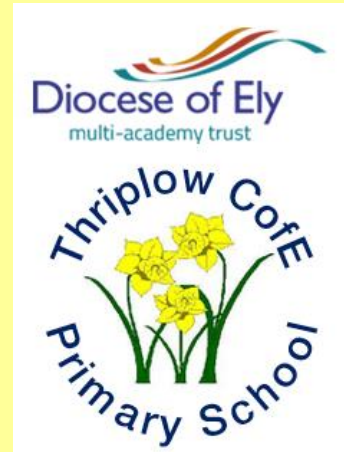


Thriplow School Newsletter

5th December 2025



Year 6 started their week by visiting Ely Cathedral for the DEMAT Carol Service. All 38 DEMAT schools were represented and Miss Hardege and I were so impressed by how well our children represented Thriplow with super behaviour and enthusiastic singing!

Our KS2 Cross Country team were fantastic on Wednesday. They persevered and kept focused during their races. A special mention to Sofia and Maddie who were awarded 'Spirit of the Games' certificates. The organisers have asked us to promote Park Run to the children if they feel like they would like to continue with their running outside of school. Information is attached to the newsletter.

We are so excited about the Ants and Butterflies Nativity Play next week. They have been working so hard and I know we're in for a treat! Key Stage 1 parents should have received an email with important instructions about ticket allocations for the performances. Please let me know if you did not get this.

Festive Friday is next Friday. Children are encouraged to wear normal school uniform, but with a Christmas jumper rather than a normal school jumper, and Christmas accessories. We will be raising money for our chosen charity, The Blue Cross.

On Wednesday 17th December we will be making Christingles with the children in school. We will provide most of what they need to make these but please could your child bring in their own orange. The bigger the better!

Don't forget that we are busy filling our PTA Christmas hampers. Please bring donations to the office to go in either the blue, red, yellow or green box. Please also remember to buy raffle tickets! (<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/christmas-hamper-affle-1>)

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend,

Best wishes,

Lucy



**MAT of
the Year
2024**



<https://www.facebook.com/thriplowschool>



<https://x.com/thriplowschool>



<https://www.instagram.com/thriplow.school>

In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:16*

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with kindness. *Colossians 3:12*

| | |
|---|--|
| 9 th December | Nativity Dress rehearsal (KS1) Family members, including pre-schoolers are welcome. |
| 10 th December | Nativity Performance (KS1) 2.30pm Two tickets will be issued per family in Ants and Butterflies. No pre-schoolers. |
| 11 th December | Nativity Performance (KS1) 6pm Two tickets will be issued per family in Ants and Butterflies. No pre-schoolers. Ants and Butterflies will need to be in school by 5.15pm to get ready. |
| 12 th December | Festive Friday Children will be invited to wear Christmas jumpers and Christmas accessories to raise money for the Blue Cross. Please see information below about the Christmas jumper swap. |
| 16 th December | KS2 Concert – time TBC but likely to be 2pm. All KS2 children will be performing and family and friends are welcome to attend. |
| 17 th December | Christingle (children need to bring an orange) |
| 18 th December | Christmas lunch |
| 19 th December | Carol Service in church. 2.30. Everyone welcome |
| 20 th January | Young Voices |
| WB 2 nd February | Relationships and Sex Education Week |
| 24 th February | Parent Consultations |
| 26 th February | Parent Consultations |
| 5 th March | World Book Day |
| WB 9 th March | Science Week |
| 21 st – 22 nd March | Daffodil Weekend |
| 27 th March | Year 3/4 Bikeability level 1 |
| WB 11 th May | SATS week |
| WB 18 th May | KS2 Residential (Year 5 and 6) |
| Fortnight beginning 1 st June | Multiplication Check fortnight (Year 4) |
| 5 th June | DEMAT Art Exhibition |
| WB 8 th June | Phonics Screening check week (Year 1) |
| WB 15 th June | Poetry Recital Competition |
| 24 th June | Sports day (First thing – will finish 11.15ish) |

Term Dates 2025/2026

| Autumn Term | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|
| End of Term | Friday 19 th December |

| Spring Term | |
|------------------|---|
| Start of Term | Monday 5 th January |
| INSET Day | Friday 13th February |
| Half Term | Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February |
| End of Term | Friday 27 th March |

| Summer Term | |
|---------------------|---|
| Start of Term | Monday 13 th April |
| Bank Holiday | Monday 4th May |
| Half Term | Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May |
| INSET Day | Monday 1st June |
| End of Term | Friday 17 th July |
| INSET Day | Monday 20th July |

If you would like to donate a book to our library to celebrate your child's birthday, then we would be so grateful. Please follow this link to see a list of books that we would like.

