



19 December 2025

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a magical fortnight it has been at Summerville in the build up to Christmas. Our Early Years children put on a wonderful *Twinkl Nativity*. I was really impressed to hear all eleven songs that they had learnt to tell the Christmas Story. The Key Stage 1 children's performance of *Hey Ewe* provided similarly great singing, along with acting and dancing. All the children looked fantastic and it was lovely to see the smiles they brought to everyone's faces during the shows. A very heart-warming way to start December!

This was followed up by our Carol Service at All Saints Church. I think this is one of the best services we have had yet and the quality of the singing with split parts, the descant in 'O Come All Ye Faithful' and even some acapella when the speaker let us down is testament to the hard work and effort that has gone into the practices in school. The readers also delivered their lines with real confidence, building on the oracy work we have been embedding this term.

Christmas lunch was a real success yesterday and the children thoroughly enjoyed their roast dinner. There was a real buzz in the hall with the music playing and staff and children all eating together. Mary, Beth and the team in the kitchen did an amazing job to serve up all 359 hot lunches. The children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 also had a surprise visit from Santa who dropped in to one of our assemblies and then delivered presents to each class. The look of shock and surprise on the children's faces is something that will stick with us for a long time.



The orchestra put on their Christmas performance, giving the opportunity for them to all play their Christmas music together as well as some soloists getting their opportunity to shine in front of their peers. Again, their hard-work and practising throughout the year all paid off in a great mini concert. Thanks to Mr Dodgson for teaching them this term.

On top of all of the festive fun, the children have also completed their final topics for this term and have been working hard this week to cram in the last few lessons. We had our Autumn Term visit from Matt Johnson, Hertfordshire School Effectiveness Adviser, which had a focus on our progress and attainment data as well as a deep dive into one of our development areas of implementing Voice 21 to develop oracy across the school. It was an extremely positive outcome with Mr Johnson stating that he could see 'Vital work being done which will have significant impact on children's lives', as well as commenting on the quality of the learning environments which have been developed across the school. Another proud headteacher moment!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff who work so hard all year to ensure the children make great progress with their learning and deliver it in a fun and engaging way. It is a passionate team with high expectations who strive for the best for the children and I am extremely grateful for all they do. It has been lovely to hear the positive feedback following the performances, not just from our own Summerville community but from visitors as well and I'm sure you will join me in wishing the team a well-deserved rest over the Christmas holidays.

I'd also like to thank all of our families for your ongoing support. There have been lots of lovely emails and messages over the past couple of weeks which have been really appreciated. As we have been discussing with the children, it is often the small acts or a simple smile or thank you that can make a difference. Christmas is a great time to remind ourselves of these values, to think of others and show gratitude for what we have. I have seen the children doing this a lot and hopefully this continues at home during the festive period. We also appreciate Christmas can be a difficult time for families so please reach out if you feel there is anything we can do to support. You are never alone.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stephen Jess
Headteacher





EYFS

It's Christmas!

In EYFS we have been starting to feel very excited about Christmas and have been enjoying lots of activities linked to the festive season. As part of our topic on the Christian festival of Christmas, the children have been learning about the Nativity story. We shared the story together and talked about its key events, making links to the songs the children have been learning for their show.

In Reception the children enjoyed drawing their favourite part of the story and adding labels or short captions to explain their pictures. They also took part in creative activities such as cutting, sticking and colouring figures of Mary, Joseph, the angels and baby Jesus, carefully arranging them inside a stable to recreate the Nativity scene.

Alongside this, we have been exploring the many Christmas traditions that families enjoy at this time of year. We read *The Christmas Pine* by Julia Donaldson, which sparked thoughtful discussions about how different families celebrate Christmas. The children shared their own experiences, including putting up Christmas trees, opening advent calendars, lighting candles and spending special time with loved ones. We talked about how some traditions are unique to individual families, while others are shared by many people. In Nursery the children then painted a Christmas tree and in Reception they drew pictures to celebrate these ideas and wrote labels or captions to accompany their work.

In maths, the children have been developing their number skills through a range of practical and visual activities. They have been exploring number recognition, finding different ways to make numbers, and explaining their thinking using resources such as Numicon. In addition, in Reception we have been learning about time, including days of the week and months of the year, and ordering objects by height and size.

