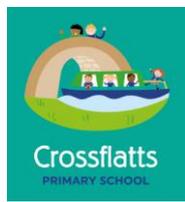


Our Vision and Values

'Come as you are and leave at your best'

'We are a family, who learn how to flourish and then fly high.'



Mrs Bennett's Blog

Thursday 5th December

Hi Everyone,

Now the first advent calendars have been opened we really are in the Christmas spirit. It is lovely to walk around school and hear the children practising for their Christmas celebrations –Nativities, Carol concerts and Christingles. It really does put a Christmas spring in your step.

Hopes and dreams

The whole school has spent some time working on a fundraising project in conjunction with the Friends of Crossflatts. Each child was asked to create a piece of artwork which celebrates their 'hopes and dreams'. This has taken many different forms across school but is personalised for each child. The children have all worked very hard and are very proud of their artwork. This will be showcased at 'Christmas Sparkle' where you will have the opportunity to purchase your child's work for £3. We will add £3 to every child's parent pay account and adjust accordingly following 'Christmas Sparkle'. If you are unable to attend you can still purchase your child's work – Please just inform their class teacher on dojo and we will send it home with them on the day. We will be unable to accept cash in the classrooms on the day.

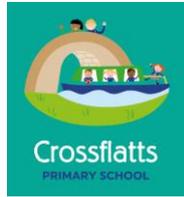
Reminder of key dates

- Thursday 12th December- Nursery Songs and Sparkle event- 9.30am and 1.30pm
- Friday 13th – Nursery Christmas party
- Friday 13th December- Christmas Sparkle in School from Reception to Year 6- 1.45pm-2.45pm. This will also be Christmas Jumper day and Christmas lunch picnic box day. This will be followed with the Friends of Crossflatts Jingle Mingle straight after Christmas Sparkle.
- Monday 16th December- Years 2 & 3 Carol Concert- 9.45am and 1.15pm
- Tuesday 17th December- Year 1 Performance- 9.45am and 1.15pm
- Wednesday 18th December- Reception Nativity- 9.45am and 1.15pm
- Thursday 19th December- Party Day (Come in your party outfits and normal lunchtime arrangements) with Friends of Crossflatts Secret Shop in the school day. (Parents not required)
- Friday 20th of December-Christingle Services- Year 1-6- Through the school day. (Parents not required)

Friends of Crossflatts

Friends of Crossflatts are delighted to announce that the Secret Santa Shop will be returning to school this year! Our popular Secret Santa shop will be held during the school day on Thursday 19th December. Parents do not need to attend. The shop provides an opportunity for the children to come and choose gifts for their special people. It is lovely to see how much effort the children put into choosing the gifts.

Our Vision and Values



'Come as you are and leave at your best'

Presents are £2.50 each. Please bring money in a named envelope to class teachers on the day.

A reminder our next meeting will take place tomorrow, Friday 6th December at 9am in the Willows.

Safeguarding

Following KS2's recent assembly with the police to discuss online safety. Here are some top tips to keep your devices safe in the home.

Smart devices promise to make our lives easier. In many cases - they do, however these new technologies present risks too. Whether you're using a digital assistant to record your shopping list or you're controlling your lights through a smart system, many smart functions can be 'hacked' and controlled by someone outside your home. This guide will help you identify some of the ways you can stay alert and protect yourself.

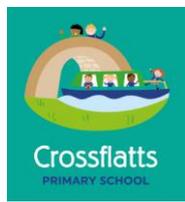
- 1 KNOW THE RISKS**
The success of any smart device relies on its communicating with other devices using the internet. It's an unavoidable part of using smart devices, but it does expose you to internet risks. Attackers could use the internet connection to steal your data for identity theft or to make something on your devices. There is no internet connection, there is no internet connection. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but it's not always clear if it's a security update or a cyber-bug.
- 2 WHAT IS THE INTERNET OF THINGS?**
Think of smart devices that are connected to the internet in your home. It includes a new digital assistant connected to your smart speakers, your kettle that boils when you tell it to on your tablet or your smart watch. The internet of Things (IoT) is designed to make the same, but it also means your home network is potential cyber-attacks. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy the benefits, but it does mean being aware of the potential risks.
- 3 CHECK ENCRYPTION SETTINGS**
Whenever data is sent over the internet, it's "encrypted". This means it's harder to read if it's intercepted. The standard way to use encryption settings, such as WPA2, rather than WPA or WEP. You can check your router manual to see how to do this.
- 4 KEEP YOUR SOFTWARE UP TO DATE**
Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but it's not always clear if it's a security update or a cyber-bug. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.
- 5 RENAME THE 'GATEWAY' TO YOUR HOME**
Your router is the central gateway to your home network. It's the device that connects to the internet. The default name is usually "Linksys" or "Netgear". You can usually find steps to do this in the manual. Don't forget to do this for all your other devices. Make the password and name unique, using upper and lower case letters, numbers and symbols. Do this for your router and your other smart devices connected to the internet.
- 6 USE A SEPARATE NETWORK FOR GUESTS**
If you receive lots of visitors that often use your Wi-Fi, they won't have access to your devices.
- 7 SAY GOODBYE TO SIRI AND ALEXA**
It's a good idea to change the password for your smart devices. You can usually do this on the device or your phone. It's a good idea to change the password for people to break into your smart devices.
- 8 DEACTIVATE ANY UNNECESSARY FEATURES**
Though it's a fun idea, you probably don't need to control your kettle from outside the house. In fact, there are often many unnecessary features on smart devices. Disable them. Some smart devices have the ability to track your location. When someone sees you've actively been tracked, they can see your location. They can also see your location history. When you're not using the device, turn off location tracking.
- 9 TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS**
If you don't feel something is wrong or your network is being accessed, and the manufacturer's website or help desk says it's not a security issue, it's better to be safe than sorry.
- 10 BUILD A WALL**
You could also purchase a dedicated "firewall" device. This is something that plugs into your network and stops cyber threats reaching your router. Some routers do have a firewall built in, but they are not replacement for the real thing. A firewall device thoroughly analyzes information coming in and out of your network and helps stop malicious threats. A security device is strongly recommended to anyone who works from home or deals with sensitive information.
- 11 SECURE YOUR SMARTPHONE**
If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least make sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to install some anti-virus software for your smartphone too.
- 12 REGULARLY AUDIT YOUR DEVICES AND CONSOLES**
Even when you think you've turned off all of your smart devices, something might be connected to the internet. Turn them off. If you don't use them, turn them off. It's a good practice to disconnect any devices that you don't use. They're not always easy to find, but they're often hidden in the back of your TV or under your sofa. Disconnecting them helps to reduce the risk of someone accessing them. It could be for banking or shopping data.

Meet our expert
Emma was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than a decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old and has vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.

NOS National Online Safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter: @natonlinesafety Facebook: /NationalOnlineSafety

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Recruitment

We have a permanent position available in school for a learning support assistant, for more information please follow this link: <https://prospectsonline.co.uk/portal/school/jobs>

Attendance:

'All Day, Every Day, The Crossflatts Way!'

Here are last week's figures: Whole School: 95.6%

Our Aspirational Target	The national target	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
98%	96.0%	93.9%	95.2%	95.4%	98.9%	94.9%	95.6%	95.6%

A very busy week ahead – Have a lovely weekend and I look forward to seeing many of you at 'Christmas Sparkle' next week.

Kind regards

Mrs Bennett

Headteacher

Family-Flourish-Fly