



January Newsletter



Happy New Year, Everyone!

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and that the children enjoyed the books Father Christmas delivered at school. We're excited about the year ahead and have lots of fantastic learning planned for this term!

This term the topic for our youngest children in Butterfly and Bumblebee is 'Dinosaurs'. Rabbit, Hedgehog and Squirrel classes are enjoying their 'Space' topic. Fox, Badger and Otter classes are learning about 'Inspiring Individuals' and our oldest pupils in Kestrel, Buzzard and Kingfisher are studying the Vikings.





TEAM GREEN

Please see the lovely email below from the Town Council, recognising the outstanding community contributions made by some of our pupils. I have shared this with all pupils and celebrated their achievements in our celebration assembly. Each child received a special Headteachers Award Sticker - we are so proud of them!

'Good Morning,

I am writing on behalf of Ludgershall Town Council to recognise the outstanding community contribution made by pupils from Ludgershall Castle Primary School who are members of a local group known as Team Green.

The pupils we wish to commend are:
James, Harry, George, Aubrey, and Freya.

These young people have shown exceptional initiative by voluntarily litter picking throughout Ludgershall, giving their own time to help improve and care for their local environment. Their commitment, teamwork, and positive attitude reflect extremely well on themselves and on Ludgershall Castle School.

As a mark of appreciation, the Mayor of Ludgershall Joyce Bowyer invited Team Green to the council offices, where they were presented with certificates and a small token of thanks in recognition of their efforts.

We are proud to acknowledge these pupils as excellent role models who demonstrate the positive impact young people can have within their community. Their actions are a credit to the values encouraged by your school.

Please pass on our sincere thanks once again and congratulations to the pupils involved & their parents.

Yours sincerely,

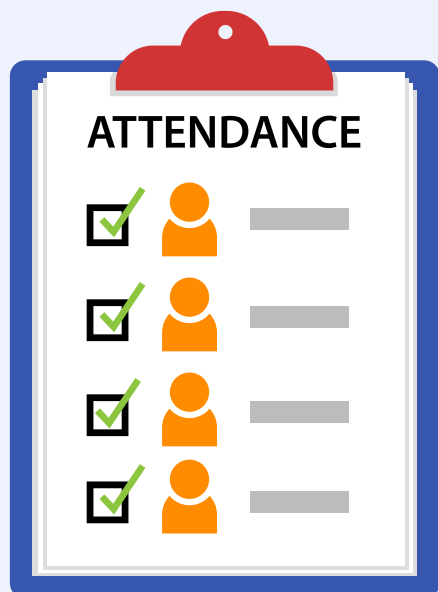
Chelsea'

Attendance:

Thank you to all families who have supported our drive to ensure every child attends school every day wherever possible. We understand that illnesses happen, but please remember:

NO HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME!

Most families are brilliant at arriving on time (between 8:35 and 8:45am), but if you sometimes arrive after 8:45am, please make it your New Year's resolution to ensure your child is on time every day. Please note: you are responsible for your child before 8:35am, so avoid arriving earlier than this. Thank you!



Child Protection

Our school is fully committed to safeguarding the health and wellbeing of all pupils. If staff notice any signs that a child may have experienced abuse or could be at risk, they will follow the procedures and guidelines provided by Wiltshire Council.

Please note: taking such action does not imply that any parent, carer, or individual is being accused of wrongdoing.

A full copy of the school's Child Protection Policy is available on our website, and a paper copy can be requested from the school office.

All staff, governors, and any adults working with children in our school undergo checks through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) to ensure the highest standards of safety.



Emergency Closure Procedures

As we begin the new year with chilly winter weather, we want to remind families of our emergency closure procedures. If severe weather or other emergency conditions occur, please check School Dojo, Parent Mail, and/or the school website for updates. We will post a message if the school needs to close due to snow or other circumstances.

We will always make every effort to keep the school open. However, if the school is closed, please note that no teachers will be on site, and parents must take responsibility for confirming that the school is open before leaving their child.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



School Council Update

When our School Council met recently, we discussed an important question: **“What makes a good learner?”**

Here are the ideas they came up with and shared with pupils across our school:

- Be organised
- Give eye contact
- Listen well
- Be enthusiastic
- Be ready to learn
- Try to be independent
- Get involved
- Learn from your mistakes
- Work together
- Be respectful to others
- Try your best
- Be positive
- Aim high
- Be honest.



