

Carr Infant School Newsletter

14th November 2025

Dear Families,

What a vibrant start to this half-term we have had. The school is buzzing with energy, and it has been a delight to see so much exciting learning and fun taking place.

We've already had some fantastic highlights this half term. Year 2 brought a carnival atmosphere to the corridors with their brilliant Samba workshops; meanwhile, our Reception children wrapped up warm and became local explorers, enjoying a walk around the local area. It's also been wonderful to see so many children enjoying our lunchtime and after-school clubs, which are now in full swing.

A huge thank you to all the families who attended our 'Step inside and say hello' open evening. We hope it was a lovely opportunity to see the school and chat with staff, with no other agenda than simply having a nice time together!

This week in assembly, our focus has been on 'Making the Right Choices Online.' Supporting children in navigating the digital world is a vital partnership, and I have attached a helpful information sheet about using and reviewing parental controls at home.

As the weather has definitely turned colder, a quick reminder to please ensure your child comes to school with a warm coat and a jumper every day. We still love to get outside for fresh air at break times, even when the weather isn't great. Please also make sure both items are clearly labelled with your child's name to help them find their way home.

Finally, the atmosphere is already building as we look towards the festive Christmas period. There is a lot planned, so please take a moment to check the 'Diary Dates' page to stay up-to-date with all the key events.

Warmest wishes,

Dr James Canniford
Headteacher



Our Learning

Nursery

This week in Nursery, the children enjoyed *Stick Man* by Julia Donaldson, joining in with repeated phrases and listening carefully to the story. In *Love of Reading*, we explored *Monster Clothes* by Daisy Hirst, retelling the story together, identifying verbs, and building sentences with nouns while linking words to actions.

Our Phonics focus was the sound *a*, with children taking part in listening games such as *What's in the Box?* and *Bertha the Bus*, practising articulation, blending, and segmenting sounds. In Maths, we concentrated on number 2, using counting, matching, and the song *1, 2, Buckle My Shoe* with actions to support learning.

In PSED, we celebrated differences through *We Are All Unique*, encouraging discussions about kindness and recognising what makes everyone special.

Reception


We've had a wonderful start to the half term in Reception! In Maths, we've been busy comparing groups of objects using the language *more than*, *fewer than* and *equal to*, helping us develop our early number sense. In Phonics and Writing, we are continuing with Phase 2 sounds and using our growing knowledge to write CVC (consonant-vowel-consonant) words, such as *cat*, *dog* and *sun*. The children have been so proud of their writing!

In Geography, we've been exploring maps – drawing maps of our bedrooms and the local area, and even creating 3D town maps. A highlight was our local area walk, where we spotted familiar places and thought about how to map them. What a brilliant two weeks of learning!

Attendance Cup

Autumn Term 1

WB. 03.11.2025

| | | | |
|--|-----|--|-----|
| Saplings | 93% | Saplings | 96% |
| Acorn | 90% | Acorn | 94% |
| Chestnut | 77% | Chestnut | 91% |
| Oak | 80% | Oak | 93% |
|  Birch | 94% | Birch | 96% |
| Willow | 92% |  Willow | 96% |
| Alder | 94% | Alder | 93% |

Year 1

This week in Year 1, the children have been working hard on writing fact families for number bonds, creating two addition and two subtraction facts for each set of numbers. In RE, they explored the different ways people may represent God in various religions. Our Art lessons were inspired by Paul Klee, with children taking a "line for a walk" while listening to music, just as he did before painting. In Science, we investigated everyday objects and the materials they are made from. During PE, the children began a new dance unit, moving in counts of eight and creating actions linked to different types of weather. We have also started practising our Christmas carols—some may already be echoing at home!

Year 2

What a brilliant start we've had to this half term! Our classroom has been buzzing with exciting discoveries. In English, we joined Phileas Fogg on his amazing journey, travelling Around the World in 80 Days! We've been busy writing about his incredible adventures. For Maths, we've become super speedy at adding two 2-digit numbers. We used special base ten blocks and place value charts to help us count! Our Science hats are on as we explore tiny microhabitats. We've been turning over stones and asking a very important question: "What do worms do to the soil?" We learned about special lights in RE, finding out what candles mean to different people, and heard the beautiful story of Rama and Sita. In Geography, we traveled the globe, learning about the seven continents and discovering the icy homes of the North and South Poles. Did you know the North Pole is just ice over the ocean? Brrrr! We're also learning to name parts of a computer and understanding the difference between input and output devices! And finally, in Art, we're using maps to inspire brilliant artwork showing our trips to school and home. We're so proud of all the wonderful work the children have done! Keep up the great effort!

