

Parent Bulletin



13th December 2024

Welcome to this week's Parent Bulletin!

With just one week left of term, the school is full of activity as we head towards the Christmas break.

This week, our Blue Skies students visited RAF Odiham for a brilliant trip. They learned about careers in the RAF and aviation, took part in team-building activities, and even got to see helicopters in action. It was a fantastic day that left a lasting impression on everyone involved.

Last night, we held our Year 11 Parents' Evening in person. It was great to see so many of you there, and we want to thank everyone who came along and supported the event.

Looking ahead to the final week of term, there's plenty to look forward to. We have Christmas dinners for each house, celebration assemblies, and we'll round off the week with our end-of-term celebration at the Mountbatten Centre.

Stay safe and take care,

Team Trafalgar

Hot Chocolate with the Head

This term, a group of students who have shown excellent attendance were treated to a special Hot Chocolate with the Executive Head.

It was a chance to celebrate their hard work and commitment, with everyone enjoying a well-deserved break and a warm drink. It was a nice way to recognise their dedication and encourage them to keep up the great attendance in the future.

Well done!



Key Dates

Autumn 2024

Monday 16th December - Year 7 Pantomime Trip

Mon 16th - Thurs 19th December - House Christmas Dinners

Wednesday 18th December - Year 7 Christmas Concert

Friday 20th December - Celebration Assembly (12:30pm finish)

Monday 6th January 2025 - Students start back for Spring Term

Uniform & Equipment

Please ensure your children have the correct uniform & equipment with them each day. If you require any support, contact your child's form tutor. Please ensure students have a bag. You can find full details of what they need [here](https://www.trafalgarschool.org.uk/parents/parents-information/uniform-equipment).



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Blue Skies Students Take Off at RAF Odiham

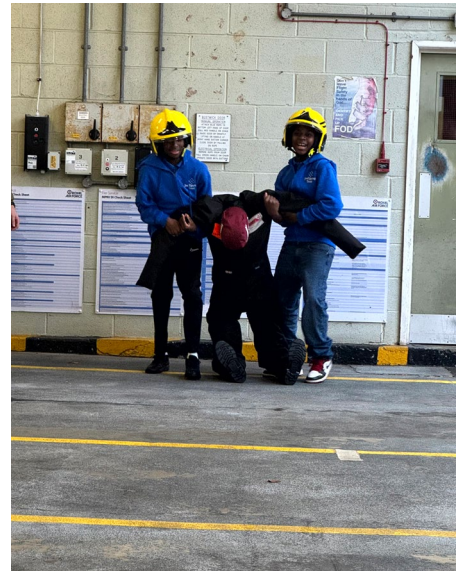
Our Blue Skies students recently attended their first off-site workshop at RAF Odiham, and it was a day to remember. The visit gave them a great insight into the variety of careers available in the Royal Air Force and the wider aviation industry.

The students got stuck into hands-on activities with the fire service on the base, including trying out different fire vehicles and operating the powerful fire hoses. They also took part in team-building exercises, where they honed their communication and problem-solving skills.



As part of the day, the students attended talks from RAF pilots, who shared their career journeys and explained the many opportunities within the aviation field. To top it all off, they were able to watch helicopters carrying out practice runs, providing a close-up look at how pilots are trained.

The workshop was an inspiring experience that gave the students a real sense of the exciting roles in aviation and left them with plenty to think about for the future.



Health and Social Care Students hear from Psychologist

Our Year 10 Health and Social Care students recently had the opportunity to hear from a qualified psychologist who works within the NHS. The talk provided a clear and practical look at the different career pathways into psychology and the wider health and social care field.

The psychologist shared her own experiences, offering insights into the routes she took and the realities of working in the profession. Students were able to learn more about the skills and qualifications needed, as well as the challenges and rewards of the role. It was a valuable session that gave students a better understanding of the opportunities available and plenty to think about as they consider their own futures.



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Campaign to make Oakwood Road One-Way

Following many years of disruption and frustration, 98% of the residents of Oakwood Road have recently voted in favour of the road becoming one-way.

We all believe this will:

- Reduce congestion in Oakwood Road and surrounding roads
- Be safer for your children when walking to and from school
- Promote a calmer start to the day for both parents, children and residents
- Reduce the number of damages to parked and moving cars
- Reduce carbon emissions



The petition was supported by local councillor Russell Simpson, who presented it directly to the relevant council department. We are now looking for support from those who are impacted by the issues in the road to support the campaign.

Following a recent meeting with the Executive Headteacher, Claire Copeland she has given her support, so we are asking for parents and guardians to [click the link and complete the form](#) (no more than 5 minutes of your time required) and support this proposal.

With many thanks

The residents of Oakwood Road

Teach Portsmouth Awards 2025

The Teach Portsmouth Awards returns to Portsmouth Guildhall on Thursday 12 June 2025 from 6pm - 9pm to celebrate the achievements of the city's education workforce.

To coincide with the launch, Teach Portsmouth has opened nominations online for the people's choice award category. This is a chance for the community to share stories of school and college staff who have gone above and beyond.



The People's Choice Award is the only category open to public nominations, and it recognises the extraordinary achievements of staff as seen through the eyes of the people they serve.

If you know a member of staff who has made a real difference, we'd love to hear about it!

The deadline for entries is Friday 20 December 2024.

[Nominate now](#)



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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.



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

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