to do this.

Music Lessons

Parents are now able to renew and book music lessons and activities for Spring 2026 from the Music Store.

<https://traded.enfield.gov.uk/musicstore>



Free wellbeing classes launch in Edmonton Green

A local martial arts group is launching fully funded wellbeing classes in Edmonton Green, supported by Sport England, starting this week. These free sessions with Shaolin Temple Martial Arts and Cultural Centre are designed to help residents improve physical health, boost mental wellbeing and connect with the local community. Activities include Tai Chi, ladies-only martial arts and Kung Fu or Kickboxing. Enjoy expert instruction, build confidence, strength and mobility in a welcoming

environment. Spaces are limited; [please register in advance at the Shaolin Temple website.](#)

Looking after yourself this Christmas

Christmas is fast approaching and, as always, there is a lot of preparation work to do. But to avoid being overwhelmed, it's important to take a step back to avoid burnout and think about your mental wellbeing. Mental health charity Mind has provided some top tips to help you navigate your way through the festive season. Christmas is different for everyone, so it's a good idea to take regular breaks from planning when you need to recharge. [Read the advice for tips on having a happy and healthy Christmas here.](#) You will also find tips on how to get support or talk to people if you're struggling.

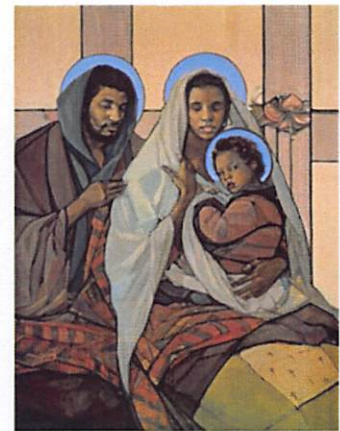
[Tips for everyday living | Christmas coping tips | Mind](#)

Help to get kids moving more, every day

Kids need 60 minutes of physical activity each day, with at least 30 minutes

of that outside of school. We know it's hard to feel motivated when the weather is cold but there are lots of things that you can do to get the family moving - and you don't need to buy expensive equipment or find lots of extra time to make a difference.

Need some inspiration? The NHS Better Health website has activity ideas for indoors and outdoors. To get you started, why not look at [Joe Wicks' - also known as The Body Coach - top five tips for getting kids moving.](#) [Activities for kids - Healthier Families - NHS](#)







Online Safety Newsletter

December 2025

AI Chatbots and companions

A simple search of "AI Chat" within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available, many are rated as 18+ so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them. Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are Character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

What are the risks?

- Over reliance on AI companions, for example they may replace 'real life' friendships or over reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further information

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

New Technology

As some children may be receiving new technology or related games at Christmas, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.



Games/Consoles

- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of any new games. *Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.*
- If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child.
- On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for popular devices here:

Xbox: <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>

PS5: <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>

Nintendo Switch: <https://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-2-Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-2873385.html>

Tablets/Smart phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPad: <https://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android Device: <https://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Further information

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

The Safety-First Smartphone

The Other phone is a new smartphone, which includes "SafetyMode" software. The software automatically blocks nudity, profanity, and bullying language in real time. You can find out more here: <https://otherphone.co.uk/>.

Smart Phone Free Childhood also list some alternatives that you could consider here: <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>.

Please note, that the inclusion of these models does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation. While these devices may provide a 'safer' alternative to traditional smartphones, there are still potential risks associated with children using any type of phone.

Roblox

Following a recent ITV investigation*, which found extremist content on Roblox, we thought we would provide a reminder of what you need to be aware of. Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user generated, which means not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls. **PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is considered a platform with a huge level of user generated content.**

What should I be aware of?

Game content – as mentioned, users create games so the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child. Roblox label content based on the type of content rather than by age. The labels are Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted.

Chat Facility - Players can chat with each other (users under the age of 13 need parent permission to access certain chat features though). You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only able to communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Robux (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories.

How do I report abuse and block users?

This article outlines the different reporting facilities:

<https://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410-How-to-Report-Rule-Violations>

What else can I do?

Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and remind your child that if anything is worrying them, then they should talk to you or another trusted adult.

Further information

<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/roblox>

[*Source: <https://www.itv.com/news/2025-11-14/mosque-attacks-and-far-right-skins-roblox-teens-exposed-to-extremist-content>]

Signal Private Messenger

Signal is rated as 13+ on the App store. It is a messaging app, where users can text, send voice messages and photos plus participate in group chats and calls. There are no parental controls currently available. As with all messaging apps, the risks can include bullying and viewing inappropriate content. Find out more here: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

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Discord

Discord is a social networking app originally designed for gamers but is now used by lots of different people to **chat to each other online**. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. The App store rates it as 17+.

Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server, and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups. Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat whilst playing the game (**rather than using the game's own chat facility**). In-app purchases are available through Discord's subscription service called Nitro.

How can I make it safer?

Discord have created a Family Centre, which provides further information about what Discord is, as well as information about different safety settings available:

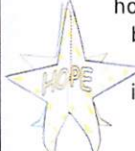
<https://discord.com/safety-family-center>

As always, we would encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use Discord and ensure that they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It is important to be aware that Discord does include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. **Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord as well as inappropriate language.** Discord have produced this article, which answers frequent questions:

<https://discord.com/safety/360044149591-answering-parents-and-educators-top-questions>

Would you like to read this newsletter in a different language? You can use the translate tool on our web version: <https://www.knowsleyclcs.org.uk/deceember-2025-primary/>

Mission Together Advent Calendar 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday of Advent Today's reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of a time when people will hammer swords and spears into what? + Isaiah 2:1-5  30	An Advent wreath's circular shape and evergreen leaves are signs of God's unending love. What might the candles be a sign of?  1	Advent is a waiting time. Waiting for good things isn't easy, but prayer helps. Today, ask God to help you wait patiently for Christmas Day.  2	Listen to our Advent carol <i>We are Waiting</i> .* Try learning the carol, as a way to help you get ready for Jesus!  3	GLOBAL FAMILY FACT: During Advent in the Philippines, homes are decorated with paper lanterns called Paroles. They are to light the way for Jesus.*  4	Make a Mission Together <i>Star of Hope</i> today, and think about how you can bring hope to others in Advent.*  5	Write an Advent prayer or poem. Try to include the words: <i>Advent, hope, wait, light, God, Jesus, love.</i>  6
2nd Sunday of Advent Today's reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of God's kingdom. How does the prophet describe God's peaceful kingdom? + Isaiah 11:1-10  7	In this 2 nd week of Advent we think about peace. Today spend a moment remembering children who live in war zones. Ask God to keep them in His care.  8	One way we prepare for Jesus is by being peacemakers. Make a Mission Together <i>Peace Paper-chain</i> . On each link write ways you can build peace.*  9	Listen carefully to the carol <i>Silent Night</i> . This peaceful carol once stopped soldiers fighting. Try singing along, too.*  10	Make peace today. Say sorry to someone you may have upset this week; or forgive someone who has upset you.  11	GLOBAL FAMILY FACT: Tomorrow is the feast of St Lucy. In Denmark, children join candle-lit processions to honour St Lucy, and as a sign of the light that Jesus brings.*  12	Today, find somewhere peaceful to sit and thank God for the people who love and care for you.  13
3rd Sunday of Advent Today's reading from Isaiah speaks of the joy that God's love brings. How can you share that joy today? + Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10  14	Yesterday was <i>Gaudete</i> Sunday. <i>Gaudete</i> means rejoice! The pink candle lit on the Advent wreath is also a sign of joy. Why is there a growing sense of joy?  15	GLOBAL FAMILY FACT: Mauke is an island in Oceania. As Christmas nears, Christians there share the joy of Jesus' birth by giving food hampers to strangers.*  16	Today, make a Mission Together <i>Joyful Paper Angel</i> and think about how you can share the joy of Jesus' birth with others.*  17	Joy is easy to pass on! Look out for people who are lonely today and invite them to play.  18	Singing helps us to feel joyful – especially when we sing with others. Try singing the carol <i>Joy to the World</i> today.*  19	Today, say a prayer for children who are sad or lonely. Ask God to help you share His joy with them.  20
4th Sunday of Advent In today's reading from the Gospel of St Matthew, what does God's angel say to Joseph? + Matthew 1:18-24  21	Christmas is a time for welcoming visitors – Jesus himself is coming! Today, ask your parents if you can help them get things ready for Christmas Day.  22	Around the world, billions of people are preparing for the birth of Jesus. Today, say the <i>Our Father</i> for those in our global family who need God's help today.  23	GLOBAL FAMILY FACT: In DR Congo (Africa), people of all ages will take part in big nativity plays this evening. Can you share the Christmas story with someone today, too?*  24	Rejoice! Jesus is born! Remember to thank God, and your family, for all the gifts their love brings.  25	Cross symbol + refers to scriptures found in our <i>Advent Celebrations of the Word</i> . Asterisks * refer to assemblies, craft activities, and sing-along carols. Download all for free at MissionTogether.org.uk  Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission. Registered Charity No. 1056651 	

Want to get some new ideas to help
you be the best parent you can be?
Enhance your relationship with your children?
Learning at a time that suits you?



