

# ULLESTHORPE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**FESTIVE FOCUS**

**FRIDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2024**

[WWW.ULLESTHORPE.LEICS.SCH.UK](http://WWW.ULLESTHORPE.LEICS.SCH.UK)



## UPCOMING DATES

### End of Autumn Term:

Friday 20th December

3:15pm

### Start of Spring Term:

Monday 6th January 2025



## HEAD OF SCHOOL

**MRS J. ALLEN**

As we reach the end of a long and productive Autumn term, I would like to give my heart-felt thanks to all of the brilliant staff, governors, PTA team, Church leaders and members, volunteers and helpers who have committed their time, energy, skills and enthusiasm to making our school such a positively enriching environment for every child.

My thanks also to the children themselves, and particularly those who have played key roles and taken on whole-school responsibilities such as the School Councillors, JRSO members, ECO committee, Worship, Well-being and Sports Ambassadors, and our Sports team players. We are proud and pleased to send our congratulations to the latest Ullesthorpe School 'stars-of-the-week' who have been shining the light of their choices and achievements among our school community: Very well done to: Melcia, Nova, Laynie, Bella, Albert, Joshua, Callum and Ivy. Congratulations to them all.

This newsletter celebrates and gives thanks for the various festive activities that we have enjoyed this Autumn term: the Christingle service; the Craft afternoon; the Nativity performances by Willow & Maple Class; the Birch & Oak Class Carol Concert; the spiritual Labyrinth, and the PTA's SnowBall - which raised a much-appreciated fantastic total of £350!

We wish everyone in our school community a relaxing break full of peace and joy. Merry Christmas to you all!



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IT'S NATIVITY TIME!



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CHRISTINGLE



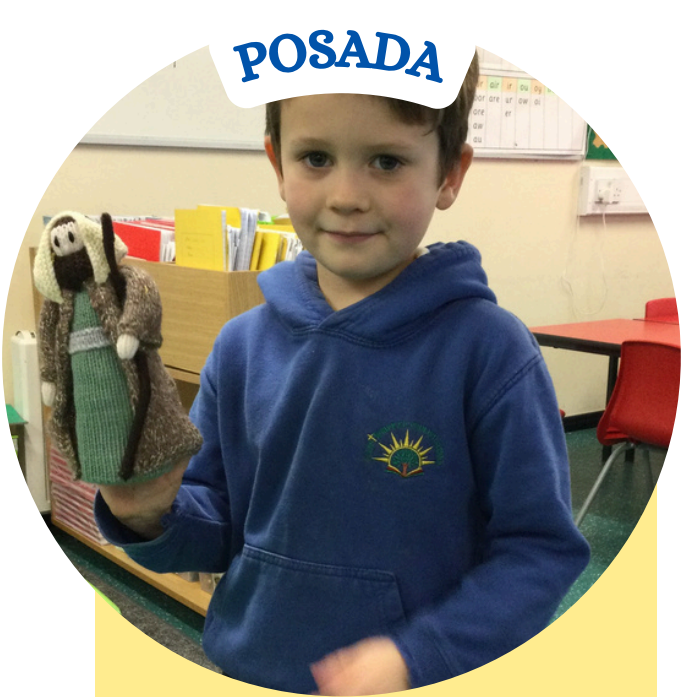
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POSADA



CAROL CONCERT



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LABYRINTH



We were delighted that Rev Sister Liz visited us again this week to share a spiritual Labyrinth with our eldest children in Oak Class. She told us that she was so very impressed 'by the children's attentiveness as they walked the labyrinth - they showed respect to others as they waited to enter a prayer station and really seemed to engage in the experience. It was really quite moving. For 2 hours the hall was silent and the atmosphere prayerful and reflective.'

We have shared some of the children's wonderful prayers and reflections on the next page.

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## LABYRINTH



May there be peace throughout the world.  
God grant us the wisdom to live in  
harmony with our neighbour.

Dear Lord, help those who have lost loved  
ones. Help us to be grateful for our homes  
and families, Mums and Dads, friends and  
the good people around us. Help us to be  
safe and loved for ever. Amen.

Praying for peace in all the world. Let all  
wars stop.

Dear Lord, Thank you for all the blessings  
in my life and the beauty of the world  
around me. Please help me to share my  
abundance with others and help those who  
need support to find the courage and care  
they need. Send peace and joy to all your  
children this Christmas. Amen.

Be with all who are sad when they have  
lost someone. Surround them with your  
love and help them to know that you are  
always there.



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FABULOUS FUNDRAISING!



The PTA's SnowBall  
raised the fabulous sum of  
£350-00 for the school!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



The PTA would like a special mention made of the amazing DJ for the Snow Ball:  
Thank You to Millie & Freddie's Grandad!

We at Ullesthorpe CE Primary School would all like to say a fabulous 'Thank You' to the PTA team who have been fundraising and providing us with such exciting events and new equipment for enriching our children's experiences.



<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/apply-for-a-primary-school-place#Tips>

## **FIRST TIME ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS:**

### **First Time Primary School Application Closing Date Approaching - LCC School Admissions**

The closing date for primary school applications for next autumn (2025) is approaching. If you've a child starting primary school for the first time in Leicestershire next autumn you need to apply by **15th January 2025**.

Visit Leicestershire County Council's [school admissions pages](#) for information about applying and to submit your application. You'll also find there the new 'how to' video about the application process, as well as the 'Your Guide to Education', which provides information about schools in Leicestershire.

#### **Hints and tips:**

- **Select three schools, including one in your catchment area**
- **Choosing just one school will NOT increase your child's chances of securing a place there. If you're not offered a place at your chosen school, and don't have other preferences on your list, you could be offered a school some distance away**
- **Make sure you're happy with your order of preference**
- **If you're applying for an education, health, and care plan (EHCP) and you think your child might attend a specialist school, it is still important to fill out an application for a mainstream school place. This will ensure they will have a school place in the autumn**

If you're not sure if you live in a school's catchment area, check out their website or drop them a line. This is often a key factor in getting a place.

Information on what you can do to help get your child ready for school is available on: [www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-years-and-childcare/school-readiness](http://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-years-and-childcare/school-readiness)

# 10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

## SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

### 1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

### 2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

### 3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

### 4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

### 5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

### 6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

### 7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

### 8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

### 9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

### 10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

## Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>