<https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf>



Safeguarding at Thriplow

Lucy How and Melissa Hardege are the designated safeguarding leads at Thriplow School.

If you have a concern about a child, please come and speak to or email either of us. Alternatively please speak to any member of staff who will be able to pass on information.

If you feel that a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection>

House Points

Our totals for this week!

| | Total this week | Total this term |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Bacon | 43 | 879 |
| Barenton | 39 | 796 |
| Bury | 41 | 807 |
| Bassett | 26 | 1025 |



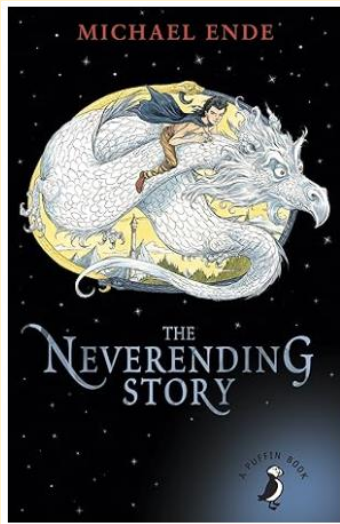
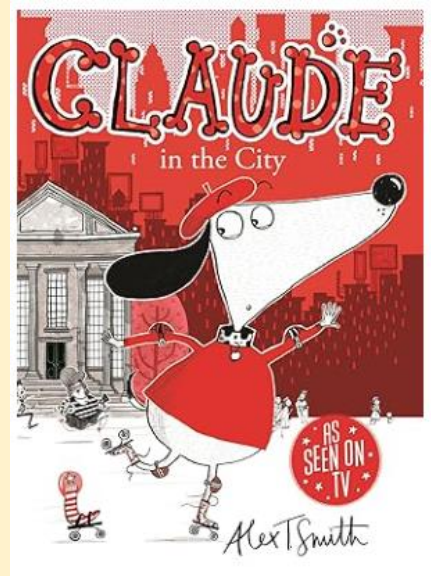
Don't forget we have our post box available for posting Christmas cards.

Children are welcome to bring in Christmas cards for their friends and teachers to post in the box. Year 6 will empty it regularly and deliver to classrooms.

Please make sure your child puts the full name and class of the recipient on the envelope.

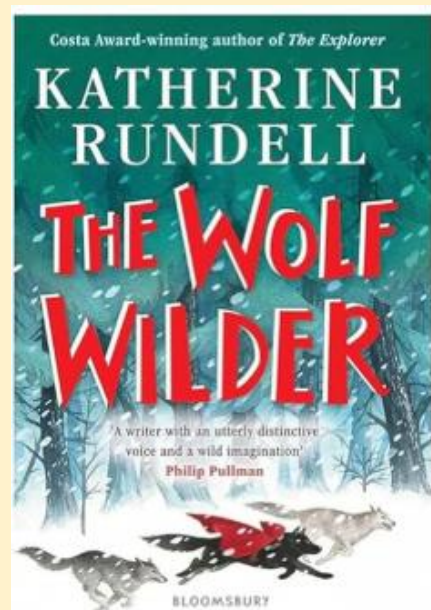
Birthday Books

Many thanks to Walter for donating this book on the occasion of his 5th birthday.