Road Safety and Walking to School

As part of our commitment to keeping children safe and promoting healthy habits, we've started sharing resources from Tales of the Road in our newsletters. This fantastic website offers child-friendly tips and fun activities to help children learn about road safety. You can explore more at:

<https://www.think.gov.uk/resource/tales-of-the-road/>

We strongly encourage walking to school as a great way to reduce traffic, help the environment, and stay active. Why not make walking to school one of your New Year's resolutions?

Below, we've included some posters about walking and road safety, and we'll continue to share helpful tips throughout the year to keep these important conversations going.



Walking

When walking...

Where there is a **pavement or footway**, use it.

Take care when crossing **cycle lanes** on the road. Cyclists may be travelling quietly but can be faster than other **traffic**.

If you are looking after someone younger than you, always hold their hand when on the road.

When there is no pavement, walk on the right hand side of the road to face the **traffic** coming towards you.

Walk one behind the other at bends in the road or at night, or if there is a lot of traffic.

Take special care if you cannot see the road very far ahead.

Be bright, be seen

Help other road users to see you. Wear or carry something light-coloured, bright or fluorescent.

Fluorescent materials are good. They show up in daylight and at dusk.

Reflective materials are good at night.



The Green Cross Code

The steps you need to follow to cross the road safely

1 First find a safe place to cross

...and where there is space to reach the **pavement** on the other side.

Where there is a crossing nearby, use it. It is safer to cross using a pedestrian **subway**, a **footbridge**, a **pedestrian island**, a **zebra**, **pelican**, **toucan** or **puffin** crossing, or where there is a crossing point controlled

by a police officer, a **school crossing patrol** or a traffic warden.

Otherwise choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions.

Try to avoid crossing between parked cars, on a **blind bend** or close to the **brow of a hill**. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly. Do not cross the road diagonally.



Safer journeys anthem



2 Stop just before you get to the kerb

...where you can see if anything is coming. Do not get too close to the traffic. If there is no pavement, keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching **traffic**.

3 Look all around for traffic and listen

Traffic could come from any direction.

Listen as well because you can sometimes hear traffic before you see it.

4 If traffic is coming, let it pass

Look all around again and keep listening.

Do not cross until there is a safe gap in the traffic and you are certain there is plenty of time.

Remember, even if traffic is a long way off, it may be approaching very quickly.



5 When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run

Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross, in case there is any traffic you did not see, or in case other traffic appears suddenly.

Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists travelling between lanes of traffic.

Do not walk diagonally across the road.



The Green Cross Code

1. Find a safe place to cross
2. Stop just before you get to the kerb
3. Look all around for traffic and listen
4. If traffic is coming, let it pass
5. When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run, keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross.

Key Dates

Term 3

Monday 5th January - Staff development day - no school for children.

Tuesday 6th January - Children return to school.

Tuesday 13th January - School book club 'The Last Bear' 3.13-4.15pm.

Thursday 22nd January - Parent SAT workshop (Year 5/6 parents) 2.30-3.15pm.

Monday 2nd February - LKS2 (Year 3&4) trip to Winchester Science Museum.

Monday 2nd February - Butterfly & Bumblebee open classrooms 2.30-3pm.

Tuesday 3rd February - Rabbit, Hedgehog & Squirrel open classrooms 2.30-3pm.

Thursday 5th February - Fox, Badger & Otter open classrooms 2.45-3.15pm.

Friday 6th February - Kestrel, Buzzard & Kingfisher open classrooms 2.45-3.15pm.

Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day

Friday 13th February - last day of Term 3. Break up at 3pm. Non-uniform £1 voluntary contribution to for the school fund.

2026							JANUARY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3							
4	5	6	7	8	9	10							
11	12	13	14	15	16	17							
18	19	20	21	22	23	24							
25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

Term 4

Monday 23rd February - First day back of Term 4 for all children.

Tuesday 24th February - Key Stage 2 Parent Meetings 1-5pm.

Wednesday 25th February - EYFS/ Key Stage 1 Parent Meetings 1-5pm.

Tuesday 3rd March - KS2 Book Club - 'I am Lenny Brown' by Dan Freedman

Wednesday 4th - Monday 9th March - Book Fair open after school 3.15-4pm.

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day.

Friday 6th March - Book Swap in school for all children.

Friday 13th March - Drop in attendance surgery for parents 9-10am

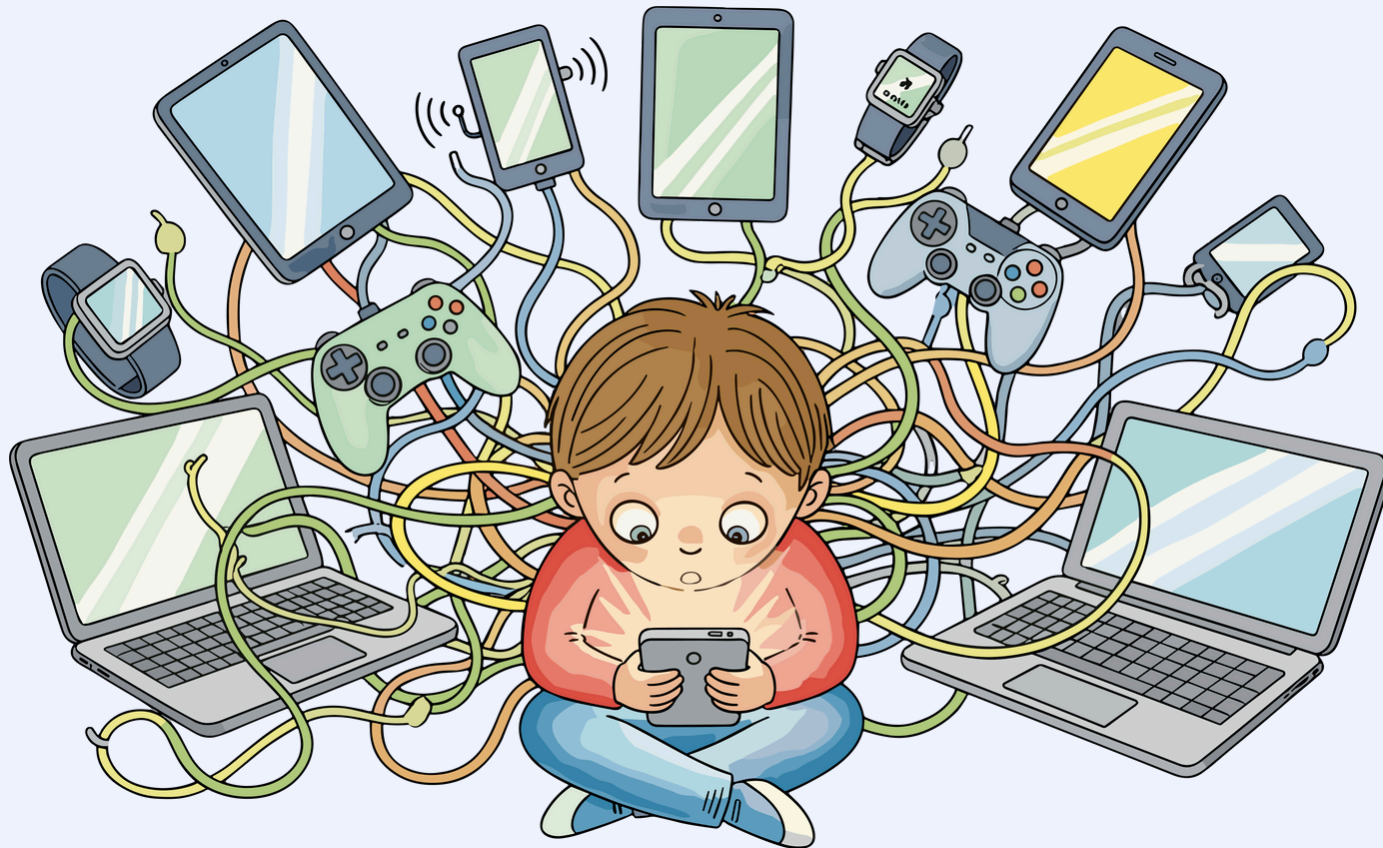
Thursday 19th March - LKS2 Performance of Peter Pan for parents and carers (Yr 3&4) at 1.45pm.

Friday 20th March - World Down Syndrome Day. Children can wear odd socks.

Wednesday 25th March - World Maths Day.

Friday 27th March - Last day of term 4. Break up at 2pm. Non-uniform £1 voluntary contribution to for the school fund.

Please note some of these dates may be subject to change if needed and we may add more throughout the term.



