



# Lawhead Primary School & Nursery

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2024



## 'Aiming High'

Embracing Challenge, Nurturing Creativity, Being Responsible, Showing Respect, Celebrating Achievement

### What's Happening On The First Week Back?

<b>Monday 06/01</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome back for term 3</li> <li>Pupils will be supported to select a Scots poem this week for our annual poetry focus</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 07/01</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PM – P1 Outdoor Learning – please make sure your child has suitable footwear and cosy clothes</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 08/01</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P5, P6 and P7 violin and viola groups with Mr Higgins</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 09/01</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AM – P1-3 and P4-7 assemblies</li> <li>PM – P1/2 Outdoor Learning – please make sure your child has suitable footwear and cosy clothes</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 10/01</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Walking bus – sign up by following this link - <a href="https://forms.office.com/e/5rF8v3vJjF">https://forms.office.com/e/5rF8v3vJjF</a></li> <li>New and existing walking bus participants must complete the form</li> <li>AM – Pupil Leadership Groups</li> </ul>

### Class SWAYs for 2024-2025:

Nursery	Please view your child's See Saw account for updates on your child's learning and nursery experiences.
P1	<a href="https://sway.cloud.microsoft/W6cxgLLLqH0btgT5?ref=Link">https://sway.cloud.microsoft/W6cxgLLLqH0btgT5?ref=Link</a>
P1/2	<a href="https://sway.cloud.microsoft/44JpoIEdnJa311NU?ref=Link">https://sway.cloud.microsoft/44JpoIEdnJa311NU?ref=Link</a>
P2/3	<a href="https://sway.cloud.microsoft/PSajnalqE3Mc5Iyq?ref=Link">https://sway.cloud.microsoft/PSajnalqE3Mc5Iyq?ref=Link</a>
P3/4	<a href="https://sway.cloud.microsoft/tZhXT9lieOZHbf7R?ref=Link">https://sway.cloud.microsoft/tZhXT9lieOZHbf7R?ref=Link</a>
P4/5	<a href="https://sway.cloud.microsoft/u0Pvli7F9CtBAUCY?ref=Link">https://sway.cloud.microsoft/u0Pvli7F9CtBAUCY?ref=Link</a>
P5	<a href="https://sway.cloud.microsoft/raq61yGhslrKuJvp?ref=Link">https://sway.cloud.microsoft/raq61yGhslrKuJvp?ref=Link</a>
P6	<a href="https://sway.cloud.microsoft/0ANk5ox6q5RqMzQO?ref=Link">https://sway.cloud.microsoft/0ANk5ox6q5RqMzQO?ref=Link</a>
P7	<a href="https://sway.cloud.microsoft/Tijl65EJgkpU1zpp?ref=Link">https://sway.cloud.microsoft/Tijl65EJgkpU1zpp?ref=Link</a>

### **Milk Fund for Term 3 2024-25**

The milk fund is open for the provision of school pupil milk during Term 3, 2024-25; the cost for Term 3 is £15.50. The fund will remain open over the Christmas break and will close at midnight on Wednesday 8 January. Please ensure that you make a payment within this timescale if you would like your child to have milk in Term 3. Pupils will start their milk provision on Monday 6 January for payments made by midnight on Sunday 5 January, for later payments your child will start milk within 2 school days.

### **Nursery Staffing:**

Congratulations to Mrs. Andrew who starts her maternity leave in January. Mrs. Laura McInnes will be covering Mrs. Andrews's post for the duration of her leave. We look forward to welcoming Mrs. McInnes back to our nursery team.