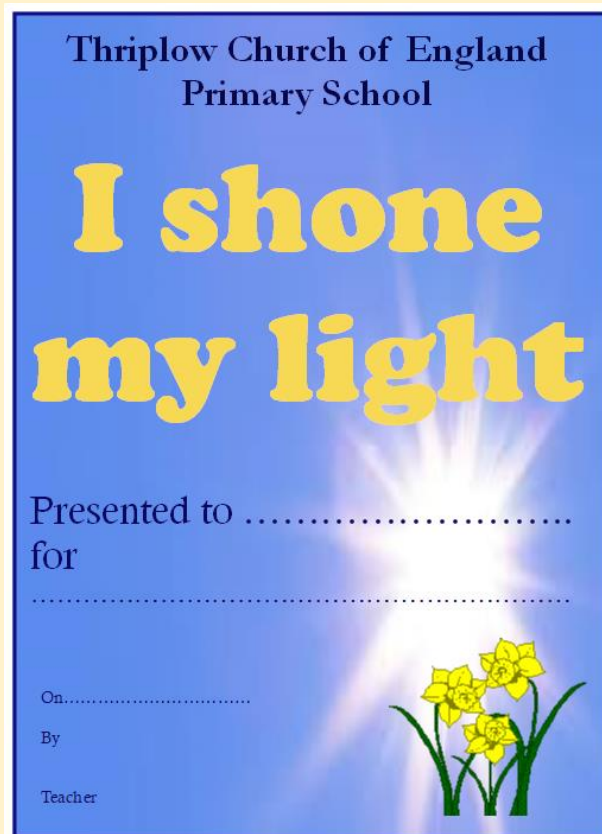
Many thanks to Eloise for donating this book on the occasion of her 11th birthday.

Many thanks to Chris for donating this book on the occasion of his 10th birthday.



Our certificate winners this week are: -

- Arthur (Reception)
- Bella (Year 1)
- Elwyn (Year 1)
- Logan (Year 1)
- Oliver (Year 2)
- Peter (Year 3)
- Harvey (Year 4)
- Sophie (Year 5)
- Amy (Year 6)



The following children were added to the 'Vision and Values' tree for living out our Thriplow and DEMAT values.

- Henry P (Achievement)
- Reggie (Confidence)
- George (Achievement)
- Edward (Community)
- Annabel (Community)
- Leon (Kindness)



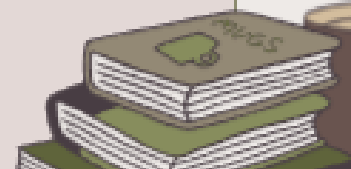
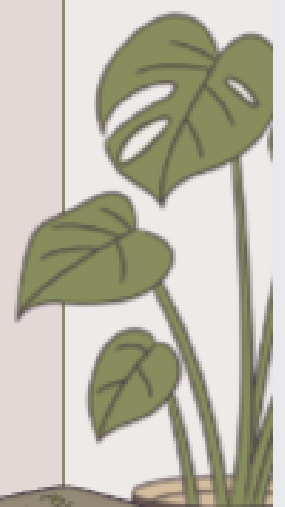
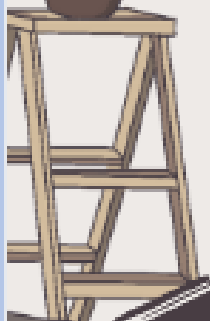
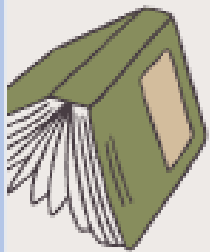


Thriplow Primary School Library



**Open on
Thursdays and
Fridays after
school.**

**Please pop in
and visit!**



A festive poster for a Friday event on December 12th. The background is dark blue with white stars and snowflakes. At the top, a string of colorful Christmas lights (red, yellow, blue) hangs across the frame. On the left, there's a small illustration of a nutcracker, a wrapped gift, holly leaves with red berries, and a snowman wearing a red hat and scarf, holding a yellow star. At the bottom left is a green Christmas tree decorated with red and yellow ornaments. At the bottom right, there's a gingerbread man, a Santa Claus head, another wrapped gift, holly leaves, a green Christmas stocking, and another wrapped gift. A blue cross-shaped logo with the text 'BLUE CROSS' is in the upper left.

