

NEWSLETTER

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

I am sure that by now you will all be aware of the Government announcement that all children will return to school from Monday 8th March. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school but understand that for some children and families, there will be some concerns about the Government's decision. As a school, we have to follow the Government guidance and we will continue to do everything we can to make the school environment as safe as possible for everyone.

We have had good routines and systems in place since the very first lockdown in March 2020, and these will all remain in place. However, a full review of our COVID-19 risk assessment will be taking place and this document will be shared with you all as soon as possible so please look out for this on ClassDojo. Please note that staggered start and finish times will remain in place as per before the Christmas break:

Nursery - 9.00 - 3.00

Year 4 - 9.00 - 3.00

Reception - 8.30 - 2.30

Year 5 - 8.40 - 2.40

Year 1 - 8.50 - 2.50

Year 6 - 8.50 - 2.50

Year 2 - 8.30 - 2.30

SRB - 9.00 - 3.00

Year 3 - 8.40 - 2.40

As we return to school it is really important that **EVERYONE** adheres to the social distancing guidance while dropping off and collecting from school. Only **one parent/carer should bring their child/children** into the school grounds (anyone else with you will be asked to wait outside the school grounds) and we expect **all children to remain with their adult AT ALL TIMES** whilst on the school grounds i.e. no running off to play with other children while you wait. **Parents/carers MUST remain at least 2m away from other parents/carers** at all times. **Face covering must be worn by all adults** (except those who are exempt) whilst on the school grounds. In line with the Government guidance, primary aged school children are not required to wear face coverings. We will be monitoring all of these things closely and anyone not following this guidance will be challenged by school staff. This could result in you being unable to come into the school grounds which we really do not want to happen. We are not saying these things to be difficult but to keep everyone as safe as possible in line with our risk assessment. Please support us to keep everyone safe by following our rules.

Finally, a huge **WELL DONE** to everyone for your hard work and effort during the latest lockdown. Whether you were accessing remote learning at home or coming into school as a key worker or vulnerable child, your contributions had not gone unnoticed. We know that it has not been easy and some days have been more of a challenge than others but together we have got through it. I really hope that there will be no further lockdowns to come but if there are, I know that we will get through it again together. On behalf of the entire staff team I would like to thank you for your support, and words of encouragement and thanks throughout. It is by working together that we ensure that our children receive everything that they need to be successful, and that our school community continues to go from strength to strength.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs Sarah Wilson (Principal)

Nelson Nursery

We are now looking at September places for our Nursery class.

Do you have a child who will be turning 3 soon? If so, you can fill out an application form with your session preferences.

We accept the 15 and 30 funded hours the term after your child turns 3.

However if you would like to pay extra, your child can start as soon as they turn 3.

If you would like to know more then please speak to Mrs Carman or call the school office

Dates for your diary 2021

Thurs 4th March - World Book Day

Mon 8th March -

School Re-Opens for Everyone

Fri 19th March - Red Nose Day

Fri 26th March School Finishes for Easter

Tues 13th April Schools Open

Summer Term Begins

Pupil Asset Parents App

We have moved to a cashless school where all payments for school lunches, break-fast club and future trips can be made on the Pupil Asset Parents app.

If you have not already please email the following to the school office :

Your Name, Child's name and your email address to :

office@nla.eastern-mat.co.uk

All future payments will be paid this way and no cash/cheque or bank payments will be accepted.

You can start by downloading the following and complete the instructions:

Pupil Asset Parent App

Reminder - BatteryBack.org

We still collect old batteries and have just processed another collection. You can send in your batteries , just send them into the school office where there is a container.

Reminder—See advice from the Citizens Advice Bureau below

EU Nationals must have applied for settled status before the end of June 2021.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/benefits/claiming-benefits-if-youre-from-the-EU/before-you-apply/check-if-you-can-get-benefits-if-youre-from-the-eu/>

WORLD BOOK DAY 2021

World Book Day this year is on Thursday March 4th and we will be celebrating it a bit differently this year, but you will have to wait to the day to find out exactly what we are doing!

There is no need to dress up, but although we won't be at school we can still have fun. You will still be able to buy books for £1 and details of how to do that will be given to you on the day. I'm really looking forward to reading them and hearing what you think of them.

