



Parent Information Bulletin



19th December 2025



The PIB is our weekly bulletin to keep our families informed of what is happening at our academy. Here are some key things to share for the week...

- **Christmas Holiday:** On this last day of term before the Christmas break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the autumn term. It has been a busy and joyful term, filled with learning, hard work, and plenty of festive excitement. Our pupils have shown such enthusiasm and positivity, and we are extremely proud of all they have achieved.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to our dedicated staff team, whose care and commitment ensure that our children are nurtured and inspired every day. A huge thank, you to our Directors and Members who graciously give their time to ensure our academy team continue to strive for the best.

Whatever your faith or beliefs, I hope that the holiday brings you and your families time to rest and enjoy being together. I wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas, and to everyone in our community, a wonderful break.

We look forward to welcoming the children back on Tuesday 6th January, ready for a new term of learning and discovery. Warmest wishes, Miss Myszkowski



- **Safety over the festive season:** Please see the information sheet at the end of the PIB from National Online Safety with practical tips on how to keep your children safe over the festive period. Thank you.

- **The Fun 4 Hire Network:** Our children had tremendous fun at our Winter Wonderland event this week. Thank you to all the parents and carers who paid the £1 contribution towards this event. Hopefully your children brought home a flyer sharing how you can sign up to TF4HN to receive discounts and prizes. If not, please see one of the banners around school and scan the QR code to sign up. Thanks, TF4HN for making the time so fun!



- **Uniform Reminder:** We have recently noticed an increasing number of children coming into school without the correct uniform. Our school uniform is an important part of our identity and helps all pupils feel a sense of belonging.



We kindly ask that parents ensure children are arriving in school wearing the simple uniform outlined in our policy. Uniform does not have to have the school logo – please purchase whatever you can afford.

We also have a selection of preloved uniform available – please enquire in the office if you would like to have a look at our wider selection.

Your support helps us maintain high standards and a consistent approach across the school. If you have any questions, please speak to a member of the admin team located in the academy office. Thank you for your cooperation.

- **School start time: Please remember that gates open at 8.35 ready for an 8.40am start.** We have seen an increasing number of children arriving late and this is impacting on everyone. Please help everyone by arriving to school on time. Thank you.
- **Message from Mrs Bevan-Mackie:** Please find the following poem written by Mrs Bevan-Mackie on her last day as deputy at Freemantle:

Ode to Freemantle

Once - I am so proud to say,
I came across the 'Freemantle Way'.
It was a place filled with joy
A place for every girl and boy
To learn, to prosper and to achieve
And more than anything, to believe
That they could succeed and be supreme
In life and what they dared to dream.

Once, I am so proud to say,
I came across the 'Freemantle Way'.
With staff who cared and gave their best
To serve the children - you might have guessed.
With passion and with courage too.
Children - they'd do anything for you
To ensure your needs were clearly met.
Above and beyond - you could always bet.

Once, I am so proud to say,
I came across the 'Freemantle Way',
I've learnt so much from all of you
Staff, Directors, Parents and Carers too.
But children I just want to say
You are amazing in every way
You're kind, you're clever and thoughtful too
Freemantle I will miss all of you.

Thank you for everything – from Mrs Bevan-Mackie



Merry Christmas and a happy new year from the Freemantle Team

– see you on Tuesday 6th January 2026!



If you have any comments/feedback about our PIB, please email info@freemantleschool.co.uk or call 02386 227925

Upcoming dates

- **Tuesday 6th January 2026** – First day of spring term for our children
- **Friday 13th February 2026** – Last day of the half term
- **February 16th – Sunday 22nd February 2026** – Spring half Term Break – Academy closed
- **Monday 23rd February 2026** – First Day of Spring 2
- **Wednesday 18th March 2026** – Parents Evening
- **Thursday 19th March 2026** – Parents Evening
- **Friday 27th March 2026** – Last day of spring term
- **Monday 30th March – Sunday 12th April 2026** – Easter Holidays – Academy Closed
- **Monday 13th April 2026** – First day of summer term

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WWW.THEFUN4HIRENETWORK.CO.UK



You are warmly invited
to join with us for our
Crib Service

Christ Church Freemantle with Millbrook
Waterloo Road, SO15 3BS

24th December 2025
16:30

*For unto us
a child is born!*

Please do dress up ready to join in
with the service!



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY



Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS



The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS



More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES



Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS



Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD



Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS



Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS



Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE



Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY



Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>