



# FEARNHILL SCHOOL



## Fearnfile

Issue 604

21 December 2022

### Festive fun!

**Welcome to the final edition of Fearnfile of 2022. What a year it has been!**

Thanks to the weather last week, we have some beautiful snowy pictures to share and of course there are Christmas events around the school.

Today is House Day, a great Fearnhill tradition and the first of many for our new Year 7 students; we know they will enjoy it!

This week has seen Years 7-10 enjoying a Wellbeing PSHE Day, with the opportunity to learn some first aid, explore yoga, warm up with aerobics, stay safe online

and restart a heart.

Meanwhile, Christmas lunch was served on Monday and Tuesday and the wonderful Christmas Concert took place last night. These events are so important for our community to remind us of everything we share, and they are lovely to be a part of.

It only remains for me to thank you for all your support this term, to wish you a very happy and restful Christmas break and a peaceful 2023. We look forward to seeing our students at 8.30am on Friday 6 th January.

**Liz Ellis, Headteacher**



**Friday 6/1- week 1    Week beginning 9/1- week 2**

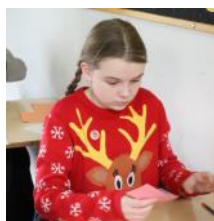
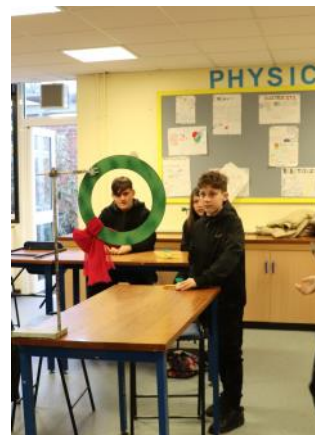
# House Day

The last day of term was spent taking part in various activities and challenges - all to gather last-minute House points for the termly House Challenge.

Students competed against each other in the traditional Fearnhill Christmas Quiz, made walking reindeer, parachuting presents and catapulting stars.



1st Gorst 365  
2nd Pearsall 359  
3rd Howard 268  
4th Neville 200



# Knowledge Organisers

At Fearnhill, we believe in the power of knowledge. Teachers in every subject have put together a Knowledge Organiser which has all the key knowledge students need to learn to understand that topic.

In school, they are used in lessons to support learning as a reference and as a way of checking answers. Knowledge Organisers are also an excellent homework tool for self-quizzing and revising.



Year 7



Year 8



Year 9



Year 10



Year 11



Year 12



Year 13



# School News



Students in Years 7-10 spent a day taking part in specially-themed PSHE days, introducing them to areas of personal wellbeing.

We've had a really positive response from the students and it was certainly great to see them getting involved in learning how to take care of themselves and others.

Topics covered included: Gaslighting, Staying safe online, Reading for wellbeing, Yoga, Fitness, Team-building, First aid AND CPR.





# Music



## Christmas Concert Tuesday 20th December









# Christmas Lunch

Our students enjoyed a slap-up Christmas lunch this week - turkey with all the trimmings plus a jolly reindeer dessert, all served by members of our senior team.



# Sport

A big cheer for all those students who took part in the House netball tournament during the last few days of term.

Please see below the table of results, it combines attendance and performance. The winner is... HOWARD!

A special mention to Kacey Butler and Tia Stimpson in year 11 who promoted the events and umpired the games.



	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Total
Gorst	43	31	21	47	142
Howard	31	47	35	47	160
Pearsall	34	0	47	24	105
Neville	32	0	0	36	68

# School News



**Have you ever considered supporting the school by joining our Governing body?**

As students leave us each year, vacancies arise for the role of parent governor. School governors play a key role in the community and can shape the direction of a school, supporting the development of Fearnhill in all kinds of ways.

The time commitment involved is not huge and it is a great opportunity to become part of something worthwhile and rewarding. Further information about the governing body can be seen on our website:

[www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/about/school-governors/](http://www.fearnhill.herts.sch.uk/about/school-governors/)

Ms Ellis will be delighted to talk to you in more detail about what the role involves; please email her on [head@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk), or our chair of governors, Nye Hathway, on [nye.hathway10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:nye.hathway10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk) to arrange a chat.

The school musical production this year is The Addams Family A Comedy Musical. If you go through any wardrobes at home anytime soon and find anything pale grey or white that are surplus to requirements we would happily take them from you. There are a large group of ghostly ancestor characters - so any dresses, skirts, jackets, trousers, shoes etc would be very useful.