Online Safety and Screen Time

Online safety is more important than ever, especially as many children may have received new devices or technology from Father Christmas over the holidays. To support families, we are sharing guidance for parents about screen time.

What does screen time mean?

Screen time refers to the amount of time spent using devices such as tablets, smartphones, computers, or TVs. While technology can be a great tool for learning and fun, too much screen time can affect sleep, physical activity, and social interaction. Setting healthy limits and encouraging breaks is key to helping children use technology safely and responsibly.

Look out for tips and advice in our newsletters throughout the year to help you manage screen time at home.

Visit Internet Matters' Guide to Managing Children's Screen Time:
Guide to Managing Children's Screen Time

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/guide-to-managing-children-screen-time/>

Guide to managing children's screen time

internet
matters.org

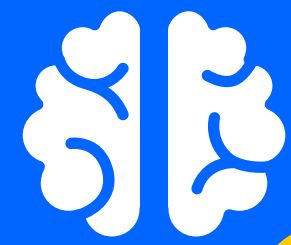
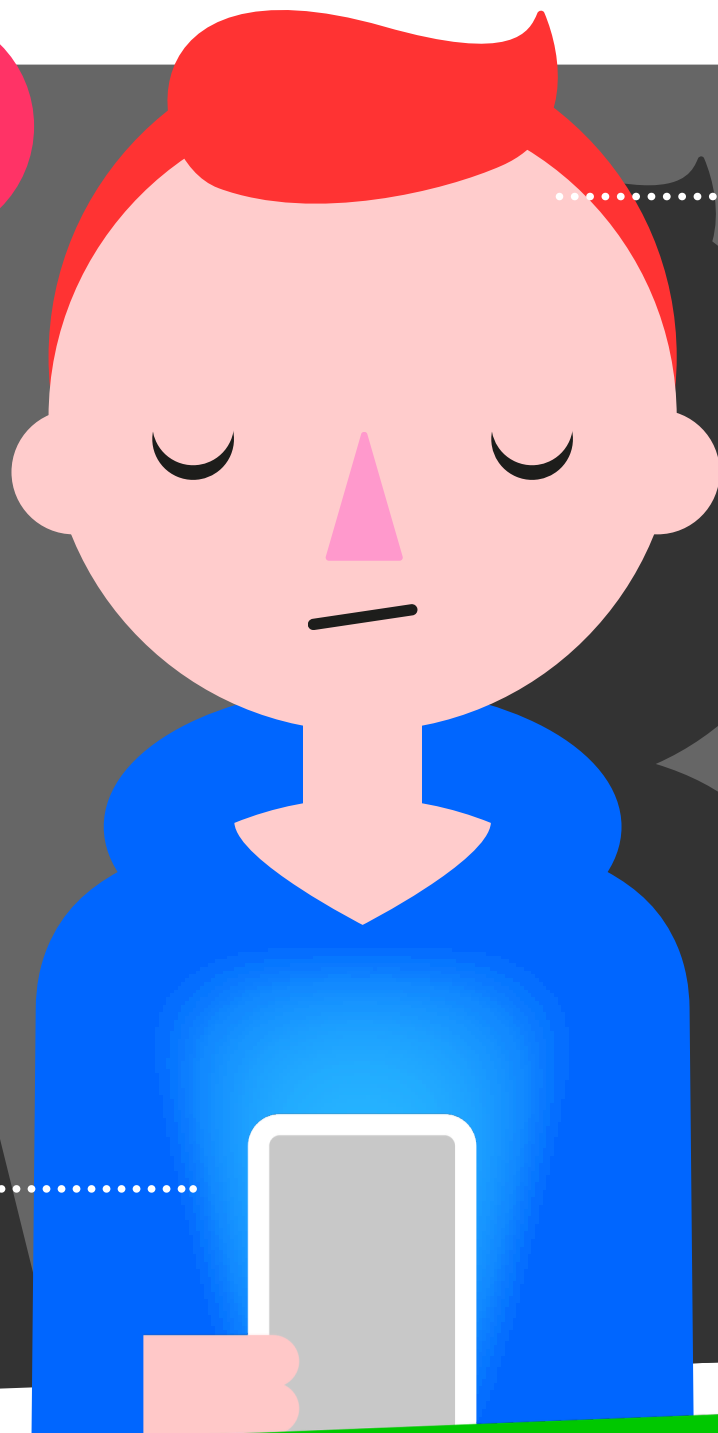
Effect on behaviour