Dates for the Diary

November

18th - Open morning for prospective 2026 parents - 9.30am
21st - Deadline for FOC teatowel orders & payment
25th - Year 2 trip to York Minster - morning
25th - Year 2 Photography after school club - last session
26th - Year 1 Board Games after school club - last session
27th - Year 2 Art/DT after school club - last session
28th - FOC non-uniform day for Christmas Fair

December

4th - Rocksteady concert - 2.30pm
4th - Reception/Year 1 Multisport after school club last session
5th - FOC Christmas Fair (at Carr Junior School)
8th - Year 2 Maths Club - last session
9th - Reception Nativity - 9.30am - 2 tickets per family
9th - Year 2 Lego Therapy after school club - last session
9th - FOC Secret Santa Stall - playground 3.05pm
10th - Monthly school tour for prospective 2026 families
10th - Reception Nativity - 2.30pm - 2 tickets per family
10th - FOC Secret Santa Stall - playground 3.05pm
12th - Nursery Christmas Songs - 2.30pm
15th - Year 2 Christingle - 2.15pm - 3pm (2 tickets per family)
16th - Year 1 Christmas Carols - 3.30pm (2 tickets per family)
17th - Christmas jumper and Christmas lunch day
18th - School closes
19th - Training Day - school closed to all pupils

Please note information listed for the Christmas performances is to give advance notice of dates and times. Further details will be released via Dojo class pages.



Autumn Images from
Photography Club

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING AND REVIEWING PARENTAL CONTROLS

Phones and computers are essential parts of children's lives, but with unfettered internet access comes a multitude of risks. While not foolproof, parental controls can help with this; filtering out inappropriate content, limiting the ability to spend real money, capping screen time and generally making devices safer for young people.

1 KNOW THE TYPES



While parental control software can apply to an entire device, it also pays to know about options on individual apps and websites. TikTok, for example, has Restricted Mode for limiting unsuitable videos, while Snapchat lets you keep an eye on who a child has been talking to. Check the settings of any new app young users want and review your options.

2 COVER ALL DEVICES



Knowing what parental controls cover is crucial, as remaining unaware can run the risk of 'blind spots' in the device's safety measures. Controls on a phone will apply whenever a child's on that device, for instance – but you'll want to ensure that parental controls are set up across any laptops, tablets and potentially other phones, too. Remember, buying a new device may require you to set everything up again.

3 DON'T NEGLECT SHARED TECH



While children often have their own devices, if you have a shared family computer or tablet, for example, you'll need to make sure that's not a weak point in your safety measures. Parental controls for your router, that cover everything connected to your Wi-Fi, are one option – or you can just be thorough with each device and online account. Just ensure that unprotected laptops, phones and tablets are password locked.

4 CONSIDER TIME CONTROLS



Even safe internet content can be harmful if it's viewed in excess. Not only are certain apps addictive enough to distract from other duties, but late-night usage can badly disrupt sleep, which is vital for adolescent brain development. Most parental controls offer some kind of time limit – either blocking access at certain hours or capping the number of minutes it can be used per day – so be sure to consider these.

5 BLOCK APP SPENDING



Seemingly free apps can sometimes include microtransactions: purchases that can be made using real money. While plenty of developers implement these fairly, some companies attempt to manipulate children into paying for additional features or content, which can soon add up to hundreds of pounds if a child gets carried away. Thankfully, iOS and Android's settings allow you to block in-app purchases, preventing any huge bills.

6 NO CONTROLS ARE PERFECT



Parental controls can be very useful, but they're far from infallible. Some unpleasant content can and unfortunately will slip through the net, so remember that setting up these measures isn't a substitute for taking an active interest in young people's digital lives. Talk to them, and make sure they're aware of the risks of the internet as well as its benefits.

7 MIND THE GAPS



There'll undoubtedly be some gaps in parental controls, no matter how thorough you intend to be. For example, if you use router-level parental controls, bear in mind that these won't cover WiFi outside the home. For that reason, it's important to keep an open dialogue with children about the many unpalatable aspects of social media and the web.

8 KEEP THINGS SECURE



Some children can react poorly to parental controls and feel tempted to circumvent them. It's important to ensure that the passwords to these settings remain unknown to children, otherwise they can easily modify the restrictions without you knowing. Similarly, make sure your phone isn't left unlocked and unattended.

9 REVIEW CONTROLS REGULARLY



Parental controls shouldn't be a 'set and forget' deal. Not only can parental summaries provide you with a frequent overview of a child's digital life – to let you spot any warning signs – but companies often add new features – and some of these may be useful to enable (or disable). Regularly checking in ensures that if a child has found a way to wiggle out of the controls, you'll be the first to know.

10 KNOW WHEN TO LET UP



The parental controls you install on a computer for a seven-year-old probably wouldn't be appropriate for a child of 16 – and as young people approach adulthood, bubble wrapping the internet can do more harm than good. Consider relaxing parental controls as children get older, so they can learn to manage the risks of the internet themselves, without so many training wheels.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist and the former deputy editor of technology and internet culture website Alphr. Now freelance, he has contributed articles to publications including the New Statesman, CNET, the Evening Standard, Wired, Rock Paper Shotgun, Gizmodo, Pocket Gamer, Stuff, T3, PC Pro, Macworld, TechRadar and Trusted Reviews.



#WakeUpWednesday

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