The highlight of the week was of course our Christmas performance, which was absolutely amazing! The children worked incredibly hard to learn the songs and actions and showed great confidence performing on stage in front of a large audience — a first experience for many of them. They did themselves proud, and we hope that you enjoyed watching the performance and that it got you into the festive spirit.

Thank you all for your continued support during this busy and magical time of year. We wish all the children and their families a very Merry Christmas or a happy winter break.

The Early Years Team





Year 1

Full Of Festive Cheer!

It has been very busy in Year 1 with the lead-up to the Christmas holidays. We would like to start by saying a massive thank you to everyone who contributed to the Nativity. The costumes were amazing! The children did a fantastic job singing and dancing, putting on a real show.

The children have become true poets this term. They planned and published their own poems about squirrels inspired by Joseph Coelho's poem, 'Pigeons'. The children brainstormed ideas about what squirrels look like and how they move, using a variety of verbs. To show how much we enjoyed reading and performing Mr Coelho's poems, the children wrote a letter to him, sharing their favourite poem and explaining why they liked it, as well as asking him a question about poetry.

In maths, Cherry and Chestnut have become experts in addition and using it to solve problems. We have looked at how we can use information from a 'first, then, now' story and how we can use this to support writing an addition number sentence. We have also started looking at subtraction and have discussed what the subtraction symbol (-) means. The children have used their part-whole models to help find the missing part of our number sentence, as well as use them to help write a subtraction number sentence. We have used crossing out to support solving a number sentence too, ensuring we are crossing out the right number.

We have become true scientists this term, carrying out experiments and investigations. The children have made predictions on what they think the results may be. We looked at which materials float and which sink. The children thought of all the factors that could help the object float or sink. We then tested which material would be the best to absorb the water. We tested cotton wool, tin foil, plastic and cardboard. The children used their scientific knowledge that absorption means that a material will soak up water, but we can squeeze it out. We found that cotton wool was the best. The children finally had the mission of helping the dinosaurs escape the ice. We used a hairdryer and a towel to see which was quicker to release the dinosaurs; the hairdryer won!

The children continued learning about Josephine Baker in history. They looked at images of Josephine and her twelve children, whom she adopted from all around the world. We then gave her famous dances a go, with the children showing off their amazing moves!

The children have had a fantastic first term in Year 1! We hope you all have a well-rested holiday, and we look forward to seeing the children in the new year. We wish you a 'Merry Christmas', 'Happy Hanukkah' and a very 'Happy New Year!'

From Mrs Lamb, Miss Borg, Mrs Turner, Mrs Simou & Mrs Humby





Year 2

Hey Ewe!

We hope you enjoyed watching the children perform in our Christmas show last week, *Hey Ewe!* We were very proud of how well they worked hard to bring it all together, learning their lines as well as the lyrics and actions for all the songs. Well done to all the children.

Last week, we started our new geography topic called *Pole to Pole*. We have explored the difference between the Arctic and the Antarctic with a focus on animals, and humans, as well as where they are located on the globe. From this, the children explored the two polar habitats. They identified which animal lives where and how they have adapted to suit the cold and icy conditions.

We then read the book, *The Emperor's Egg*, with a particular focus on the life cycle of a penguin. The children worked well in pairs to draw each stage of the life cycle, as well as explaining the changes through a penguin's life.

In art, the children have been drawing penguins, and they thoroughly enjoyed sketching, drawing, and colouring them in. They were brilliant!

We took an exciting visit to Antarctica but before we went, we had to make sure we packed a suitable bag! For the expedition, the children came up with a variety of items perfect for our trip – clothes, a map, a compass, a torch, a teddy, gloves, and of course woolly socks! The children were fascinated to hear of explorers who spent years trying to reach the South Pole!

We want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you all have a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you in January.

The Year Two team





Year 3

Art So Good, You Kahlo Believe It!

Year 3 have been studying the incredibly impressive Frida Kahlo over the past few weeks. Pupils explored the bright, bold, and wonderfully quirky themes in her artwork and learned about the many trials she faced throughout her life, which helped shape her into an incredibly strong and inspiring woman. The children have enjoyed trying to recreate some of Frida's stunning art themselves, experimenting with expressive colour, symbolism and self-portrait techniques. We've been very impressed with the growing maturity and creativity they have shown in art lessons, showing a willingness to explore ideas on their own and learn from mistakes.

