



# Newsletter

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear families

First and foremost, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for welcoming me into the fold here at Hope. It seems hardly possible that a whole term has gone by already! A huge thank you too for the well wishes after I was poorly, and the thoughtful cards and gifts I received from so many of you. It was been an absolute pleasure serving the Hope community and I look forward to getting stuck back in when we return. In the meantime, I speak on behalf of all the staff and children when I say farewell and thank you to Mrs Murphy. We all wish her the very best as she embarks on her next adventure.

Have a truly wonderful break and I do hope you are all able to enjoy the festive period with your families.

With warmest wishes, Mrs Donnelly





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**A 'HUGE' thank you to the 'Causeway Reveals' for entertaining us on a very cold morning for our last day!**

**Despite the bitter cold temperature outside, this wonderful band provided a warm welcome and lovely atmosphere for all our families, neighbours and staff !**

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Thank you to 'Joan' our lovely neighbour for all your support this year! We really appreciate it.



We are so pleased to be able to share this time with our 3 Ukrainian families and we are especially proud of how well Yasi, Sofiia and Palina are doing!



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**Jingle  
bells!**

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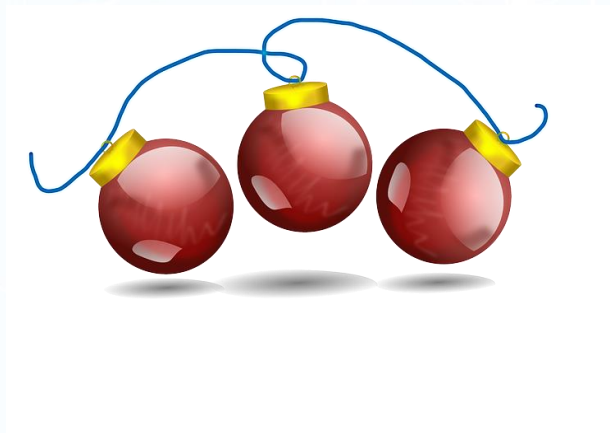
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Thank you to our amazing, hardworking Seeds of Hope, PTA team, some of them pictured above 😊

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## **‘Nativity’ by the Changemakers and Waymakers classes**



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**After School Club (Multi Sports)  
at  
Hope Community School**

Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
to  
Week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Wednesdays: years 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6

Cash: £60.00 / Bank: £75.00

TO BOOK PLEASE VISIT [WWW.CONCEPT4FOOTBALL.CO.UK](http://WWW.CONCEPT4FOOTBALL.CO.UK)



**ACCREDITED  
CLUB**  
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

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*Is your child in school year 2 – 6 at **Hope Community School**?*

*Why not take advantage of our*

**FREE Football Skills TASTER SESSION!**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

**The club runs 3.30pm – 4.30pm, term time only**

*These fun based sessions consist of plenty of time for learning practice which help every player to develop their technical skills. Each week is a different topic. The spring term will focus on competition training. This may vary for the youngest players with more focus on them having a ball each or a ball between them*

**Places are available to book from 5<sup>th</sup> December [BOOK HERE!](#)**

**(You will find it under 'Spring Term Clubs')**

*Places are limited so please don't delay to secure your child a place*



*For any further enquires, please call us on 01689 828385  
or email us at [info@skillsacademyltd.com](mailto:info@skillsacademyltd.com)*





***Skills Academy***  
***is delighted to be introducing***  
***our After-School Football Club to***  
***Hope Community School!***

**THURSDAYS 19<sup>th</sup> January to 23<sup>rd</sup> March**

***Excluding Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February – half term***

***For Years 2-6, 3.30-4.30pm***

***9 weeks @ £7.50 per 1 hr session***

***Total = £69.73 (incl processing fee)***

***Available to book online from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December***

***Please click [skillsacademy ltd.com](http://skillsacademy ltd.com) to book***

***You will find it on 'Spring Term clubs' booking page***

***Christmas Camps now ready to book!***

**Your choice of Football or Multi Sports camps**

**[BOOK NOW!](#)**

**ONLY £45 for a 2-day camp or £25 per day**

**10% SIBLING DISCOUNT APPLIES**



## Exciting News!!

Year 4's, Annabella and Lois have been selected to represent England with their Dance team from Dawsons School of Performing Arts at next year's Dance World Cup in Portugal.

**"Go girls - you got this!"**

Watch this space !



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## Online Safety over Christmas



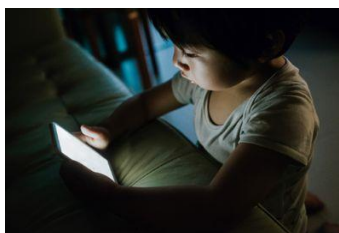
Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the Christmas period, I wanted to share some key websites that can help you, help your child to keep safe.

Common Sense media-Ultimate guide to TikTok.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/articles/parents-ultimate-guide-to-tiktok>

Topics covered include: **What is TikTok?, How safe is TikTok?, How does TikTok work?, Is TikTok appropriate for kids?, What age is TikTok recommended for?, Can kids under 13 use TikTok?, How can you make your TikTok account private?, How can I use TikTok with my kids?, How do you do a duet on TikTok?**





At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## 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](http://videostandards.org.uk/ratingboard/games).

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### '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.

SANTA

### 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](http://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.

### 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 5, for example.

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### 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 (Fortnite 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.

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### 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.

### Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 14.12.2022

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## New Year reminders ...

Just a reminder about the timing that the school gate is open (8:40-8:50am) and that from January we will only open both gates at the end of the day.

## Attendance ...

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL PARENTS/CARERS TO REPORT THEIR CHILD ABSENT BY EITHER LEAVING A MESSAGE ON THE DAY ON THE SCHOOL'S ANSWERPHONE OR BY EMAILING:

[enquiries@hopecommunityschool.org](mailto:enquiries@hopecommunityschool.org)

Please do not email Jill and Della directly as neither work full-time.  
Many thanks for your cooperation.

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## Dates for your diary ...

### January 2023

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Staff Training Day

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>

First day back for pupils



**Wishing all our families and friends of  
Hope Community School  
a wonderful Christmas and very happy New Year**

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