**Calling all former students - have you collected your exam certificates? These are important legal documents and we have a number still waiting to be picked up. Contact Mrs Bremner, Data & Exams manager, [kerri.bremner10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:kerri.bremner10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk) for details of how to collect them.**

Have you enjoyed a tub of chocolates recently? Our food department would love to have your empty tubs - they are useful for students taking their food items home. Please bring them into the School Office.

**Do you have piles of newspapers cluttering up your house? Our Art department is looking for newspapers (not magazines) for forthcoming projects—please hand into the Art department or School Office. Thank you.**

We know we have some pretty amazing students who get up to all sorts of different endeavours out of school – and we'd like to hear about them!

Do you know of any Fearnhill students who have won an award out of school for their endeavours? It could be baking the best cake, being awarded a medal for bravery, first in a ballroom dancing competition, performing in a show or achieving a top grade in a music exam. We would like to celebrate our students by having a Wall of Fame to give recognition to pupils who go that extra mile to embrace excellence out of hours. The ideal Fearnhill Student.

We are not looking for students who get lots of recognition IN school ... although being exceptional in school obviously doesn't preclude them getting recognition for what they do out of school.

If you'd like to nominate anyone, please send their name and brief details to our media administrator Ann Lynn and she'll take it from there. [Ann.lynn10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:Ann.lynn10@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

# Word of the Week



**Lurid:** Unpleasantly bright in colour, or shocking because involving, violence, sex or immoral activity



**Umbrage:** Offence or annoyance





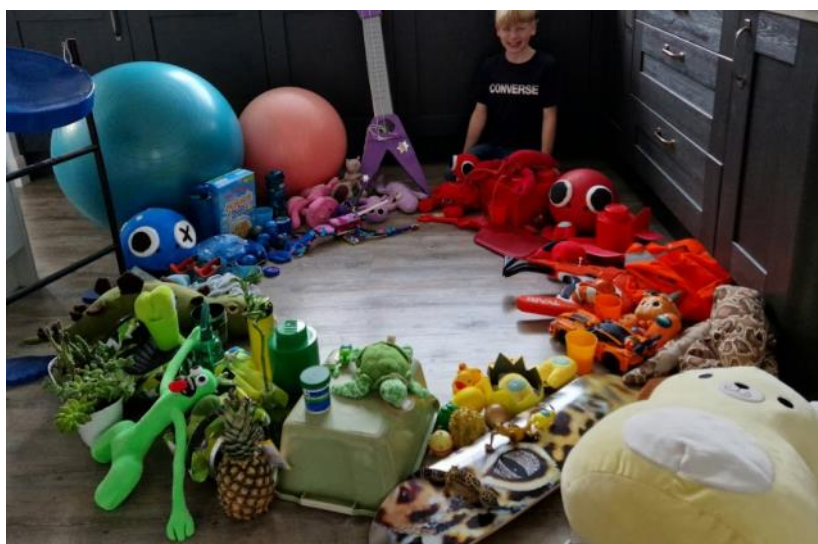
Congratulations to Year 7 students who have been working hard to create colour wheels using items they found at home. These are the winning efforts from some of the classes ... more to follow next term.



Scarlett 7S



Serbroop 7Q



Thomas 7U



Keira 7R



Kyle 7S



Grace 7U



Charlie 7Q



Izzy 7R



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

### TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at [videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games](http://videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games).

18

### 'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children don't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

### DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

SANTA

### CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like [systemrequirementslab.com](http://systemrequirementslab.com) can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

### MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

### BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

### APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

18

### CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

### WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

16

### LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

### IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

### STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

### Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



**National  
Online  
Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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@nationalonlinesafety

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# External Opportunities



Stevenage FC community engagement team are delivering Teen Football HAPpy Camps at Hertfordshire FA in Letchworth during the winter holidays for 12–16-year-olds.

The HAPpy programme (Holiday Activity Programme) aims to counter the triple inequalities facing Hertfordshire's most disadvantaged young people – holiday hunger, physical inactivity, and social isolation. This holiday provision is for school aged children from Reception to year 11 (inclusive) who receive benefits-related free school meals. These families should've been sent out their winter booking codes already.

They are also running a primary school aged football camp at the same location on the same days, so if they have any younger siblings then they can all attend a football camp at the same location, hopefully this would ease the burden on those families struggling the most.

Please see details of the camp below:

Football HAPpy Camp – Hertfordshire FA, Letchworth, SG6 2EN

Free hot meal provided for lunch

22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

10am – 2pm

Booking link to find the local HAPpy Camps: <https://sportinherts.org.uk/happy/booking/>

## COPING AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be tough. That's why it's important to know there's always someone you can talk to.

  0300 123 3393  Helpline  <a href="https://mind.org.uk">mind.org.uk</a>	  Text SHOUT to 85258  24/7 text service  <a href="https://giveusashout.org">giveusashout.org</a>	  116 123  24/7 helpline  <a href="https://samaritans.org">samaritans.org</a>
  Text YM to 85258  24/7 text service  <a href="https://youngminds.org.uk">youngminds.org.uk</a>	  0800 58 58 58  Helpline for men  <a href="https://thecalmzone.net">thecalmzone.net</a>	  0800 068 4141  Under 35s Helpline  <a href="https://papyrus-uk.org">papyrus-uk.org</a>



# External Opportunities



## FREE Home Fire Safety Check...



Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will come to your house to do a Home Fire Safety Check for **FREE**.



Checking every home for fire safety will help to STOP house fires in Hertfordshire.



The fire service will look around your home. They will talk to you about **keeping your home safe** from fire.



You will be given information about stopping fires happening while you are asleep.

Working to protect. Acting to save.



## The fire service will...

- Give you advice on how to get out of your home quickly and safely.
- Will tell you what to do if there is a fire in your home and you cannot get out of your house.
- Check the smoke alarms in your home are working and are in the best place.



To ask for a **FREE** Home Fire Safety Check please call

# 0300 123 4046

You can ask a Community Nurse or Social Worker to help you arrange a check.



You can fill in the form online at [www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fire](http://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/fire)



6pm till its gone (multiple deliveries all evening)  
@ St Thomas Church, Bedford Rd.

Its nearly time for the Wilbury Community Forum  
**HUGE** Christmas Eve food rescue!

Christmas Eve from 6pm @ St Thomas Church, Bedford Rd (Op Tesco). Best before Fruit, Veg, bread but also use by food like meat, cheese and chilled food with the shops closed over Xmas!

This is all about food rescue. ALL are welcome. Whilst absolutely this gives families struggling with the cost of living a hand it also rescues mountains of perfectly good food that would otherwise go to waste. The more people that come the merrier!

Merry Christmas to you all!



## External Opportunities



# SEND Dance & Activity Workshops



**HCF**  
Hertfordshire Community Foundation

**herts  
sports**  
partnership

**Activities Workshops ages 7-11 and ages 12-16**

**Participants must be able to participate independently without parent/carer present**

**Hertford Well-being Hub | 22nd December 10am-12.30pm (7-11) | 1.30pm-4pm (12-16)**

**Westmill Community Centre | 23rd December 10am-12.30pm (7-11)**

**Pixmore Junior School | 28th December 10am-12.30pm (7-11) | 1.30pm-4pm (12-16)**

**Book: [info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com](mailto:info.imaginationarts@yahoo.com) | 07394 934911**



**Imagination Dance**  
Community Interest Company

**Just £5 per day**

**Free spaces for  
children in receipt of  
free school meals**



**Book Now!**

**Skate**  
**LETCHWORTH**  
SAT 19 NOV 22 - SUN 8 JAN 23

**300M<sup>2</sup> COVERED REAL ICE RINK • SKATE AIDS AVAILABLE • FAMILY FUN**

North Herts Council

## WARM SPACE



**St. Michaels Mount Community Centre**  
St. Michaels Road, Hitchin.

The St. Michaels Mount Community Association will be running a temporary WarmUp hub during winter 2022/23  
No need to book just come along on the day.

This will be open to all members of the community – adults, families, children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

**Times and dates:** from 9a.m. to 12 noon

Monday 19th December, Tuesday 20th, Wednesday 21st, Thursday 22nd,  
Wednesday 28th December, Thursday 29th, Friday 30th,  
Monday 2nd January, Tuesday 3rd, Wednesday 4th,

The Oxley room will be available for tea, coffee, cold drinks and toast

The main Hall will be open for children to play with soft balls, or to take part in other suitable indoor activities. Some crayons, paper etc. may be available.



## Thought of the Month



*"Always find opportunities to make someone smile,  
and to offer random acts of kindness in everyday life."*

## Calendar



### Spring term 2023

6 January	8.30am term starts
13-17 February	Half term
31 March	End of term

### Summer Term 2023

17 April	8.30am term starts
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## Contact Us



01462 621200

[admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fearnhill.herts.sch.uk)

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**Please ensure that we have your current address, mobile phone number and email address.**

**Any updates can be sent to the Main Office.**

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