



Billingborough Primary School Newsletter

November 2024
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Billingborough joins Community Inclusive Trust

The Community Inclusive Trust (CIT) is proud to announce that Billingborough Primary School has officially joined the Trust, marking an exciting new chapter for the school to enhance opportunities for pupils, staff, and the wider community.

As a member of CIT, Billingborough Primary School will benefit from a wide network of expertise, shared resources, and innovative teaching strategies. This move reflects a commitment to raising standards and offering the very best educational experience to pupils.

Headteacher Tom Thorpe, expressed enthusiasm for the school's future: "We are thrilled to join CIT. This partnership will allow us to build on our strong foundations and offer even more enriching opportunities for our children. With the support and resources of the Trust, we are confident that Billingborough Primary School will continue to thrive and grow."

The decision to join CIT follows a thorough process of consultation and reflects a shared vision of excellence in education. This strategic move will also provide the school's staff with access to a plethora of professional development opportunities.

The CEO of CIT, Peter Bell, welcomed the addition to the family of schools: "We are delighted to welcome Billingborough Primary School into the Trust. Their values align with our commitment to providing high-quality education in a nurturing environment. Together, we will work to ensure that every child at Billingborough has access to an excellent education, helping them achieve their full potential."

"Osournby Primary School are currently onboarding with CIT. With Caythorpe Primary School already within the Trust, the addition of Billingborough creates a logical cluster of schools in the Sleaford area. The close proximity of these 3 primary schools will allow sharing of resources, professional development, and ultimately enhance outcomes for all pupils."

About the Trust

The Community Inclusive Trust (CIT) is an education charity working in partnership with local communities to provide not-for-profit mainstream and special needs education. CIT schools enhance the education provision of the communities they serve and improve the life chances of the pupils who attend CIT schools. This is driven and supported by high quality central services and CIT's in-house specialist training provider, LEARN.

The Trust was formed in 2014. The family of schools across Lincolnshire, Leicestershire, and Nottinghamshire, now consists of 8 mainstream primaries, 7 special schools, and the LEARN SEND Hub.

School information

Attendance

Regular school attendance is crucial for a child's academic success and overall development. Missing school, even for a short period, can disrupt learning and make it harder to keep up with coursework. Please be mindful of the recent changes to attendance regulations, which now include potential fines for taking term-time holidays. We encourage all parents and carers to prioritise their child's education and ensure they attend school regularly.

School attendance so far this year:

Water Voles	95.49%
Roe Deer	94.20%
Buzzards	97.71%
Nightingales	97.59%
Barn Owls	94.88%
Whole School	96.19%

Anti Bullying Week

We're gearing up to mark Anti-Bullying Week from 11th to 15th November. During this week, we'll be hosting special assemblies and engaging classroom activities for all pupils.

To celebrate our differences and promote kindness, we invite everyone to join us in wearing odd socks on 12th November. By wearing odd socks, we're showing that it's okay to be different and that everyone deserves to be treated with respect.

Let's work together to create a more inclusive and compassionate school community.

Mini Police

We're excited to announce a fantastic partnership with Lincolnshire Police! This term, our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils will have the opportunity to participate in engaging Mini Police workshops.

These workshops are designed to empower our young learners by teaching them valuable life skills, including:

- Safety awareness
- Rights and responsibilities
- Personal responsibility

By participating in these sessions, our students will develop a strong sense of civic responsibility and learn how to make positive choices.

We're proud to collaborate with Lincolnshire Police to provide these enriching experiences for our pupils.



School information

Nasal Flu Spray

On Friday, 8th November, the school nurse team will be administering nasal flu sprays to all children who have been registered by their parents or guardians. This quick and painless procedure will help protect your child from the flu virus, ensuring a healthier and happier school year.

Cinema Trips

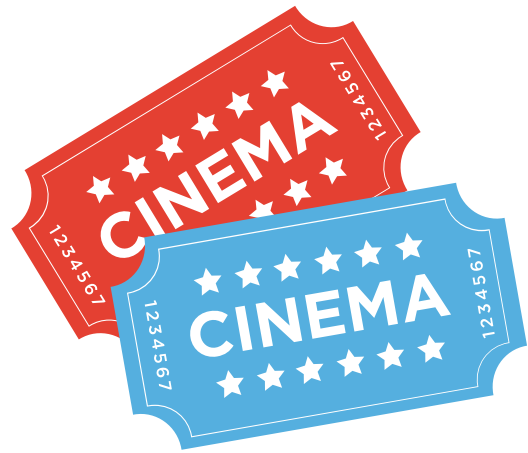
Get ready for some cinematic fun! We're excited to announce upcoming cinema trips for all our pupils as part of the Into Film Festival.

- Year 5 & 6: Wednesday, 13th November – Inside Out 2
- Pre-school, Reception, Years 1-4: Wednesday, 27th November – Migration

Please ensure your child arrives at school at their usual time, wearing their school uniform. If you haven't already, please remember to pay for the trip via ParentPay.

Pantomime Trip

We're thrilled to announce that we'll soon be sharing exciting details about our upcoming school pantomime trip to see "Beauty and the Beast" at the Guildhall in Grantham. Keep an eye out for further information, including dates, times, and payment details. This is a fantastic opportunity for our students to enjoy a magical theatrical experience together.



Halloween Discos

A huge thank you to all parents and carers for your support of the recent Halloween discos, organised by the FOBS. The children had a fantastic time dressing up, dancing, and enjoying spooky treats. The funds raised from these events will be used to purchase delicious snacks and treats for the children to enjoy during the upcoming pantomime trip. Your support is invaluable in making these events a success. Thank you to the FOBS for arranging the events.



School information

Carbon Monoxide Safety

During the month of November, our Year 1-6 pupils will be learning about the dangers of carbon monoxide. This silent killer can be deadly, but with a bit of knowledge, we can protect ourselves and our families. Our lessons will cover the causes, symptoms, and prevention of carbon monoxide poisoning, emphasising the importance of regular boiler checks and having a carbon monoxide alarm in the home.

Let's Talk Rubbish

As part of our commitment to environmental sustainability, our school will be hosting special workshops at the end of November. These workshops will educate our students about waste reduction, recycling, and the importance of responsible consumption. Through engaging activities and discussions, children will gain a deeper understanding of how their actions can impact the planet and learn practical tips for living a more eco-friendly lifestyle.

Permissions

You may have recently received a letter requesting your consent to update your child's information permissions. This is to ensure we can continue to share the wonderful achievements and experiences of our students with a wider audience. We plan to make greater use of our school website and social media platforms to showcase the fantastic work that goes on within our school community. Your permission will allow us to include your child's work, images, and activities in these online platforms.

Children in Need

Get ready to show your support for Children in Need on Friday, 15th November! To celebrate this special day, children are invited to wear their favourite non-uniform outfit. To make a donation and help support this fantastic cause, please visit ParentPay. Let's come together to make a difference in the lives of children in need.



Dark nights

As the days grow shorter and the nights become darker, it's important to prioritise safety. We encourage children to walk in well-lit areas, cross the roads in areas away from parked vehicles, and avoid distractions like mobile phones while walking. Parents, please remind your children to stick to familiar routes, let you know where they're going and when they expect to be back. Wearing reflective clothing or carrying a torch can also significantly improve visibility.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES



While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES



Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH



While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS



Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING



Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT



Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS



There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE



Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY



Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features, and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP



The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



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