6 online
sessions



6 group
discussions



Certificate on
completion

What to expect...

- Information on strategies and child development.
- Hear from other parents.
- Worksheets and hand-outs.
- Videos, quizzes and fun activities.
- Do sessions at a time that works for you.
- Expert help from a real person each week.
- Choose a course that suits your child's age.

Topics covered...

- Healthy relationships.
- Understanding and managing behaviour.
- Enhancing children's self-esteem.
- Emotions and empathy.
- What to expect for the age of your child.
- Being part of a community.

Group discussion...

1. Speak to a course expert and get answers to any questions you might have.
2. Talk about how the strategies are going at home and how to adjust them for you.
3. Address other difficulties relating to parenting.
4. Hear from others about what works for them.



Keep Your Child Safe Online



TALK

Talk to your child about their internet use and safety

Have meaningful conversations about how they use the internet

Praise your child for safe online behaviours

Welcome your child if they want to ask you a question or tell you about a problem, even if they've done something unwise themselves



EDUCATE

Learn as much as you can about games, platforms, parental controls and the benefits and risks of online activity

Teach your child about specific issues and concerns

Teach your child about safe and unsafe relationships and how to repair friendships following disagreements online

CO-VIEW

Co-view your child's online activity at least 1x/week

Interact with your child online

Model appropriate online behaviour

Co-operate with each other to promote the well-being of all



HOUSE RULES

Set clear routines, rules and boundaries ("house rules")

Keep to age ratings and guidance for apps, games and devices

Restrict online activity to daytime and communal areas

Use filters and parental controls

Spend regular screen-free time with your child

AGE 11+

for a basic phone or highly restricted smart phone without internet access or social media

AGE 14+

for a smart phone with parental controls

*Agree a contract with your child to encourage responsible phone use



Where can I use it?

- Full day care (e.g. nurseries)
- Schools
- Childminders
- Sessional providers (e.g. playgroups)

What isn't covered?

The funded hours of childcare/early education is not intended to cover the costs of meals, other consumables (such as nappies or sun cream), additional hours or activities (such as trips). Providers may charge a fee for these additions.

Even more support for working parents

Tax-free Childcare: eligible working parents can receive Tax-Free Childcare for their child until 1st September after their 11th birthday, or until 1st September after their 16th birthday if they are disabled. Up to £2,000 per child each year towards childcare costs, or up to £4,000 for children with a disability.

Universal Credit Childcare: eligible working parents in the UK can claim back up to 85% of their childcare costs for children aged 0-16. Plus, parents may also be eligible to access an initial up-front childcare cost payment, helping those who are starting a job or increasing work hours.

Government help with paying for your childcare is available through Best start in life. Whether you have toddlers or teens you could get support. Visit www.beststartinlife.gov.uk to find out more.



Get help finding childcare

To get help finding childcare, please visit our **Family Information Directory** on our website. The directory can help you find childcare for your child based on your postcode and the range of distance that you specify. You can create a list of your chosen providers to compare or print them out.



SCAN ME

Visit our website
www.enfield.gov.uk/if
Scan the QR code
Find out more call

0800 694 1066

Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm

Email: if@enfield.gov.uk



FAMILIES FIRST
QUALITY AWARD
ACCREDITED



Funded early education and childcare



Enfield Council Informed Families
InformedFamiliesEnfield
if@enfield.gov.uk
www.enfield.gov.uk/if



Terrific Twos

For families in receipt of certain benefits

The Terrific Two funding is up to 570 hours of Funded Early Education and Childcare per year for your child. This equates to 15 hours per week for 38 weeks a year, during term time. Your provider may agree to 'stretch' your entitlement by using fewer hours over more than 38 weeks per year. Check with your childcare provider to find out if this is something they offer.

If you are eligible your child can access Funded Early Education and Childcare with any nursery, preschool, child-minder or school nursery that is registered to offer funded places. Funding commences the term after your child turns 2 years old.

How to apply

To apply, visit the informed families website at <https://www.enfield.gov.uk/if> or text the word **TERRIFIC** to 81025 - We will send you a text back asking for all the information you will need for the application to be processed. Please only apply to Enfield if you live in the London Borough of Enfield.