**BLUE
CROSS**

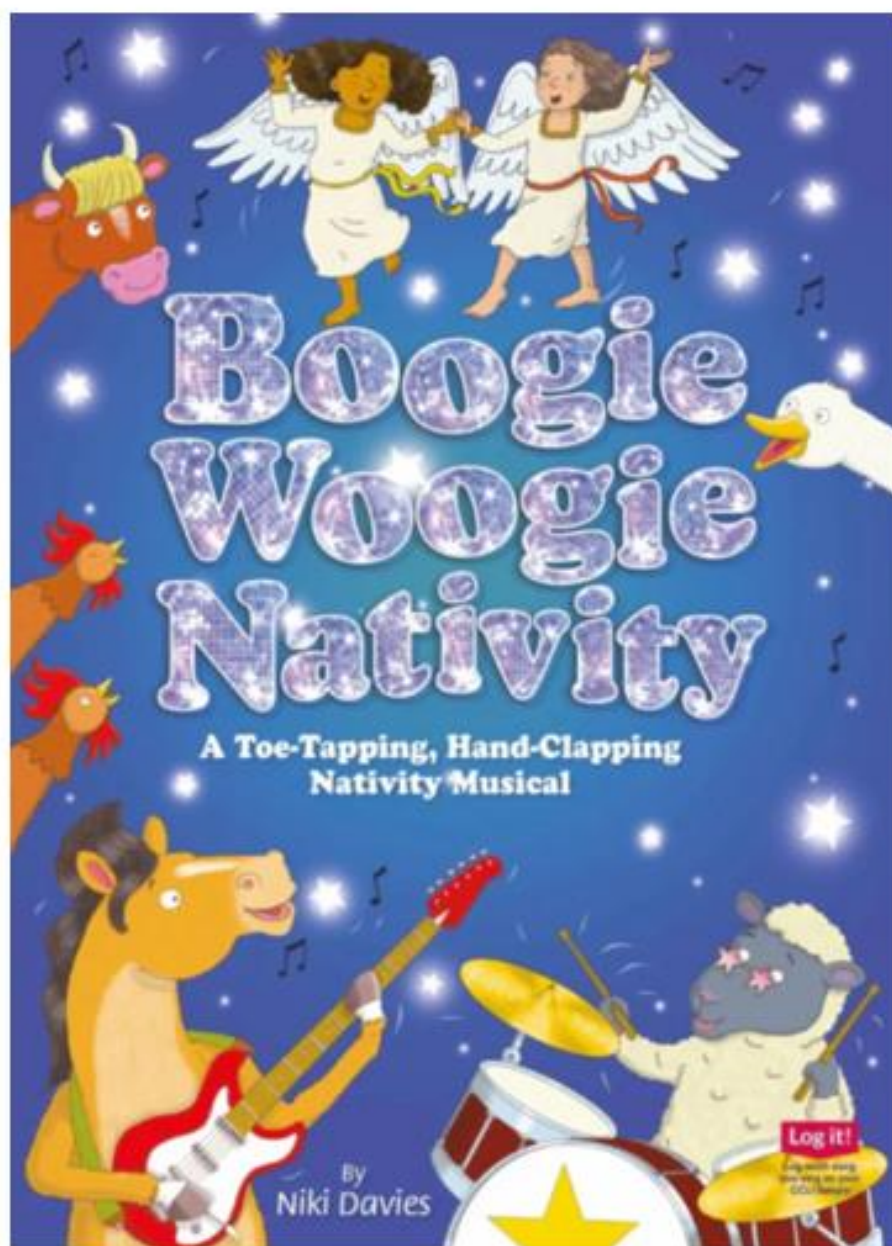
Festive Friday

12th December

**Wear your Christmas
Jumpers and
Accessories!**

£1 Donation

Ants and Butterflies present...



Wednesday 10th December 2025, 2.30pm
Thursday 11th December 2025, 6pm



FREE Christmas Crafts Workshop for Children

This year's Christmas Crafts Workshop will be on

Saturday 29th November, just in time for Advent!

At St. Mary's Church Fowlmere

2:00 - 4:00 pm

There will be lots of lovely craft activities for children to enjoy. We'll be making advent candles, badges, book marks, Christmas tree decorations, and lots more.

Delicious refreshments will be served
throughout the afternoon.

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE by emailing

Kate, Rev David's wife, at katelee36@gmail.com

Children must be accompanied by an adult.





Christmas Hampers

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/christmas-hamper-raffle-1>

*Raffle Draw -
16th December*

WIN a hamper!
**Buy raffle tickets
online**

**Please donate an item
based on house colours**

Bassett - Green

Bacon - Yellow

Bury - Blue

Barenton - Red



A reminder that we are a nut-aware school. Please ensure that your child's lunchbox does not include any nuts.



