



Harting C of E Primary School Newsletter



Issue 5 – 16th December 2022
Value of the Month: Love

Christmas has well and truly hit Harting over the past few weeks. This has seen children **singing carols at the Harting Luncheon Club** festive dinner, our 2022 **Christmas fair**, Save the Children **Christmas Jumper Day**, a visit to the Minerva theatre to **watch Dear Santa Live**, our yearly **Elfridges shopping event**, the school **Nativity Play** and a beautiful **Christingle service** at St Mary and St Gabriel Church – what a few weeks it has been!

As we come to the end of a very successful Autumn term, I would like to give thanks to the children, staff, parents, governors and local community for the ever growing love and support being shown towards our wonderful school. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who is involved with our school and would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

I would also like to extend our Christmas wishes to the children and families who have not been able to be in school this week. I know that you were all desperate to join the many different events we have had over the past week. However, later this year we will be inviting a theatre company to school to put on a fantastic performance which we will all be able to enjoy together.

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and festive period and very much look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Mr Tidey
Headteacher



Whole School Christingle Service

On Thursday 15th Decemeber the whole school visted St Mary and St Gabriel Church for our annual Christingle service. We were so pleased to see so many families also in attendance. We would like to say thank you to Reverend Harriet for leading such a special service.

Year 6 sing at the Harting Luncheon Club Christmas Dinner

On Thursday 15th December, Year 6 went to the village hall and sang an array of carols at the Harting Luncheon Club Christmas Dinner. Their festive performance was enjoyed by all.



Christmas Fair and Elfridges

We would like to thank the PTFA for their incredible work in arranging the Christmas Fair and Elfridges this year. We are very pleased to announce that these two events raised an amazing

£1,037.51!



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Acorn Class to Dear Santa Live

Earlier this week Acorn class were lucky enough to go to the Minerva Theatre in Chichester to watch Dear Santa Live. The children (and adults) loved every moment and returned feeling festive and ready for Christmas!

Forest School 2023 and beyond!

We are very excited to announce the return of our Forest School starting in January 2023! More information coming soon!



Our Wonderful Roundhouse needs your help!

The Harting Roundhouse is now in need of essential renovation in order for it to be used again by pupils and the local community. This is a project that is going to cost between **£20-30K**.

If you, or someone you know, would be interested in supporting or sponsoring this project please contact the school office.

Further details of this will be shared next term.



My Very Own Nativity

On Wednesday 14th December Acorn, Willow and Chestnut classes put on the most wonderful Nativity to a packed hall of over 110 parents, family and friends! We are so proud of all the children for taking part. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Willow Class who ended the performance with a very special rendition of Jingle Bells in both English and Ukrainian.



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.



'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.



CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.



LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register; entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.



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