

## Newsletter 4

Our new website is now live, find us at <https://stmerryn.eschools.co.uk>  
. There will now be regular updates on our Facebook page and on twitter.



**Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



### **The Little Princess Trust**

The collections for the Little Princess Trust raised £410 - an amazing amount of money - well done to Rihanna for inspiring us to select this charity.

### **Christmas play**

We raised a whopping £2100 from the Christmas plays this year, which will all go towards curriculum resources for the children.



Please come along at 3.10pm on Tuesday for our Christmas Fair. We have made some lovely things and there will be mince pies, mulled wine, tea and coffee plus a raffle and a chocolate tombola.



### **Christmas lunch and parties**

The Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday and all children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers again. The parties will take place on Thursday and party food will be served for lunch. Party clothes may be worn for the day. Lunches will cost the usual £2.30 per day and can be ordered in class.



### **Christmas Carol Concert**

Our Christmas Carol concert will take place at 2.15pm this Friday, the 20<sup>th</sup> December, at the church. Please ensure all children are in full school uniform and are collected from the church at 3pm. We will be needing walkers, but please talk to your class teacher if you are able to help so that we can reserve seats for you.  
We would be grateful if Nursery children could meet us at the church.

### **FOSMS**

Thank you to FOSMS for all their support this term. The Nursery loved their trip to Santa's Grotto and the pantomime was fantastic!



## E-safety advice ahead of Christmas from CEOP

*Some children and families will be lucky enough to have some new tech this Christmas. The following advice from the Child Exploitation and Online Safety group should help us all stay safe....*

### **What are the risks associated with the Internet of Things?**

Although connected devices and toys provide children with opportunities for learning and interactive play, there are risks associated with the Internet of Things. For example:

- Concerns have been raised about whether these devices are collecting **too much personal information** from children.
- Some children (either accidentally or on purpose) are able to search for and access **age-inappropriate material** via a connected device such as a smart speaker.
- Children may make **'in-app purchases'** and spend money, which is often taken from their parents' bank account without their knowledge or consent.
- Some of these devices may be more vulnerable to hacking and monitoring, as there are currently no security standards in place for connected devices.

### **What is the Internet of Toys?**

The Internet of Toys are toys that connect to the internet.

Similar to the Internet of Things, these toys can be controlled using a smartphone app, voice commands or using a Bluetooth connection.

Connected toys are different from other toys because they collect, use, and share data via the internet. Examples of the Internet of Toys include:

- Connected action figures and dolls,
- robotic toys such as drones,
- and learning development toys that aim to teach children a new skill.

Luckily, there are things you can do to minimise these risks.

### **How can I make my connected home more secure?**

## **There things you can do to help make your connected home safer for your child:**

**1. Do your research:** Research different products online and read reviews. This is a great way to find out more about a product including age restrictions and credibility, as well as hearing directly from other parents.

**2. Read the manual:** Read the manual provided by the manufacturers. Information should be given about the privacy of the device, how it connects to the internet, and information about any app which may need to be downloaded in order to use the device.

**3. Set up parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website, or by reading the Thinkuknow article about [parental controls](#).

**4. Use safe search:** Enable the 'SafeSearch' function on your connected device and web search engines. This will allow you to limit the material your child can see when online. It is important to understand that no parental control or 'SafeSearch' function is 100% effective. This cannot be used alone to protect your child from accessing age-inappropriate material.

**5. Change the default password:** When you buy a connected device or toy, change the default password. Use a strong password that cannot easily be guessed and do not share this with others.

**6. Set your Bluetooth to 'undiscoverable':** Many connected devices are Bluetooth enabled. This means they are able to connect to nearby devices without having to connect to the internet. If the device has Bluetooth, set this to 'undiscoverable' so your child doesn't share data or pair with an unknown device.

**7. Review and/or delete audio files:** Some connected devices or toys work by listening to your child's voice commands, so these devices usually record and keep these audio files to work properly. Refer to the manual and find out how to review and/or delete audio files. If there's a microphone on your child's connected device, you can turn on the 'mute' button. This will stop the device from recording and storing audio files.

**8. Talk to your child:** Include connected devices in your online safety conversations, reinforcing the message that if your child sees or hears anything that makes them feel worried, they can speak to you or another adult they trust. Read further information on [starting the conversation about online safety](#).

**9. Supervise your child:** If your child is primary school aged, supervise them when they are online or using a connected device. You should keep the connected devices your child uses in communal areas of the home such as in the kitchen or living room.

For help setting up parental controls or reviewing the privacy settings of a connected device or toy, you can get advice by calling the NSPCC/O2 Helpline on

08088005002.

**Dates for the diary**  
**December**

Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Fair @ 3.10pm
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas lunch
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas parties
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Carol service @ the Church 2.15pm (Collection from the church please)

**First day back after Christmas is Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January!**

**Autumn term 2019 (73 days)**

4 September - 20 December  
(Half term 21-25 October)

**Spring term 2020 (55 days)**

6 January - 27 March  
(Half term 17-21 February)

**Summer term 2020 (67 days)**

14 April - 23 July  
(Half term 25-29 May)

**INSET Days 19/20**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July