- Let your child help you pack their lunch box and choose what to include from a list of options.
- To keep children fuller for longer, give them a 'main' lunch item that includes carbohydrates, such as whole grain bread, rice or pasta.
- Try pasta salads, stir-fried rice, wraps or crackers and low-fat dips as alternatives to sandwiches.
- Choose lean meats, such as chicken breast as sandwich fillings, and try to include oily fish like tuna once or twice a week.
- Include vegetables such as cherry tomatoes, carrot or celery sticks or home-made vegetable crisps (slice vegetables like sweet potato or beetroot, toss in olive oil and bake).
- Always put salad (lettuce, cucumber) in sandwiches - it all counts towards their five a day.
- Swap the crisps for plain popcorn or vegetable crisps (see above).
- Pre-peel citrus fruits like oranges or satsumas to make them easier to eat.
- Include tinned fruits but make sure they are in juice not syrup which is high in sugar.
- Fruit bars are generally not healthy - try dried fruit like apricots or sultanas instead.
- If your child insists on having crisps or chocolate in their lunchbox, try to limit this to one day per week and let them choose what their 'treat' will be.

According to the NHS, the perfect lunch box for a child should contain:

- a serving of starchy foods (wholegrain bread or pasta, brown rice);
- a protein (lean meat, egg or oily fish);
- a dairy item (low-fat cheese or sugar-free yoghurt);
- a portion of vegetables (celery sticks, carrot pieces);
- a portion of fruit (berries, grapes, melon, apple slices);
- water.

We've put together five balanced lunch boxes here - one for each day of the school week. You can copy them exactly, swap items around or get rid of them all together - whatever works for your family is fine.



Attendance Reminders

| Days off school add up to lost learning | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------|---|
| 175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, household jobs and other appointments | | | |
| 0 | 6 | 15 | 19 |
| DAYS ABSENCE (190 school days) | DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE | DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE | DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE |
| 100% | 96% | 92% | Below 90% |
| EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE | SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE | REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT | Persistent Absentee |
| Best chance of SUCCESS | Harder to make good progress | Less chance of success | CAUSE FOR CONCERN |
| | | | Serious concern Possible court action |

Three-Year Period

First Term Time Leave

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

£80 for each child per parent.

E.g. if two parents take 3 children away, the fine would be $£80 \times 3 = £240$ per parent.

The total would be **£480**.

If you pay after 21 days it rises to **£960**.

If you don't pay after 28 days = a prosecution.

Second Term Time Leave

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

£160 for each child per parent.

E.g. if two parents take 3 children away, the fine would be $£160 \times 3 = £480$ per parent.

The total would be **£960**.

If you don't pay after 28 days = a prosecution.

Third Term Time Leave

10 sessions (5 days) or more.

Prosecution.

Apply now



for a Reception school place for September 2026

If your child
will be aged 4
by **31st August**

You need to
apply **NOW**
for a School
place



**Apply by
15th January
2026**

For further information please visit
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions
or contact your local School

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370

School Admissions ALC2605, PO Box 761, Huntingdon, PE29 9 QR or
email admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Breakfast Club at Ladybird



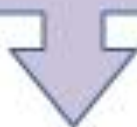
Open to Thriplow School
Children & Ladybird
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am



Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Phone: 01763 208055

DONATIONS

for
Breakfast Club and Ladybird Playgroup

Any Pre-loved toys and games, in good
condition wanted.

Including: (for children aged 3- 11 years)

Outdoor toys:
Balls, hoops etc.

Board games

Toys


Craft supplies

Building blocks

Please drop off any donations at

*Ladybird Playgroup - School Lane,
Thriplow, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 7RH*

Or call 01763 208055



Ladybird Playgroup Thriplow

Family
CHRISTMAS
Quiz

**BUY YOUR COPY OF A FUN FILLED
CHRISTMAS THEMED QUIZ FOR THE
WHOLE FAMILY TO ENJOY**

**AVAILABLE FROM LADYBIRD
PLAYGROUP OR THRILOW VILLAGE
SHOP**

**100 QUESTIONS,
INCLUDING A PICTURE
ROUND FOR CHILDREN
AND ADULTS**

FOR ONLY: £2

**ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO
LADYBIRD PLAYGROUP**

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family: discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.