Important: Only apply the term before your child turns 2, using the table below as a guide:

Period child reaches eligible age	When to apply	Apply by:
1 Jan to 31 Mar	Apply from the September before to be eligible from the following April	31 Mar
1 Apr to 31 Aug	Apply from the January before to be eligible from the following September	31 Aug
1 Sept to 31 Dec	Apply from the April before to be eligible from the following January	31 Dec

Eligibility criteria

Your 2-year-old will be eligible for Terrific Twos funded early education and childcare if you live in England and receive one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit

2-year-olds can also get funded early education and childcare through the Terrific Twos scheme, if they:

- are looked after by a local authority
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- get Disability Living Allowance
- have left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangements order

If you're a non-UK citizen who cannot claim benefits and your immigration status says you have 'no recourse to public funds', you may still get funded childcare for your 2 year old. You must live in England and your household income must be no more than:

- £26,500 for families outside of London with 1 child
- £34,500 for families within London with 1 child
- £30,600 for families outside of London with 2 or more children
- £38,600 for families within London with 2 or more children

You cannot have more than £16,000 in savings or investments.

With Terrific Twos you may have to pay for extra costs like meals, nappies, additional hours or activities such as trips.

See table on page 1 for when to apply



3 and 4 year olds

- 15 hours funded childcare for **all** families living in England with 3 and 4 year olds for 38 weeks of the year (up to 570 funded hours per year).

terrific Twos

- 15 hours funded childcare for parents in receipt of certain benefits for 38 weeks (up to 570 hours per year).
- From 1 January, 1 April or 1 September following your child's 2nd birthday.

9 months - 4 years

- Up to 30 hours funded childcare for 38 weeks per year (up to 1,140 hours) for children from 9 months until they reach school age, for eligible **working parents** living in England.
- From 1 January, 1 April or 1 September following your child reaching 9 months old. (Eligibility criteria below)

Eligibility criteria

- Each parent earning at least the equivalent of 16 hours/week at national minimum wage but under £100,000 adjusted net income/year.
 - Up to 30 hours of early education or childcare for 38 weeks (up to 1,140 hours per year), that you can use flexibly with one or more providers.
 - Some providers will allow you to 'stretch' the hours over 52 weeks, using fewer hours.
- You can apply for your code up to 16 weeks before your baby turns 9 months old. See table on page 1 for when to apply by.**

How to apply

Visit the www.beststartinlife.gov.uk website to find out more



Toy safety

"I would hate for any other child to go through what Becca suffered because of buying dangerous toys via online marketplaces."

Mum of two-year-old Becca who swallowed magnets from a toy

Toys from reputable brands are made to be safe. But if they've come from an unknown seller on an online marketplace, a market or small discount store, they could be dangerous.

Buying safely

- 👉 Buy toys from brand names you know. If you've never heard of the seller or the brand and price is really tempting, it could be dangerous
- 👉 Watch out for cheap copies of popular toys. They may not be made to UK safety standards.
- 👉 Check if the toy has been removed from sale because it's unsafe. Visit gov.uk and search 'product recalls'
- 👉 If you buy something that looks unsafe, trust your instincts and send it back.

Under 3s most at risk

Babies and toddlers are curious and naturally put everything in their mouths. So dangerous toys can pose the biggest risk to small children. Be especially careful when buying for under 3s.

Watch out for missing or contradictory age warnings. If a toy is pictured with a toddler but marketed as unsuitable for young children, pick something else.

Which toys are most dangerous?

- 👉 Toys with:
 - accessible button batteries that can burn through your child's food pipe
 - super strong magnets that can rip through your child's belly
 - long cords that can strangle your child
 - small parts that can choke your small child
- 👉 Water beads that can block your child's bowel if swallowed
- 👉 Electrical toys with exposed wires or chargers that can catch fire.



Checking toys

If you're unsure about the safety of a toy, here are some checks you can do:

- 👉 Check battery compartments for accessible button batteries or loose spares in the box
- 👉 Check for any loose small magnets
- 👉 Give the parts on the toy a quick tug and check for small parts that come off
- 👉 Look for long cords or access to stuffing
- 👉 Check if there are any age restrictions or safety warnings on the product.

Report dangerous toys

If you spot or buy a toy you're concerned about:

- 👉 Citizens Advice consumer helpline: 0808 223 1133
- 👉 Citizens Advice consumer helpline (Welsh-speaking adviser): 0808 223 1144
- 👉 Advice Direct Scotland helpline: 0808 164 6000
- 👉 Northern Ireland Consumerline: 0300 123 6262