Braille & audio
versions available
Tel: 0303 123 9999
For large print
Tel: 0118 9838275



Proudly introducing our

2021 £1 books

Discover more
about these books
and enjoy our 'Look
Inside' previews at
[worldbookday.com/
books](http://worldbookday.com/books)


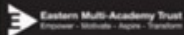
This **World Book Day**, children have a choice of wonderful stories to choose from, depending on what catches their eye and appeals to their interests. There is something for every kind of reader.



There is an additional £1 Welsh-language book available only in Wales. Find out more at worldbookday.com/about-us/world-book-day-wales/

World Book Day 2021

THE MASKED READER

 **Nelson Academy, Downham Market** 

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING EVERYDAY

Reading to children everyday is one of the most important things parents can do for their children.



1 Builds a love of Reading

2 Daily reading helps teach fluency and helps build language.

3 Reading is a wonderful way to bond with your child.



4 Stimulates their imagination and expands their understanding of the world.

5 It helps them develop listening skills

6 Helps prepares them to understand the written word



7 An understanding of reading for pleasure

Free Printable poem of reading tips to remember. Print yours now!

Reading aloud with your child, just **10 minutes** a day, is one of the best ways to provide learning tools for life



“

When children see adults read they are more likely to become readers.

”



Children are made readers on the laps of their parents.

— Emilie Buchwald

Nelson in Lockdown Goes Live!

Yelpies class reporters, Downham Market correspondents.

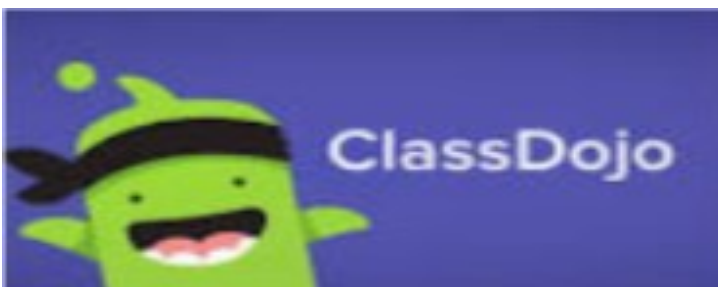
On 6th January, Nelson Academy, went online to help stop the spread of Covid 19. Families and staff from the Academy have been working together to ensure that pupils don't miss out on their education.

On 4th January, Boris Johnson Prime Minister announced the national lockdown to help stop the spread of the deadly virus, Covid 19. Following the announcement of the latest lockdown, the government has required schools to provide as normal an education as possible for all students now learning at home. Mrs Wilson, the Principal of Nelson Academy reported, "Everyone in the school is making a great effort."



Proud Principal, Mrs Wilson

Teachers have setting work 4 hours a day and have been teaching live lessons online as well as posting pre-recorded lessons so that pupils learn no matter what. There has been a mixed response from teachers. They all agree that keeping contact with their pupils has been very important and developing new methods of teaching has been interesting. Teachers have reported that their working hours have increased and the extra work, however, has been stressful. As one teacher reports, "My workload has increased dramatically since Christmas and I really miss the children. However, they have improved their skills with technology and are loving seeing their class online. "I would prefer to see my class in real life," reported Mrs Galley, a teaching assistant at Nelson Academy.



Families have been supporting their children as well as having their own work commitments. Many parents are finding it hard to help their children because they have their own working hours, but some have reported that live lessons have helped their children and made their education progress. Mrs Wypior (parent of a year 5 child) reported that it is extremely hard to support her child and do her own work, but parents are thankful that after almost a year of patchy learning, their children are now receiving a good quality education online. The upside though is that parents are having a more active role in their children's education: Richard, father of 2, stated that on a positive note to home learning, parents can see what their children are learning

Pupils, too, have mixed opinions on home learning. Some enjoy being at home, working at their own pace, while others miss school and their friends. Some reported experiences of loneliness, but say live lessons have helped to raise their spirits. One pupil said: "Live lessons have helped me develop my skills in learning." Keyworker children, who are in school most days of the week, also report missing their friends. "I think this is monotonous that I can't see many friends," reported Bernadetta, a pupil who is in 3 days a week.

Many messages of support and thanks have been received by the school from grateful parents. Nelson Academy is looking forward to reopening on 8th March when children will be able to meet up with their friends and teachers once again.

Year 5 reporting from Nelson Academy, Downham Market, Norfolk



COMIC RELIEF RED NOSE DAY

Friday 19th March

Red Noses £1.50

Red noses will be on sale in school in the week leading up to the 19th March. Children should bring their payment in to classes and noses will be delivered there.

This Red Nose Day, there are 10 brand new Red Noses! Well, 9 red noses and one super rare gold nose, all of which are the most fantastically fun group of woodland creatures you have ever met. These noses are no ordinary Red Noses, they are all 100% plastic free. These are, without a doubt, the greenest Red Noses we've ever created.

And to add to the fun, each Red Nose has its own home in the great outdoors. Carefully open your nose box to reveal your nose character, then turn the box inside out and build your nose its very own treehouse.

COMEDY CAPE-RS

In addition to buying a nose, we are asking you to become a superhero for the day complete with a cape/ and or mask. Come up with a comedy superpower and add decorations to your outfit to match your powers e.g. spaghetti-slurping, disco-diva-ing, recorder-blowing, playdough-designing... you choose!



Smart devices promise to make our lives easier. And in many cases - they do. But 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 it communicating with other devices using the Internet. It's an unavoidable part of using smart devices, but it does expose you to numerous risks. Attackers could use the Internet connection to steal your data for identity fraud or to make unauthorised purchases through your devices. There is even potential for more sinister exploitation, such as child grooming or cyber-bullying.

2

WHAT IS THE INTERNET OF THINGS?

This is the term given to all the devices connected to the Internet in your home. It includes a new digital doorbell connected to your smartphone, your kettle that boils when you tell it to on your tablet or your heating that comes on when you swipe on your smart watch. The Internet of Things (IoT) is designed to make life easier, but it also opens up your home network to potential cyber-attacks. It doesn't mean you can't enjoy the benefits, but it does mean being aware of the potential negatives.

4

SECURE YOUR DEVICES

If you do use apps on your smartphone to control devices in your home, make sure your smartphone is secure. At the very least makes sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone.

5

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 not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.

3

CHECK ENCRYPTION SETTINGS

Whenever data is sent over the Internet, it is 'encrypted'. This makes it harder to read if it's intercepted. You should look to use a strong encryption setting, such as WPA2, rather than WPA or WEP. Again, you can check your router manual for how to do this.

6

RENAME THE 'GATEWAY' TO YOUR HOME

Your Internet router is the virtual gateway to your home network. It needs protecting. To do this, you should change the default name (the SSID) and password. You can usually find steps to do this in the instruction manual. Don't use your family name. Choose something more obscure. Make the password complicated too, using upper and lower-case letters, numbers and symbols. Do this for your router and any other smart devices connected to the Internet.

14 Top Tips To Get Smart About The DEVICES In Your Home



National Online Safety®



7

USE A SEPARATE NETWORK FOR GUESTS

If your router has a feature that allows you to set up a separate network for guests, you should use it. That way, when guests use your Wi-Fi they won't have access to your devices.

TRUST YOUR INSTINCTS

If you ever feel something is wrong or your network is being exploited, visit the manufacturer's website or ring their technical support department. It's better to be safe than sorry.

10

UPDATE SOFTWARE

Manufacturers constantly update and improve software used in smart devices. Some will automatically alert you to an update, but not all do. To be on the safe side, it's a good idea to set reminders in your calendar. Check the manufacturer's website for any updates and run them if necessary.

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8

SAY GOODBYE TO SIRI AND ALEXA

It's a good idea to change the activation words on your smart devices so they are unique to you and your family. This makes it that much harder for people to break into your smart devices.



9

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 included on smart devices. Where possible, you should look to disable these. Doing so reduces the ability for people to hack your devices. And, when someone sees you've actively taken steps to increase security, they're less inclined to try to compromise them.



12

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 element included, but they are no replacement for the real thing. A firewall device thoroughly analyses information coming into and out of your network and helps stop malicious attacks. A security device is strongly recommended to anyone who works from home or deals with sensitive information.



13

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 makes sure the pin function is enabled, as well as any biometric authentication you have. Where possible, it's also a good idea to download some anti-virus software for your smartphone too.



14

REGULARLY AUDIT YOUR DEVICES AND CONSOLES

Every now and then you should check through all of your smart devices (including games consoles connected to the Internet). Turn them off at the mains and disconnect them from the Internet. In fact, it's good practice to disconnect any devices that aren't in use. It's a small thing but really does help. Even when you think a device might be in sleep mode, if it's connected to the Internet it could still be listening or streaming data.



Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than 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, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



SOURCES: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk>, <https://www.getsafeonline.org>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Twitter - @natonlinesafety

Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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