### **P4 National Standardised Assessments – January 2025:**

These assessments are scheduled to take place during weeks 2 and 3 of the new term in January. Please follow this link to find out more: [Parents and Carers](#)

Assessment results can be shared with parents upon written request. Please email Mrs. Bain using [lawheadps.headteacher@fife.gov.uk](mailto:lawheadps.headteacher@fife.gov.uk)

### **Fundraising:**

This year's Christmas fair was a huge success! Parent Council stalls raised £3,313 for the school fund and the Love Oliver area raised £730 for charity. The P7 children have also raised over £518 towards the cost of their leaver's hoodies. Our collections during the Christmas concerts also made over £240 in cash donations plus the total raised through the Just Giving page (to be confirmed). Thank you so much to everyone who has helped in organising and running events. The support of our Lawhead community is greatly appreciated.

## Christmas Digital Advice:

Many children may be receiving tech goodies from Santa this year. Please look at this link and view the posters below for useful advice on keeping your child safe.

[Digital Parenting Pro | Parental Controls Guide | Vodafone UK](#)

## Fife Council Information:

### Stay informed this winter:

- go online – [www.fife.gov.uk/winter](http://www.fife.gov.uk/winter)
- [FAQs for parents are available on fife.gov.uk](#)
- follow us on [facebook.com/fifecouncil](https://facebook.com/fifecouncil) and [x.com/fifecouncil](https://x.com/fifecouncil)
- tune in to Kingdom FM, Forth One and Tay FM and K107 FM
- [Follow us on our new WhatsApp channel! | Fife Council](#) - privately follow us to receive the latest news, events and important service updates on your phone. See the channels you follow under “Updates” in WhatsApp
- In an emergency, you can call the council on 03451 55 00 11 (faults and repairs) and 03451 55 00 99 (out of hours)
- Be prepared and stay safe this winter. 😊 [#readyfife](#) [#readywinter](#)

### Support for Fife families and young people:

We understand that many families are feeling the impact of rising household expenses. During these challenging times, it's essential that everyone knows about the support available.

Our schools are committed to ensuring that financial challenges don't stand in the way of learning opportunities. A range of advice and support is available for families and young people at [our.fife.scot/gethelp](http://our.fife.scot/gethelp).

Go to <http://www.fife.gov.uk/schoolbenefits> to find out more about school clothing grants and free school meals.

You can also check if your young person is entitled to [Education Maintenance Allowance](#) and use the online benefit check using the [Fife Benefit Calculator](#), to make sure you are getting all the support you and your family are entitled to.

If you're unable to access information online, call our Community Support Line 0800 952 0330 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)



Early Years in Fife

Important information  
for parents and carers

Applying for an nursery  
place for 3 & 4 years old  
children in **2025/26**

Was your child born between  
1st March 2022 and 28th February 2023?

Do you want your child to attend a  
Fife Council Nursery between  
August 2025 and July 2026?

- If your child does not currently attend nursery (academic year 2024-25) or
- if your child has a 2-year-old placement or
- if you are looking to change your child's current placement type you must complete an application form online at [www.fife.gov.uk/elcplaces](http://www.fife.gov.uk/elcplaces) between 6th – 31st January 2025.

You will be able to apply for a funded early learning and childcare place at your preferred private nursery, playgroup or childminder, if they are in partnership with Fife Council. Applications should be made directly to these individual establishments and services.



Application forms and additional information on your options are available from any Fife Council early learning and childcare facility (nursery/school) or can be found online at:

[www.fife.gov.uk/elcplaces](http://www.fife.gov.uk/elcplaces)

scan me



Fife  
COUNCIL

# Top Tips for a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

It can be difficult to stay away from technology and devices, and sometimes this means that people – of any age – can find it hard to be present in the moment. As a period when families are able to spend some quality time together and enjoy each other's company,

Christmas is the perfect opportunity to step away from our phones, laptops and consoles and concentrate on the things that really matter. Follow our top ten tips for a tech-free festive period and make the most of this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

## 1. BOARD GAMES CAN BE FUN (HONEST)

OK, no one wants a repeat of that incident when your youngest had to pay triple rent on Mayfair, but going back to basics with a card or board game can be a fantastic bonding experience. Choose a game that even the youngest members of your family can enjoy and have a fun tech-free time.