Billy Goats: 1 – Troll: 0

We have reached the end of our *Three Billy Goats Gruff* unit, retold by Mac Barnett, and it has been a huge hit with the pupils. They were amazed by the enormity of the biggest Billy Goat Gruff and delighted to see the troll finally get his just desserts - ending up tumbling into the depths of a humongous waterfall (spoiler alert!). Year 3 spent time sharing their thoughts on the story, writing their own book reviews and deciding whether they would recommend the book to others. Their opinions were thoughtful, confident, and often very amusing!

Wrapping Up the Term!

We finished the term by making some creative Christmas hats to wear during our Christmas lunch. Can you spot your reindeer amongst them? We are extremely proud of how well Year 3 pupils have settled into their new routines, demonstrating maturity, resilience and growing independence as they navigate life in the KS2 building. We hope you all have a restful, joyful and fun-filled Christmas after such a busy term. Enjoy the festivities with your families, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new year - refreshed and ready for an exciting 2026!





Year 4

Proud!

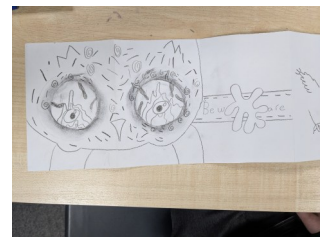
Our new topic, *Pride*, has provided the children with the opportunity to learn how to have hope, pride, love and equality, and to respect and celebrate difference. In DT lessons, the children have been very busy creating their own t-shirt designs to show pride in their personalities and interests. First, they learnt a bit about the artist Keith Haring and then they experimented with creating bold designs inspired by his style.

Our next science step was our investigation lesson. Our enquiry question, "How does the temperature of water affect the time it takes for ice to melt?" provided a good opportunity for the children to predict and observe change over time. Using stopwatches, thermometers, beakers, water and ice, the children made predictions and discussed what they needed to change, keep the same and measure. They did a great job - let's hope we don't have to test out any real-life icy conditions over the holidays!

In English we have reached the end of our text, *The Bluest of Blues*. The children have impressed us with their autobiography writing in role as Anna Atkins. Did you know that she was considered to have been the first female photographer? The children wrote confidently as Anna, sharing some of the key moments in her life and explaining how she became involved in photography. They were shocked to find out how little women were allowed to do in the time Anna was alive and realised that she was fortunate to have a father who supported her and believed that women should have equal access to education.

In art lessons, we have been busy creating our own illustrated versions of the famous poem 'The Jabberwocky', by Lewis Carroll. The children have loved exploring the nonsense words, using their imaginations to create 'slithy toves', 'mome raths' and some truly terrifying Jabberwocks! They have experimented with using charcoal, graphite, pastel and chalk to create largely monochrome illustrations with splashes of colour.

A busy end to a busy term! The Year 4 team are very proud of how the children have adapted to life in Year 4. We wish you all a lovely holiday and look forward to hearing all about it when we return.



Birthday List

Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthdays recently.

