



## Welcome to the Oxlip Learning Partnership Newsletter for Parents and Carers: Autumn 2025

As we approach the end of a long Autumn Term, we would firstly like to thank parents/carers and all our pupils for contributing to positive attendance figures across our schools. Perhaps your child earned some extra breaktime in their school for excellent attendance, or maybe a doughnut on a Friday - each school celebrates good attendance in different ways.

Secondly, Trustees and governors have visited all our schools this term and report that they have been particularly impressed with the warm welcome they receive, the pupils' aptitude to learning and the inviting education spaces encouraging inquisitive minds.

Thirdly, it would not be the Autumn Term if we didn't mention all the fundraising and creativity that takes place at this time of year. With Christmas Concerts, Nativities and Plays, Santa Fun-runs and Christmas Jumper Days, not to mention Pudsey Bear visiting for Children in Need! Congratulations to all pupils involved and thank you to parents/carers for making costumes, getting children to rehearsals and being part of the audience.

Finally, we hope that you enjoy our Autumn Term Newsletter providing a snap-shot of the news and activities that have taken place across our Trust.

May we wish you a very peaceful and relaxed festive period and a Happy New Year.

### Online Safety: Managing Screen Time

From using them for communication, work, shopping and entertainment, devices such as smartphones, laptops and the rest are now deeply ingrained into modern society. Small wonder, then, that young people – who have grown up surrounded by such gadgets – can sometimes struggle to put them down, switch them off or keep themselves occupied without them.

The online safety guide on **page 4** provides some practical tips for helping to reduce your family's screen time and promote healthier use of your devices. Perhaps the Christmas break and New Year is an ideal time to try out some of the top tips shown on page 4.

### News from our Schools:



**At Britannia,** we have welcomed over 720 parents over the past week to our range of nine

separate Nativity performances both in the school hall for our younger pupils and at St Andrews Church next door for our older pupils. Even our Nursery pupils enjoyed performing traditional carols to their delighted family members. Parents have commented upon the professionalism of each of the performances as well as the spectacle of seeing their child taking part in such awe-inspiring community events at such a special time of year.

In addition to this, we have taken a group of 42 pupils to Snape Maltings to enjoy the traditional Co-Op Juniors Christmas spectacular, which was truly out of this world; we have a Christmas Fayre planned and run by our eldest Year 6 pupils this coming Thursday and then on the last day of term we will be holding our traditional annual talent show, Britannia's Got Talent, which is always recalled by pupils on their last day with us as a highlight of their time at school.



**Cedars Park**  
Primary School

This week, they performed brilliantly in a special Christmas concert to their parents.

### This term at Cedars Park:

It has not only been the season to be jolly at Cedars Park, but also to be extremely busy! Reception excitedly wrote letters to Santa and took a local walk

to post them. This week, they performed brilliantly in a special Christmas concert to their parents.

Year 3 are also taking a local walk to St Peter's and St Mary's Church this week, where earlier in the term, the school choir performed with Combs Ford Primary School as part of the Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival. Members of the school choir also took part in 'The Big Sing' at Snape Maltings, where their talents shone brightly.

Year 1 went on a trip to Bury St Edmunds recently and demonstrated their knowledge confidently as they explored the town's historic sights. The Year 1 and 2 nativity performance of 'Behind the Stable Door' was a resounding success with children enjoying the chance to perform in front of a live audience.



Year 4 and 5 have had great DT days this week - making biscuits and wobble cups respectively. Finally, Year 6 performed Christmas Carols from around the world as part of this year's Christmas Market, where they raised money for the Salvation Army, reminding us all about the importance of giving back and caring for our local community.



**Bacton**  
Primary School



**Mendlesham**  
Primary School

At both schools, Children enjoyed a special visit from BBC Suffolk Radio and Pudsey Bear as part of Children in Need celebrations. Both Pudsey and the radio presenter managed to raise the children's spirits significantly before the start of school!

**At Bacton**, the children were thrilled to return after the summer break to a school that looks fantastic, following a full redecoration and the installation of new outdoor gym equipment. A huge thank you to Mrs Daniels for organising the gym equipment and the Trust for making the redecoration possible and for their continued support.

We were delighted to welcome Miss Jewers to our team in September as the new Robin Class EYFS teacher. Miss Jewers brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm to the role and recently achieved a fantastic milestone—receiving a Dean's Award for her Master's degree in Psychology. We are excited to have her on board and look forward to the positive impact she will have on our children's learning journey.

**Mendlesham** has also had some works carried out with the installation of a new canopy for the Early Years outdoor area. A huge thank you to the Trust for supporting this installation, creating a much-improved all-weather learning space for our new Willow children to enjoy.

Also, we were thrilled to welcome Matthew Applegate, BAFTA award-winning musician, to officially open our new Sound Garden. Matthew will be returning in the new year to hold workshops with children across the school and hopefully record some of their musical endeavours.



**Mulberry** welcomed new families to our Specialist Education Unit, which is now at full capacity. We are pleased to welcome new children and their families into the provision and look forward to supporting them as part of our school community.



