



22nd December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of this calendar year, we would like to thank for your continued support in keeping our children safe. As we break for the holiday season it is vital that we keep this area of caring for our children as secure as possible and so, during our two-week break, and at any other time when school is not in session, if you have any immediate concerns for the safety of a child during out of school hours, please contact either:

Call Derbyshire (Derbyshire County Council Social Services) 01629 533190
First Contact (Derby City Council Social Services) 01332 641172

Please be aware that the 'Call it out' button on the school website is monitored during term time only. Please use the numbers above should you have concerns regarding the safety of a child.

Please find other useful websites and telephone numbers overleaf (including food banks and financial support).

Cost of living crisis

This winter continues to be challenging for all, in many different ways. Attached is information from Derbyshire County Council regarding free benefits checks. If your circumstances have changed, you may wish to access this service to ensure you are in receipt of all benefits for which you are eligible.

[Welfare benefits - Derbyshire County Council](#)

In the new year, we will run a regular second-hand uniform shop which will provide affordable uniform if your child has outgrown any items. We welcome donations of any uniform all year round (and are particularly grateful for ties when they are no longer needed!). Dates/times will be confirmed next term.

Should you require any assistance with purchasing uniform or other financial assistance during these difficult times, please do not hesitate to contact school. All requests will be treated confidentially and with sensitivity. Our staff have knowledge of several agencies that may be able to help.

Online safety

The pastoral team continues to address concerns linked to online safety and social media. We have updated our PD curriculum to address this and ask for your support in reinforcing this at home. It is always timely to revisit this at Christmas as children receive new devices and some of our younger students may be receiving their first mobile phones.

Mobile network EE runs a service called Phonesmart which may be of use to you and your child [Parent - Homepage \(eephonesmart.co.uk\)](#) (you do not need to be on EE to use this).

The NSPCC website has a wealth of information linked to online safety and parental controls [Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

I have also attached a helpful sheet from National Online Safety to support with social media use.

Emotional health and wellbeing

Whilst we look forward to the holiday period, we understand that this time can also bring difficulties and mixed emotions. We encourage our students to take a proactive approach to supporting their emotional and mental health via self-care strategies and as adults we must do the same (despite how busy the holiday period may be).

Further signposting is available via the school website [Emotional Health and Wellbeing - John Flamsted Community School \(jfcs.org.uk\)](#).

You may also find the Derbyshire wellbeing site useful [Derby & Derbyshire - Emotional Health & Wellbeing \(derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk\)](#)

Thank you for all that you do, which contributes to our ability to provide our students with the care they need and deserve. With warmest wishes from the 'Safeguarding Team' as we enter the festive period. Take care of yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Barlow
Assistant Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead