

# WargraveNews

Issue 6



The Autism Specialists

Main School

21 December 2022



Creativity



Confidence



Resilience



Respect



Kindness

Outdoor Learning

Community Visits

Duke of Edinburgh

Staff Introduction



Autism Specialist  
Award Advance  
2022

centre  
of excellence



PROACT-SCIPr-UK®

## Dear parents and carers,

We have enjoyed an action-packed end of the term across school and college. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support since September. I hope you will join me in wishing every happiness, health and success to three members of staff who are going to pastures new in January.



**CEO UPDATE**  
**ROBIN BUSH**

Mrs Leanne Dickson is beginning a new teaching post in Chorley and continuing her national professional qualification for senior leadership. I know she will be missed in RISE 1. The class have enjoyed a successful transition with their new teacher Jude Bullough.

Our Deputy Head of Education, Mr Richard Grimmer, will be retiring and is very much looking forward to renewing his passion for travel with his wife, Marina. One of his first ports of call is Vietnam, and I know we will wish bon voyage and take care. I am pleased to share the news that Rebecca Worsley will be our new Deputy Head from January 2023.

Stuart Jamieson is looking forward to new and exciting challenges undertaking consultancy work across the Northwest, utilising the wealth of experiences he has gained with us at Wargrave House. Our Interim Head will be Mr Mark Leicester, who has already begun to grasp the immediate priorities.

I would like to thank our catering staff, Erica, Sharon and Cath, for providing a wonderful array of festive food this week, upholding many of the traditions of Christmas.

I wish all a healthy, happy and restful Christmas and look forward to seeing you all on 4th January 2023.



**Regards**  
**Robin**

**Dear parents and carers,**

HEADLINES

STUART JAMIESON



Our learners and students have taken centre stage in relishing the end-of-term opportunities provided. Last Friday, the school celebration assembly presented all learners and students who have joined us since September with personalised certificates alongside awards for 100% attendance and our characters' values of kindness, confidence, resilience, creativity and respect.

Students and learners have been working very hard with Dave Whittaker, teacher, to create our Christmas Film this year. It was showcased in school at the assembly to great applause. The 'world premier' will be on Facebook at 7.15 pm on Christmas Eve ... please make sure you tune in. You would want to take advantage of it! I can assure you that it will make you feel the spirit of Christmas centred on the importance of Family, Health, Fun, Friendship and, above, Peace.

As I leave Wargrave, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to you as parents/carers for helping me be the best head of education I could be. I know you will continue to provide valuable encouragement to all our wonderful staff.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year.



**Best wishes always  
Stuart**



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



On Friday, 9th December, we celebrated Christmas Jumper Day, followed by a staff Christmas party in the gym, where we enjoyed Christmas treats, a Christmas quiz and our staff awards.



## Some Photos from Our Christmas Jumper Day





# Our Christmas party



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



During the Christmas party Robin Bush, our CEO, appeared on the “scene”, where he announced the nominees and winners for the Creativity, Aspirational, Resilience, Respectful and Vision Awards.



## The winners were:

- Creativity Award – Clare Meighen, HR Manager
- Aspirational Award – Louise Yates, TSA
- Resilience Award – Denim Robertson, Teacher
- Respectful Award – Claire Byrne, Family Liaison Officer
- Vision Award – Haley Johnson, Speech & Language Therapist



Wargrave’s management did not forget the other employees who also worked hard in 2022, and at the end of the celebration, each employee received a voucher for Christmas.



# MERRY CHRISTMAS



## Wargrave House & School Organised a Christmas Market

Wargrave House & School Organised a Christmas Market that took place in the gym of school. It started at 3.15 pm and ended at 5 pm. The prices of the products on the market ranged from £1 to £40. There was great interest from the staff and local residents who had also been invited.



Among the products sold were handmade jewellery, resin art, handmade cards/personalised gifts, wax melts, fused glass artwork, body shop products, cakes/cookies, hand-knitted baby/toddler items and memory baubles.





# Christmas donations

## A Huge Thank You to Newton Community Centre



We were delighted today to accept the generous donation of a selection of chocolates, mince pies and biscuits from our local Community Centre. This enabled us to give each of our fabulous young people at School and College a confectionary gift to take home with their present from Santa.



**We would like to thank the Community Centre for this generous donation and wish you all a very Happy Christmas.**

*"Newton Community Centre ran its third Community Santa Project this year, and we were inundated with generous donations and in particular, a number of selection boxes. Newton Community Centre ran its third Community Santa Project this year, and we were inundated with generous donations and in particular, a number of selection boxes. After giving away over 150 selection boxes ourselves, we still had a number left which we didn't want to go to waste, so we donated them back into our Community which we did via Wargrave House."*



*"We were really happy to spread the Christmas spirit!"*

**Nicola Harrison  
Centre Development Officer  
Newton Community Centre**



# sundial

developing independent autistic lives

Students have made significant progress in sessions with Nico this half term. A target for some students and learners has been building confidence in walking Nico on a lead around the school site. Despite some students showing apprehension at the start of the term, through weekly Dog Therapy sessions, they have excelled at walking Nico on a lead and enjoyed it.



Some students have been practising the correct verbal commands and corresponding hand signals that Nico responds to (e.g. sit, lie and wait). The student's persistence and patience have shone through.














During calming sessions, Nico has enjoyed lots of stroking, brushing and all-around attention from students and staff (always in exchange for his favourite treats!).

A successful Half Term for our favourite fluffy four-legged friend and the students who have engaged in Dog Therapy.











## Calendar visuals

### December 2022

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24  Christmas Eve	25  Christmas Day
26  Boxing Day	27 	28 	29 	30 	31  New Year's Eve	

© BlankCalendarPages.com

### January 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1  New Year's Day
2 	3 	4 	5 	6 	7 	8 

### Useful link:

[The Sensory Integration Newsletter: December 2022](#)  
[Focus on Social Events and Socialising](#)

### Important note for parents:

If your child has a serious physical injury, e.g. broken bone, please get in touch with your class teacher before they return to school.

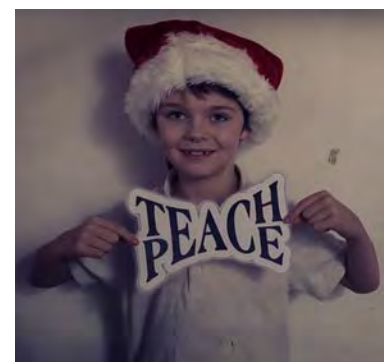
In order to ensure their safe return a full Risk Assessment needs to be completed first.

Dave Charnock, H&S Officer

# Christmas Assembly



Main School students celebrated the year so far during an extraordinary Christmas Assembly on Friday, 16 December. Certificates were handed out to those with 100% attendance and those who were nominated by their class staff for having demonstrated a Wargrave Value consistently since September. Max was recognised for his achievement of Young Leader for the Duke of Edinburgh. Finally, students watched the Wargrave House Christmas Video production, "All I Want for Christmas", which was created over the past few weeks. The video will be available on Christmas Eve on the school's Facebook page & YouTube channel at 7.15pm!!



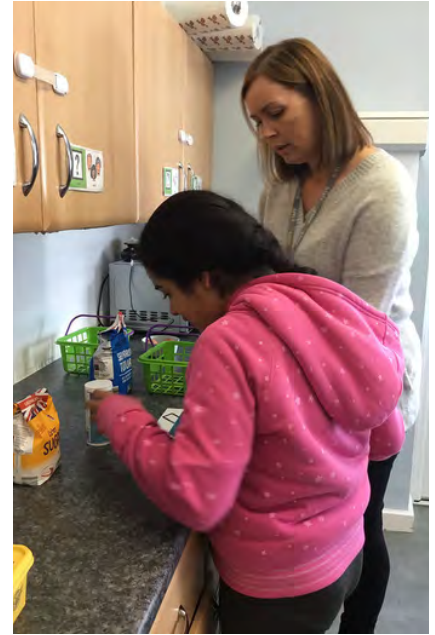


# Engage Christmas dinner



Engage have been supporting Mission Christmas. We have collected together some children's gifts and taken them to the drop-off point. These will be given to families who are struggling to buy presents for their children.





Engage have been very busy, as always. They have particularly enjoyed the baking activities during Independent Living Skills and are all making significant progress over this term.

They enjoyed baking banana bread during one lesson. Due to the ice, they could not go shopping, as usual, so they improvised. They went shopping in the classroom using visuals for their ingredients, working on making choices & communication needs.



Kenzy has enjoyed practising yoga with staff and joined in with all the poses. This is an excellent regulation activity for all.



**Engage staff and learners want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



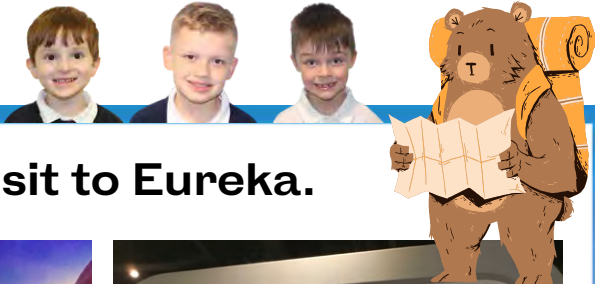




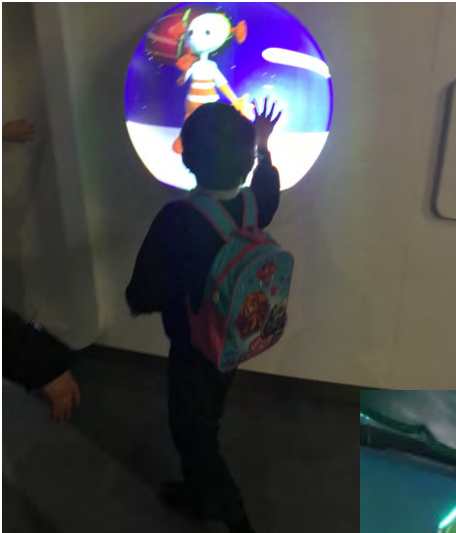
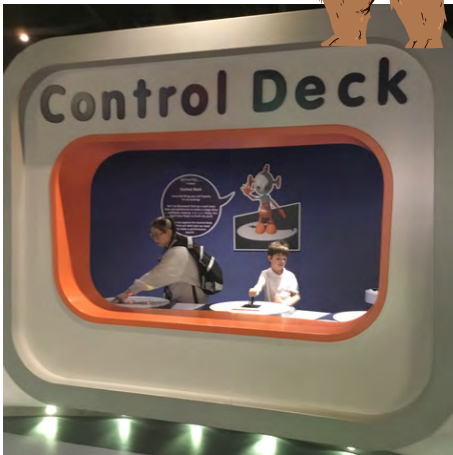
'RISE 1 have had a lovely Christmas week! They have been doing lots of Christmas activities and RISE 1 learners really enjoyed Santa coming to visit them in class! because all our learners have been so good this year they all received a present!







Some photos from the RISE 2's visit to Eureka.



Tour

They had an amazing time!



# BASE 1



This week in BASE 1 we have been doing some gymnastics in PE and practising our balancing. We also made some chocolate strawberry reindeer that were delicious!





BASE 2  
Christmas dinner







This week we made various festive treats as presents and enjoyed an excellent Christmas dinner whilst playing games and chatting with friends. We've had a great term in BASE 4, and we wish everyone a Merry Christmas!





As part of DofE BASE 5 and BASE 6, learners have been working on an eco-based project. This project is the Mersey Ecopreneur competition and involves creating a business plan, budgeting and generating ideas as a group to re-purpose plastic and glass items. The ideas were brilliant and included planters and bird boxes.



The learners have worked hard to produce prototypes that will then be marketed and sold. Well done BASE 5 and 6!

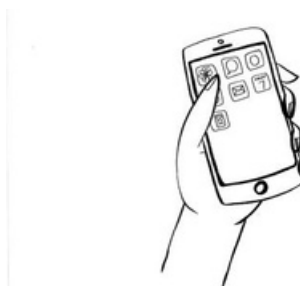




# 10 tips to stay safe online

Not sure what advice to give your child? Our pointers have got you covered.

1. Be careful about talking to people you don't know and trust in real life – anyone can pretend to be a child online. If you do talk to people you don't know, don't give away personal information – such as what street you live on or where you go to school, or share your location with them. Say no to any requests they send you for images or videos of yourself, and stop talking to them
  2. Set your profiles to private, to limit what others can see
  3. Think carefully about what you share and with who. Once you've shared an image, you've no control over what the other person does with it. Remember, it's **illegal** to take, share or view sexual images of under-18s, full stop
  4. Be mindful of your digital footprint. What you post online now could come back to bite you later, like when applying for jobs, college or university
  5. If you see something upsetting, or someone bullies you, tell an adult you trust. Report it too
  6. When reading news online, ask yourself what the source is, when it was published, and whether it could be a hoax or made up. Read beyond the headline too
  7. Remember, people try to make their lives look more exciting and interesting online. There's a lot people can do with photo editing to make their photos look better. So don't assume everything you see is a true-to-life representation
  8. Watch out for hoaxes and scams, like messages you're meant to forward on or that ask you for payment details or your password
  9. Take any content that seems to glamourise gang lifestyles with a very large pinch of salt – it's not as glamorous as it looks. Be wary of schemes promising easy cash for receiving and transferring money too, they're almost definitely criminal activity
  10. Watch out for loot boxes or other parts of games where you pay money to take a chance on getting a reward – you can get sucked into spending lots of money on them
- Don't feel confident starting a conversation with your child about what they're up to online? Read this advice from the NSPCC: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety>



The information is sourced from <https://safeguarding.thekeysupport.com/>.

# 5 Ways to Keep Children Safe Whilst Gaming

Gaming continues to be one of many children's - and parents' - favourite pastimes. However, many parents have concerns over how to keep their child safe while gaming. Here at Ineqe Safeguarding Group, we've been busy testing consoles and games to identify areas of risk to promote a safer gaming experience for children.

Video games are fun and remain popular among young and old users alike.



Research by Ofcom showed that approximately

62% of adults in the UK

were reported to have played video games in 2020, propelled by the COVID-19 pandemic and the stay-at-home restrictions.



With all this fun, it's important to remember that playing video games comes with risks.

Our online safety experts have compiled the following top tips to promote a safer gaming experience for children.



Some have in-game purchasing while others contain age-inappropriate content. These risks can significantly increase when a child is playing and interacting with other gamers online.



## 1 Choose the right child-friendly game

Choosing the right game for the child in your care can be difficult. Some parents and carers feel pressured to buy a game which might not be age-appropriate.

To help you make the choice, we have explored the PEGI age rating system and highlight the designated ratings of the most popular games around.

You can use the PEGI (Pan European Game Information) labels found on all major games to help inform your decision. PEGI is the video game content classification system used for evaluating games based on their themes. It is broken down into the following levels:

3	Suitable for all ages.
7	Includes content with scenes and sounds which might frighten younger children.
12	Slightly graphic violence which is non-realistic/fantasy.
16	Violence included which is similar to real life, bad language, and the use of drugs tobacco, and alcohol.
18	Includes motiveless and gross violence, the glamorisation of drugs, and explicit sexual activity.

The PEGI rating system also includes content descriptors which are symbols that quickly tell you the themes included in a game. Categories include:



For help with teaching children about PEGI ratings, use our free lesson plan on [oursaferschools.co.uk](https://ineqe.com/safeguarding-hub/shareables/).

PEGI Ratings for some of the most Popular Games around:

- Minecraft - PEGI 7
- Among Us - PEGI 7
- FIFA 22 - PEGI 3
- Call of Duty Black Ops: Vanguard - PEGI 18
- Spiderman: Miles Morales - PEGI 12
- Fortnite: Battle Royale - PEGI 12
- Mario Kart Live: Home Circuit - PEGI 3
- Call of Duty: Warzone - PEGI 18
- Minecraft - PEGI 7



Always remember, PEGI ratings focus on in-game content and not communication between players in online games. Children and young people in your care may be exposed to offensive or inappropriate language from other players via their headset and live chat functions in many games.

Using PEGI ratings and online safety advice can help promote safer gaming for children and young people in your care.

## 4 Know when to take a break from gaming



Many of the top games this Christmas such as Fortnite are created to engage their players. One of our online safety experts refers to this as the *Pringle Effect* - *Le once you pop you just can't stop*.

Many of the most popular games are designed to form strong gaming habits. Game designers use persuasive design tools that work to encourage gaming sessions that can last hours on end.

Encourage the gamers in your care to take a break or use our resources to set a time limit on gameplay.

## 2 Begin the conversation about gaming safety settings and in-game purchases



Whether the children and young people in your care are new to gaming or are experienced gamers, it's important to have conversations regarding the risks and benefits of gaming. This is also the perfect time to talk to them about safety and privacy settings.

You might be met with opposition but talking about why privacy and safety settings are important can help keep the gamers in your care onside. You might want to talk about what might happen if these aren't enabled.

Feel free to use the top tips in this article to help guide your conversations.

The gaming world and its risks evolve all the time, and naturally so will your conversations about keeping safe while gaming.

It's important not to feel like this is a thankless task or pointless conversation when explaining the importance of safety and privacy while gaming. Enabling these settings is something you and the gamer in your care can do together.

Explaining why safety and privacy are important will help support a child or young person's understanding and respect for these decisions.

It can help to focus on how restrictions on games will change as they grow older. This will give you a perfect opportunity to encourage the gamers in your care to continue talking to you about safety and privacy online.

Check out our Console guides on [ineqe.com](https://ineqe.com)

Loot Boxes have been compared to gambling. This is because gamers pay for items with real-life currency and in-game currency without a full understanding of the risk and reward of these purchases.

Games now provide warnings on their labels if they include in-game purchases.

Games that have in-game purchases include:

- Fortnite
- Grand Theft Auto 5 (GTA5)
- Marvel's Spider-Man: Miles Morales
- Call of Duty Black Ops: Cold War
- Call of Duty: Warzone
- FIFA 21
- Roblox
- Among Us

Remember, if a child or young person in your care wants to play online, they may need to log in to an online service. If they are using a PlayStation, Nintendo or Xbox console.

## 3 Usernames: Keep it random to keep kids safe online



When using consoles and games, users are required to create a username, which is sometimes called a 'Gamer Handle'.

This is the name you are identified by on your online gaming accounts (PlayStation Network or Xbox Live).

Whether they're playing Fortnite Chapter 3 or Call of Duty: Vanguard this Christmas, children and young people in your care will need a username.

Xbox and PlayStation assign random usernames and we advise that you keep them.

When the children in your care use a random username, they are less likely to be identifiable online.

If the game(s) in your care wants to personalise their username, make sure they avoid using any personal information, such as first or second names, football teams, or school names.

## 5 Make sure the child in your care knows where to go for help with gaming

Gaming is fun and can have real benefits for children and young people. But it's not without risks, as highlighted above.

Games may interact with strangers via online games, where they might be exposed to age-inappropriate content, or experience bullying and harassment.

Make sure the game(s) in your care knows where to go for help if they need it. This can be you or any other trusted adult. It's important that they have someone to talk to if they have any interaction which makes them feel uncomfortable while playing games.

To help the children and young people in your care have a safe and fun gaming experience, visit [ineqe.com](https://ineqe.com) to find more resources and useful information. By doing this together, you can be part of their gaming journey, positioning yourself as someone who they can go to for help.