Louis C
Lottie S
Molly C
Katherine S-S
Hugo T
Isabella M

Holly
Sycamore
Holly
Sycamore
N- Acorn
Holly

Cody L
Bailey-Rae K-S
Joshua B
Ethan K
Archie C
Joshua W

Hazel
Sycamore
Oak
N- Acorn
Lime
Lime

Finbar S
Aidan S-B
Savanah-Rose L
Yin L
Lucy H
Niamh C

Cherry
Maple
Oak
Lime
Chestnut
Maple



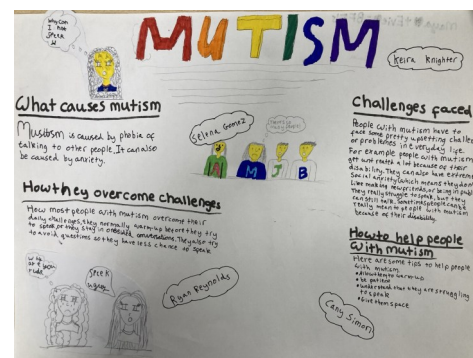
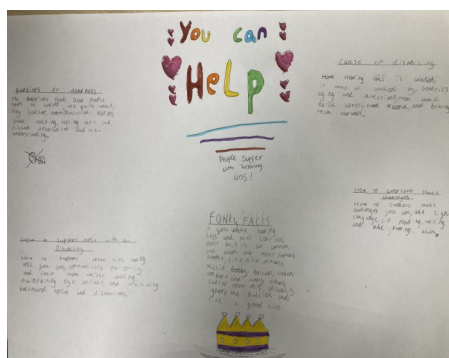
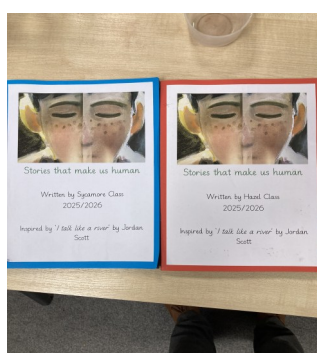


Year 5

Talking Like A River

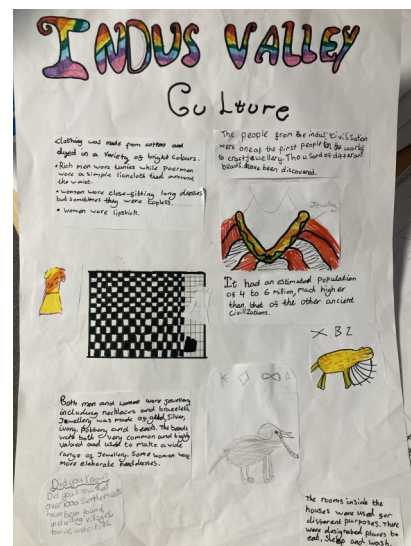
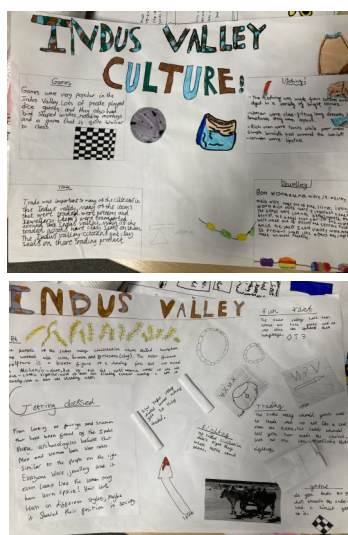
In English, pupils have been exploring the heartfelt narrative, *I Talk Like a River*. Through the story of a young boy struggling with his speech, children were encouraged to reflect on their own experiences of anxiety, embarrassment, or regret. With great maturity and empathy, they have written their own emotional responses for a class anthology titled *Stories That Make Us Human*. These thoughtful pieces celebrate understanding and kindness, and we cannot wait to share them with you.

Continuing our work on *I Talk Like a River*, pupils chose an impairment to research, ranging from selective mutism (like the boy in the story) to neurodiversity, as well as sensory impairments such as blindness and deafness. Working in small groups, the children became 'experts' in their chosen area before applying their learning to create an informative and creative poster designed to promote awareness. As we turn the final pages of this thought-provoking unit, it has given the children much to reflect on and has helped nurture a deeper empathy and understanding of others.



A Closer Look into the Ancient World of the Indus Valley

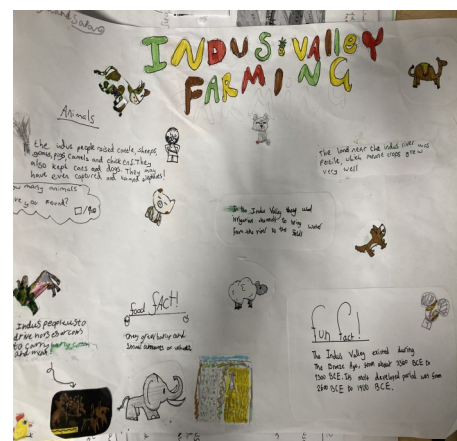
This half term, Year 5 have been delving deep into their learning about the Indus Valley civilisation, one of the world's earliest and most fascinating ancient societies. The children researched different aspects of life for the people who lived in modern-day Pakistan over 5,000 years ago, gaining a real appreciation for how advanced this civilisation was. This past week, pupils focused particularly on Indus culture, city infrastructure, and farming practices, learning about well-planned cities, drainage systems, farming near rivers, and daily life. After completing their research, the children carefully planned and designed their own non-fiction fact files. These showcased key information, clear organisation, and thoughtful presentation, highlighting many of the surprising and impressive achievements of the Indus people.



