

[Mrs Bennett's Blog](#)

[Thursday 29th November 2018](#)

Hi Everyone,

It's official! Christmas has arrived at Crossflatts Primary School! The Christmas trees are here, the stage is out and the rehearsals for our nativities are well underway!



Christmas at Crossflatts:



The next two and a half weeks are very busy in school with the following exciting events taking place:

Monday 10th December:

Reception Nativity 1.30pm

Tuesday 11th December:

Reception Nativity 9.30am

Year 4 Christmas Gathering 2pm

Wednesday 12th December:

Key Stage 1 Performance 9.30am

Thursday 13th December:

Key Stage 1 Performance 9.30am and 1.30pm

Friday 14th December:

We will be inviting everyone to come to school in their Christmas jumpers,



enjoying our Christmas Dinner, Christmas Sparkle will be during the afternoon from 1.30pm and then the PTA annual Christmas fair will take place from 3pm.

Monday 17th of December

The children will take part in our annual Christingle Service at St Luke's church in East Morton. There will be two services in order to accommodate all of our children across the morning. The children will walk to and from church and no permission slip is required as this is a local visit. Your child is invited to bring a Christingle with them to take with them to church. We will return to school in time for normal lunch arrangements. If you require any help with making the Christingle, there are instructions on our school website.

Year 3 Christmas Gathering- 2pm

Tuesday 18th of December

Year 3 Christmas Gathering-9.30am



Christmas Parties

On the children's party days, the children are welcome to come to school in their party clothes and bring a voluntary contribution of £1.00 towards some party treats. Lunch time arrangements will be as normal. If your child has any dietary requirements, which we are unaware of please speak to your child's class teacher.



Monday 17th December:

Reception

Tuesday 18th December:

Years 1 & 2

Years 5 & 6

Wednesday 19th December:

Years 3 & 4

Safeguarding

Have you finished your Christmas shopping yet? This Christmas there will be more tech toys than ever before, and many of them will use bluetooth or wifi to link to apps and the wider internet. Some of these toys will have cameras and microphones recording the environment and the child's play. The Information Commissioner recently published an article looking at the risks of using smart toys and it is well-worth just having a quick read.

1. Research the security of a product before buying

Doing your homework before buying a connected device should allow you to recognise those with poor security. Research online reviews and manufacturers' websites for information on privacy notices and policies. You should also look to see how a product will be updated in the future if a security issue is identified.

2. Take care when shopping online

At this time of year, when online shopping is nearing its peak, scammers may be more likely to try to access your personal information such as bank account or credit card details. Only use secure sites when shopping online – secure sites usually carry the padlock symbol. [Get Safe Online](#) has advice on how to protect yourself.

3. Take your time

Don't wait until Christmas Day, when excited children will want to just turn on a new toy or device and skip as much of the set-up process as they can. Take the time beforehand to read the manual and familiarise yourself with the security and privacy options available to you.

4. Change passwords and usernames from default

Default passwords and usernames for many devices are freely available on the web. You should always change the defaults immediately and choose a [suitably strong password](#). Use a different password for each account and device. If a device doesn't allow you to change the default password, you should strongly consider whether it is worth keeping it.

5. Is your router secure?

Your router is the first line of defence on the perimeter of your home network. If you have devices connected to your network, the default settings of your router might be exposing them to the internet and therefore everyone else. Create a strong password and look out for and install security updates.

6. If there's a two-step identification option – use it

Two-factor authentication offers you an additional layer of security when logging in to an online service. While few devices will offer this capability, the website you use to view its data might.

7. Be camera aware – you never know who's watching

Some toys and devices are fitted with web cameras. The ability to view footage remotely is both their biggest selling point and, if not set up correctly, potentially their biggest weakness, as the baby monitor hacking issue of a few years ago demonstrated. If you have no intention of viewing footage over the internet, then turn the remote viewing option off in the device's settings, or else use strong, non-default passwords.

8. Location, location, location

One of the main selling points of children's smart watches is the ability for parents to know where their children are at all times. However, if this isn't done securely, then others might have access to this data as well. Immediately get rid of default location tracking and GPS settings and set strong, unique passwords.

9. Bluetooth ache

It is not just potentially insecure web connections that can put children's online safety at risk. Some toys and devices have been found to have unencrypted WiFi connections or unsecured Bluetooth connections which can be easily accessed by strangers. If there is no option to secure these in the device's settings, consider whether using the device is worth the risk. If there is an option to protect them with either a password or a PIN ensure you choose a strong one.

10. Children have information rights too

Have age-appropriate conversations with children about their online safety, and model the correct way to do this. Children's information and privacy rights are a key area of concern for the ICO. We are funding [independent research](#) into this area, are active members of the [UK Council for Child Internet Safety](#) and new legislation coming next year will also strengthen children's legal rights.

11. If in doubt, don't splash out

If you aren't convinced a smart toy or connected device will keep your children's personal information safe, then don't buy it. If consumers reject products that don't protect them, then developers and retailers should soon get the message. If you've purchased a device that you've since discovered is insecure, complain to the manufacturer or retailer and see if you can return it.

Attendance

Here are last week's figures:

Our Aspirational Target	The national target	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
98%	96.1%	98.4%	96.1%	97.3%	97%	96.7%	97.6%	98.9%

There were 5 children late for school last week. (Before registration closed at 9am) and 11 children later than 9am

Best Wishes

Mrs Bennett

Headteacher