Constant use of a device and features like auto-play on platforms can be habit forming and encourage children to spend longer on screens



Effect on sleep

Blue light from phones can trick the brain into thinking it's still daylight making it difficult to sleep



Effect on the brain

Screens can have a drug-like effect on the children's brains which can make them more anxious

It can make children more forgetful as they rely on things like Google, GPS and calendar alerts to look up information

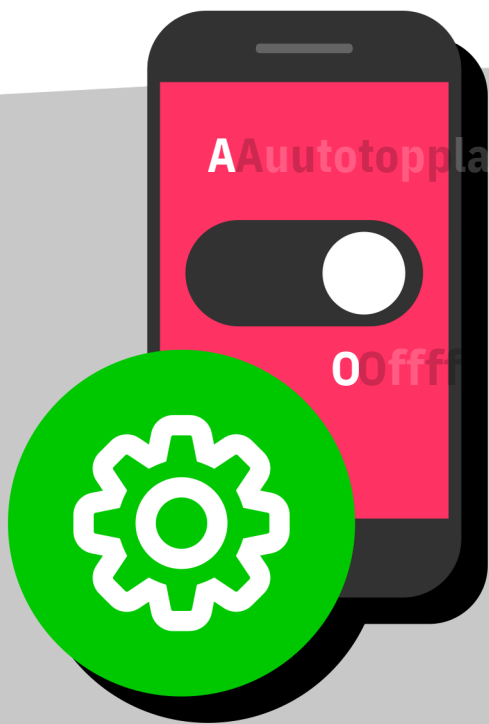
What are the benefits?



- Gives children access to a **wealth of information** to build their knowledge
- Technology **takes away physical barriers** to social connections to make children less isolated
- Exposure to tech has proven to **improve children's learning** and development
- Online games and activities **enhance teamwork and creativity**



10 tips to get in control with your child's screen time

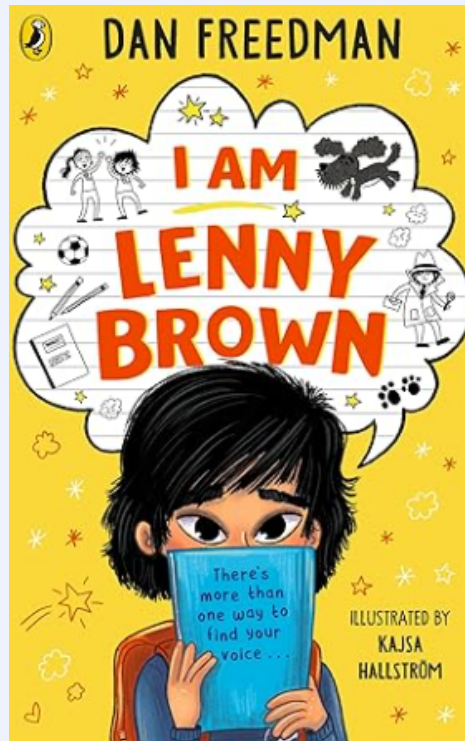


1. Set a good example with your own device use
2. Have discussions about the risks that they may face based on their online activities
3. Put in place a family agreement and agree an appropriate length of time they can use their device
4. Help them build critical thinking to understand that some features on platforms are design to keep you watching or playing
5. Encourage them to switch off auto-play on platforms to remove the temptation to binge on programmes
6. Use tech tools and parental control to manage the time they spend online and the apps they use
7. Get the **whole family to unplug** and create 'screen free' zones at home
8. Together find apps, site and games that will help children explore their passions and make screen time active
9. For younger children find ways to combine touch screen use with creative and active play
10. Encourage children to self-regulate the time they spend online and the activity they do to ensure they are having a positive impact on their wellbeing



School Book Club

Our next School Book Club meeting will be on Tuesday 3rd March 3.15-4.15pm for all Key Stage 2 pupils who have read 'I am Lenny Brown' by Dan Freedman . We have ordered copies of the book for each Key Stage 2 classroom but you could borrow a copy from the library or buy your own copy.



Learning at home:

We really value the learning you encourage at home. Reading regularly plays a crucial role in your child's development - just a few minutes every day can make a huge difference and help your child make amazing progress.

Thank you for your continued support. It makes such a difference to our school community.