A Well-Earned Break

As the term comes to a close, we would like to say a huge well done and thank you to all of our Year 5 pupils for their continued hard work, positive attitudes, and the care and encouragement they show one another every day. The children have shown great resilience and enthusiasm across all areas of learning, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts this term. We hope everyone enjoys a relaxing and festive holiday with family and friends, and we look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for an exciting new year in January.

The Year 5 Team





Year 6

Ending The Term On A High Note

What a whirlwind end to our first term it has been in Year 6! We launched our new topic by watching David Attenborough's *A Life on Our Planet*, which sparked deep thinking about the impact of human activity on the Earth, and its future. But as the documentary ended, the children received an urgent (and very official!) letter from the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, calling on them to help save the world's biomes and inviting them to present their ideas at the UN Climate Action Conference this January. While Mr Guterres may be slightly optimistic about our current biome expertise, Year 6 are rising to the challenge with enthusiasm, curiosity and determination as we dive headfirst into this vital topic.

The culmination of weeks of hard work was showcased beautifully at the inter-school carol service at St Michael's, where the children truly impressed with their polished two-part harmony performance of 'O Holy Night'. This success was repeated at our school carol service at All Saints, where their confidence and musicality shone through once again. We are incredibly proud of their commitment and the maturity they displayed in both performances.

We couldn't be more proud of Year 6 for such a fantastic start to their final year at primary school. This first term has flown by, and we're excited for all that lies ahead after Christmas. For now, we wish you all a restful, joyful and safe Christmas holiday and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in the New Year!



Summertime Tigers

The Summertime Tigers took part in the KS2 Intra Schools Cheerleading Competition held at Birchwood this week and were amazing!!

Tigers scored top marks for their motions, cannons and overall impression.

The team represented their school with a memorable performance and were brilliant!

Well done Summertime Tigers!



Pupil Achievement

Congratulations to Vivian M-D in Apple Class.

Through incredible resilience and determination, Vivian has achieved her Black Belt in Kung Fu on 7th December. Vivian has been training with Bishop's Stortford Kung Fu since the age of just 4, making this achievement a true testament to her long-term dedication and hard work.

An outstanding accomplishment. Well done Vivian!





SEND Updates

We would like to make you aware of some of the local support available for parents of children with SEND.

You can find lots of articles to support children's wellbeing and emotional health [here](#).



Please access the Developing Special Provision Locally, Area 3 (DSPL3) website and Facebook page linked below. There you will find a range of helpful information, advice, courses and further SEN support.

DSPL3 Website- [Developing Special Provision Locally \(DSPL\) 3 - Home](#)

DSPL3 Facebook page- [Delivering Special Provision Locally Area 3 - East Herts | Facebook](#)

There are also a range of other support groups, including:

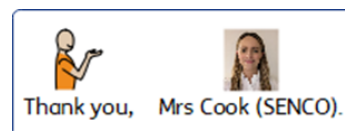
[SPACE Hertfordshire – Supporting families in Hertfordshire | Autism | ADHD | Neurodiversity](#)

[ADD-vance](#)- The ADHD and Autism Trust- courses include 'Understanding my ADHD'.

[Families in Focus | Courses for Parents, Hertfordshire](#)

[Families Feeling Safe](#) • Protective Behaviours training, courses and workshops.

SENDIASS- [Home](#)- Info, advice and support with the SEN systems.



New SEN Signposts:

- 'Understanding My Autism' & 'Understanding My ADHD' courses for children starting in January 2026
- Neurodiversity support Hub- for children with a diagnosis or awaiting an assessment



Punctuality Matters!

Did you know?

The early work in our classes helps the children to embed and practise the skills that they have learnt previously.

Our registers close at 8:55am.

Missed minutes = missed learning = missed opportunities!

Being frequently late for school means lost learning:

- o Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- o Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- o Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

Our school attendance policy can be found [here](#).

If you need advice or support regarding attendance or punctuality please contact our Pastoral Lead, Mrs Willis, at jo.willis@summercroft.herts.sch.uk.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



The
National
College



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.12.2023