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Newsletter week beginning 9th January 2023

DIARY DATES

Dear families,

Happy New Year to you all. It feels like a distant memory now but I hope you all had a restful festive period. It is lovely to see all the children back and hearing tales of their fantastic experiences and presents and meals over the holiday!

Independence:

It is really important to us that your child is as independent as possible. You can help us by ensuring they can cut up their own food with a knife and fork and they can dress and undress themselves. If your child cannot yet tie their own shoelaces, please provide them with Velcro or zipped shoes so they can take them off and put them on by themselves!

We need your help!

As the world recovers from the impact of lockdowns, we are trying to regain what we once were as schools with before and after school clubs and visits and visitors.

If you have any skills you could offer or suggestions of clubs or people you may know who could work with us, please let us know!

As you know, I am new to the area so I don't have the contacts many of you do have. I know that between us, we will be able to start developing a great offer for your wonderful children though.

You can either find me or one of the senior team on the gate in the morning or afternoon or email either office@ with any suggestions and comments.

Have a lovely weekend,

Victoria McConnell

Social media:

Facebook: North Elmham Primary School and All Saints Primary School & Nursery, Stibbard.

Twitter: @NorthElmhamSch and @allsaints_prim

Spring Term:

Half term: 13th – 17th February

Parent teacher meetings – week beginning 13th March

Last day of Spring Term: Friday 31st March

First day of Summer term: Tuesday 18th April



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Online Safety

Child Safety and the Metaverse

Christmas has now come to a close and a new year has begun. As pupils and staff return to school, the annual playground inquisition will begin. Among their peer group, young people will begin to discuss what they got for Christmas. For many the answer will almost certainly be 'a Fortnite battle pass, a new PC, a PlayStation 5 etc'. All devices, which allow both unfettered access to the internet and expose children to voice chat, text chat and photo sharing with complete strangers. This year presents an acceleration of vulnerability window as, VR headsets, connected to Facebook's Metaverse have been released onto the marketplace. The Metaverse seeks to link users to the internet as a Virtual Entity through the use of Virtual Reality Headsets. This amplifies the danger children are exposed to online. Over the coming months it will be vital for DSL's to understand these Christmas gifts and the issues linked to them. To help you understand this new, fast changing issue the NSPCC has published a guide to both the Metaverse and VR headsets. To find out more please follow the link:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/about-us/news-opinion/2022/christmas-vr-safety-advice-for-parents-metaverse/>

Understanding the Playground - Fortnite

Since its release 2017, the battle-royale simulator – Fortnite, has become ubiquitous in classrooms and playgrounds throughout the world. The game, which features cartoonish renderings of characters, bright colours and non-visceral consequence free violence, has had a mass appeal to children. Each Christmas another draft of young pupils are induced into its overcrowded multi-player lobbies, to the point that there is not a school pupil in the country who hasn't owned it, begged their parents for it or played it round a friend's house. As a result, more children than ever are exposed to multi-player chatting with strangers and financial exploitation via the game's spend-to-gain-advantage operating style. Allowing children to use real world money to gain perks and costumes. From criminal blackmailing, to the coercion of nude exchanges by online 'friends' posing as children, the danger this game presents from a safeguarding perspective is clear. As an added complication, the



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verbiage surrounding the game used by pupils is near-incomprehensible, frustrating adepts to secure their safety. Fortunately, to allow for greater comprehension of reports to staff involving the game, Internetmatters.org has published a guide to understanding the game and its terms. You can find the link below:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/guidance/fortnite-battle-royal-parents-guide-keep-kids-safe-gaming>