## 2. MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS

Spending time on arts and crafts is a brilliant way to relax and spend some productive time offline. Making your own Christmas decorations as a family can become a wholesome tradition and leave you with some treasured mementos, too.

## 3. GO FOR A WINTER WALK

Not much beats wrapping up warm on a crisp December day and taking a stroll. Whether alone or with the family, a walk is a fantastic way to clear your head and relish the break from hectic normal life. As an extra festive treat, why not make a flask of hot chocolate to take with you?

## 4. BAKE SOME FESTIVE TREATS

Not all Christmas cooking has to be a stressful chore that's timed with military precision. Baking some simple festive treats like cookies doesn't have to take hours – and will make sure you're stocked up on tasty things to offer any friends or family members who pop round.

## 5. READ A FAMILY STORY TOGETHER

Turn story time into an event. Make the living room or bedroom into a tech-free space, light some candles, make some hot drinks and reach for a classic Christmas tale. It's a fantastic way to relax before bed, and the right story will help to get the whole family into the festive spirit.

## 6. TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS

It sounds obvious, but turning off email and app notifications can give you more control of your relationship with technology. Getting into the habit of checking your phone periodically – rather than reacting every time a notification arrives – helps you to stay present in the moment.

## 7. FEED THE BIRDS

Food's hard to come by for wildlife in winter, so helping our feathered friends is a very worthwhile reason to put down those devices and reconnect with nature. Fill a bird feeder in the garden or take a snack for the ducks in your local park (but ditch the bread in favour of oats, rice or birdseed).

## 8. SET DAILY LIMITS

Many apps and devices let you set reminders to let you know how long you've used them for that day. Setting daily limits puts you firmly in charge of your time and will help to ensure you don't miss out on any family Christmas memories because you're engrossed in your phone or laptop.

## 9. GET ON YOUR BIKE

Exercise, such as going for a run or a bike ride is an excellent way to burn off some of those Yuletide calories while giving your brain and eyes a break from screen-based activity. Physical exertion also helps reduce anxiety and releases endorphins which can improve your sense of wellbeing.

## 10. MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

There can be a lot of pressure to meet up with friends, make video calls and check in with people at Christmas – but remember that you need time to relax as well. Don't feel guilty about not replying to messages and emails immediately – the holiday is your chance to drop down a gear or two.

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

# 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 these 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

Look where most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box, close to the barcode. But now that most games are downloaded, it's a struggle to find out what the age rating of the game is. It's important to check the age rating of a game before you purchase it, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at [www.bbc.com/news/technology-1.4511111](http://www.bbc.com/news/technology-1.4511111).

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## FREE ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed rapidly in recent years, with many players paying for downloadable content (DLC) or in-app purchases. Some can be huge, and you may not realise you're paying for extra content. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content. Some games are free to play, but you may need to pay for extra content. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

## DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Always set up a password, and make sure you're not paying for extra content. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

## 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 card or processor to work. Also, the system requirements you can see on your computer to see if it can 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

Apps that allow friends to join in the fun of online gaming – but don't talk back! Many kids have spent their time, money and effort on a game, only to find out that the game has been hacked. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

## BE WARY OF GIFTS

Like the books, software and toys, there are many in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game. But one a few be aware of which are money. A common one is the in-game currency. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

## APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings. You can see the age rating of an app in the app's details. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

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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 gigabytes. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get it. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

## WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, unfortunately, rogue apps can slip through the net. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

## LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but still break the law. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

## 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. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

## 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. Always check the price of a game before you purchase it, and make sure you're not paying for extra content.

## Meet Our Expert

Andy Cocker has been a tech writer and journalist for more than 10 years, helping to make sure that the world is a better place. He's been a member of the National Online Safety team since 2014, and has been a member of the National Online Safety team since 2014, and has been a member of the National Online Safety team since 2014.