**At Rose Hill** we are thrilled to celebrate the opening of two brand-new playgrounds,

creating exciting new spaces for our children to play, explore, and grow. Designed with fun, safety, and inclusivity in mind, the new playgrounds offer a variety of equipment that encourages physical activity, imagination, and social interaction for pupils of all ages. This wonderful addition reflects our commitment to providing enriching environments that support wellbeing and learning beyond the classroom. A huge thank you to everyone involved in bringing this project to life—it is wonderful to see our playgrounds filled with laughter, energy, and joyful play.

This term has seen some exciting changes to our school day, allowing us to introduce an extended

tutor time and a new programme to strengthen belonging and personal development, which students have embraced enthusiastically—especially through our first whole-form poetry recital competition.

Beyond the classroom, students have taken part in inspiring visits and enrichment opportunities. Our first careers fair was a huge success, with lots of positive feedback from both delegates and students and we have also welcomed back several Copleston alumni to inspire our current students.



Students gave a very atmospheric performance in the Shakespeare Schools Festival, described by the adjudicators as “a slick and sinister production” and a group of younger students worked with Thomas Wolsey 550 and creative professionals to organise a community art trail. Year 10 students were treated to a performance of ‘A Christmas Carol’ given by a visiting theatre company and our exam students had valuable input with workshops from Exam Study Expert.

As the holiday approaches, we have been enjoying several festive events including a student-run Christmas Fayre, popular Christmas lunch, a carol concert joined by Year 6 students, an inspiring carol service and our Achievement Assemblies which are celebration of everything our students have accomplished. We would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for 2026.



**Stowupland**  
High School

The Autumn Term 2025 at Stowupland High School has seen a focus on academic achievement, wider cultural experiences and building a sense of community for all of our students.

The Performing Arts Winter Showcase was a spectacular celebration of our students' creative talents, and a wonderful opportunity for our community to witness the hard work and dedication of the young people at Stowupland. There have been strong wins for our football, futsal, netball and swimming teams, demonstrating the commitment and competitive spirit of our students and staff. Our careers and further education fayre in November saw employers, university and Sixth Form staff from across the local area gather to present to Year 10 and 11 students and inspire their ambitions for the future.

The educational visit to Lille in mid-October enabled over 60 students to visit numerous sites in Lille itself, watch a French baker at work, shop (in French) at a traditional French market, as well as experiences in the Palais des Beaux-Arts, the Lille football stadium, a snail farm and a traditional fromagerie. Students had lots of opportunities to practise their French and learn about an entirely new culture and rich social history.

We enjoyed meeting everyone who came for our Open Evening in September, and we had over 50 prospective families come to one of our "Tea and Tour" events, providing them with the opportunity to meet senior staff and experience the school environment on a typical working day. Our students are taking part in the Stowmarket Christmas Tree Festival, and we have launched a new Alumni Outreach Programme to build a lasting network with former students.

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## Top Tips for...

# MANAGING SCREEN TIME

According to the latest stats, people aged between 8 and 17 spend four hours on digital devices during an average day. Obviously, a new year is ideal for fresh starts and renewed efforts – so lots of families are trying to cut down their combined screen time right now, creating more moments to connect with each other and relying less on gadgets to have fun. Our top tips on reducing screen time are for everyone, so you can get your whole family involved in turning over a new leaf this year!

BUY MILK

### GET OUT AND ABOUT

If the weather's decent, spend some time in the garden or go for a walk. Even a stroll to the local shop would do: the main thing is getting some fresh air and a break from your screen.

### TRY A TIMED TRIAL

When you're taking a screen break to do a different activity or a chore, turn it into a game by setting yourself a timer. Can you complete your task before the alarm goes off?

### GO DIGITAL DETOX

Challenge yourself and your family to take time off from screens, finding other things to do. You could start off with half a day, then build up to a full day or even an entire weekend.

### LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Let your family see you successfully managing your own screen time. You'll be showing them the way, and it might stop some of those grumbles when you do want to go online.

### AGREE TECH-FREE ZONES

Nominate some spots at home where devices aren't allowed. Anywhere your family gathers together, like at the table or in the living room, could become a 'no phone zone'.

### HOLD A SCREEN TIME AMNESTY

As a family, agree specific windows when it's OK to use devices. This should help everyone to balance time on phones or gaming with enjoying quality moments together.

### BE MINDFUL OF TIME

Stay aware of how long you've been on your device for. Controlling how much time you spend in potentially stressful areas of the internet – like social media platforms – can also boost your wellbeing.

### 'PARK' PHONES OVERNIGHT

Set up an overnight charging station for everyone's devices – preferably away from bedrooms. That means less temptation for late-night scrolling.

### SWITCH ON DND

Research shows that micro-distractions like message alerts and push notifications can chip away at our concentration levels. Put devices on 'do not disturb' until you're less busy.

### TAKE A FAMILY TECH BREAK

Set aside certain times when the whole family puts their gadgets away and enjoys an activity together: playing a board game, going for a walk or just having a chat.

### SOCIALISE WITHOUT SCREENS

When you're with friends, try not to automatically involve phones, TVs or other tech. Having company can be loads more fun if your attention isn't being split.

### WIND DOWN PROPERLY

Try staying off phones, consoles, tablets and so on just before you go to sleep. Reading or just getting comfy in bed for a while can give you a much more restful night.

### Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



DEVICE BOX

The National College



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

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