

MAIN ENTRANCE AND DRIVEWAY

We would like to say a huge thank you for the response to our request about the main entrance. The situation is much better and safer for the children of Priestley Smith School. In case anyone missed it, the only times you should use the main entrance to bring and collect your child are:

- If you arrive outside the usual school opening time (e.g. after an attending a medical appointment) and the usual entrance is locked. Please note, if you are a bit late, the usual gate will still be open and you should go that way. Only come to the main entrance if the usual gate is locked.
- If your child is attending a before-school or after-school activity or Beeches Busy Kids Club.
- If you have been given special permission to use the main entrance. (If this is the case, and the reason isn't to do with a physical condition, please park elsewhere and walk up to the school.)

If you have any questions or have a need to request special permission to use the main entrance, please email Mr Smart: m.smart@beechesjnr.bham.sch.uk

LABELLING AND CHECKING CLOTHES

We've had a bit of a spate of clothes going missing recently - not in the usual way, where a child leaves a coat lying around somewhere, but with children taking someone else's clothes home by mistake. When your child takes their coat and jumper/cardigan off, please check the label to make sure it isn't someone else's, and if they do accidentally bring someone else's clothes home, please return them to school the next day. Above all, **please make sure your child's clothes are labelled**. Thank you for your support.

MAKE-UP AND FALSE NAILS

We've had a few occasions recently when some children have come to school wearing make-up and/or false nails. Please note that this should not be happening. Please ensure that your child does not wear make-up or false nails in school under any circumstances, including on non-uniform days. Our uniform policy is here:

<https://www.beechesjnr.bham.sch.uk/about-us/policies>

CHRISTMAS FAYRE... OR CHRISTMAS WINTER TRAIL!

This year, our Christmas fayre will be known as the Christmas Winter Trail! It is fast approaching and we have our usual requests to make. First of all, we have a small number of stalls available if you have something suitable that you would like to sell. It costs £25 to have a stall. Also, if you are associated with any companies that can donate items to our raffle, this would be great. If you would like a stall or have something to donate, please contact Mrs Gillespie: k.gillespie@beechesjnr.bham.sch.uk As usual, we need to bribe you to help to fill our stalls! We are asking for donations of unopened, in-date bottles of drink, chocolate items and toiletries. If you would like to donate any alcoholic drinks, please bring them to the office and don't send them in with your child. **Please send donations in by Wednesday 29th November**. If we receive enough donations, the children will have a non-uniform day on Friday 1st December!

FOOTBALL

Luca and Dhillon have written about some recent sporting success:

On Tuesday, the Year 5 and Year 6 boys competed in a 7-a-side football tournament at Aston Villa. We played five games in total and won every single one without conceding a single goal! It was an amazing performance by everybody and the 16 goals we scored were shared among lots of different players. Our biggest result was a 5-0 win. We had a fantastic morning continuing our fine form.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Thank you to everyone who has donated to Children in Need. Our non-uniform day last week has raised £109.50 so far. The donations are still open on School Money so if you are able to donate anything, please do so. Thank you for your generosity.

SMART TVs

Many of you probably have a Smart TV at home and you probably think it's a wonderful thing. And it is... but there are some e-safety hazards related to them that you should be aware of. Please have a look at the poster on the next page to see some information that will hopefully help you keep your child safe while using a Smart TV.

DIARY DATES

Fri 1 Dec	Possible non-uniform day
Thu 7 Dec	Non-uniform - Christmas Jumper Day
Thu 7 Dec, 3.30pm	Christmas Winter Trail
Mon 11 Dec	Year 6 visit to Beaumanor
Tue 19 Dec, 9.00am & Wed 20 Dec, 2.30pm	Year 4 Christmas show
Thu 21 Dec	Christmas dinner
Fri 22 Dec	Last day of term
Tue 9 Jan 2024	School reopens

PUPIL OF THE WEEK

3C: Evie	4B: Toby	5A: Arjun	6IS: Olivia H
3L: Lila	4F: Janet	5P: Dhanraj	6MS: Ayana
3P: Dorcas	4L: Malieek	5W: Humaira	6SM: Freya
3W: Lilly			

BEECHES BRILLIANT READERS

Year 3: Ameena (3W)
 Year 4: Saidan (4F)
 Year 5: Manal (5W)
 Year 6: Yugjit (6SM)

TEAM POINTS

1.	Team Zephaniah	830
2.	Team Lewis	637
3.	Team Cadbury	605
4.	Team Malala	600

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday