## MacIntyre Academies Quest Academy

## **DECEMBER 2022 EDITION 1 NEWSLETTER**





"Remember this December, that love weighs more than gold."

–Josephíne Daskam Bacon ."

## WELCOME

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome to our last fortnightly newsletter of 2022. I hope that that the contents of the newsletter helps gives you a flavour of recent events at Quest and a glimpse of some the amazing work completed by learners during the last few weeks.

Well done to all the learners, who should be very proud of what they have achieved this term. I would like to say a particular well done to Y11 who have just had their mock exams and who are engaging positively in their careers programme.

It was wonderful to see so many families at our parent's afternoon last night and to be able to reminisce about the progress each family's child has made since joining Quest. Many families shared that just wanted their child to be safe and happy when they first joined Quest and can't believe that their child is now predicted to gain high level passes at GCSE something they had not felt possible. Other families commented on the amazing staff at Quest, which I whole heartedly agree with.

To support learners transition back to school, and to provide staff the opportunity to carry out a range of activities, learners will be class based the first week back. During these days learners will have the opportunity to talk about the progress they have made as well as carry out where appropriate phonics and reading assessments. Learners will follow their normal timetable from Monday 9th January.

If you need any support over the holidays Daisy (Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th December) and Joan will be working (Monday 19th -Thursday 22nd and Wednesday 28th - 30th December). You can also contact me via email or via my work mobile phone **07932 909 754.** If you click on the red tab on the front of our website there is also an information section that provides details about the different agencies who can provide you support.



Thank you to Ethan Elf (Y3) who brightened up my morning, he came to let me know there was an '*Elf* and Safety' issue in the School (don't worry there wasn't!).

I hope that you all have a wonderful Xmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing all learners back on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

Kind regards,

Nícola Wells



## 🚺 Book of the Week 🚺 💳

#### The Twelve Dinosaurs of Christmas by Evie Day

A dinosaur twist on the infamous 'Twelve Days of Christmas' carol, this hilarious festive picture book is the perfect gift for dinosaur fans of all ages!

Count and sing along as the collection of festive dinosaurs grows and grows over the twelve days of Christmas! From one Santasaurus to five tinselled triceratopses to nine spinasauruses sparkling and beyond . . .

With bonus content! Learn to pronounce the dinosaur names, and get the whole family singing, with the fun 'how to sing along' guide.





#### Recommended reading age: 8 - 12 years old

#### **Christmas with the Savages** by Mary Clive Eight-year-old Evelyn spends her Christmas holiday in a large Edwardian house, full of parents and nannies who have lost control of their children. There are the calm Glens, the sad Howliboos, and the mad Savages who all run riot around the timid Evelyn, who cannot return home soon enough. This funny Christmas tale will charm any young festive reader!

Recommended reading age: 8 - 12 years old

## **SAFEGUARDING & FAMILY FOOTINGS TEAM**

Daisy HowdenMobile : 07504 001 918daisy.howden@macintyreacademies.org



Joan Goodrich Mobile: 07377 990 796 Joan.goodrich@macintyreacademies.org



We are available to help families with things like accessing family support, Early Help, Child In Need Meetings, Child Protection Meetings, taxi queries, support working with other professionals such as CAMHS, general safeguarding questions and much more.

#### We are successful because...

...the parents of one of our learners said that they are pleased with her progress at school. Their daughter has said that she feels safe at school.

...the mother of one of our learners said she is very pleased her son wants to go to school and to learn. She said that her son is coping well with changes in his class staff team because of support provided. She said that she is very pleased with the outcome of the Ofsted inspection for Quest.

...the father of one of our learners thanked the Quest Academy staff team for his daughter's support and said that she is happy to come to school.



act for autism and partners will be launching the autism strategy.

Please join us for inspiring talks, workshops and meet with your local services representatives. Saturday 21st January 2023: 10am - 4.30pm

Meadow Park School, Abbey Rd, Coventry CV3 4BD This is a funded event, open to Coventry and Warwickshire residents only. Entrance only with a ticket from:

https://bit.ly/TwAC2023Coventry

NB: Lunch is not provided



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## **QUEST BAKE OFF 2022**





## **QUEST FESTIVE HAMPER**

Massive well done to Allie, one of our TA's, and Learner Jude (from Aretha Franklin class), for their successful Christmas Hamper Raffle!

> The winners are Michelle (TA in Florence Nightingale class) and Jacob S! Well done both!





## ACE NEWS

This term we have been learning all about how to care for our lovely chickens with the help from Rugby

School! The lower school learners have also been busy making

Christmas presents for someone of their choice. The

learners have been excited to take these home!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



## **RECYCLE THE UNRECYCLABLE WITH TERRACYCLE®**



Thanks to Cathy. Quest are now registered to collect the below items (washed out). The more we collect, the more points we earn that can go towards purchasing supplies. Learners can bring them in from home.





chocolate bar

wrappers













#### The Cheese Packaging Free Recycling Programme: any brand of flexible plastic cheese packaging and nets



#### **Confectionery Free Recycling Programme accepts plastic** confectionery packaging from all brands.

block wrappers



block wrappers





Kitkat





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## **CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

- 1. Which Christmas movie features Swirly Twirly Gumdrops and Candy Cane Forest?
- 2. In a famous Christmas song, what type of bird was sat in a pear tree?
- 3. What are the two most popular items placed on top of a Christmas tree?
- 4. Which famous drinks company was the first to use Santa Claus in its advertisements?
- 5. What is the name of the Grinch's dog?
- 6. True or false: there is a town called Santa Claus?
- 7. What date is Christmas Eve on?
- 8. How many ghosts visit Scrooge: 3, 4 or 5?
- 9. Traditionally, what colour is Santa's sack?
- 10. 'Merry Christmas you filthy animal' is a quote from which popular movie?
- 11. What type of animal does Santa use to pull his sleigh:
- a) Horse b) Donkey c) Reindeer?
- 12. What is the missing word from this famous Christmas song O Little Town of... :
- a) Nazareth b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
- 13. What is the name of Kristoff's reindeer in the Disney movie 'Frozen'?
- 14. How many doors would you open on an advent calendar before Christmas Day arrives?
- 15. In the famous Christmas song, what type of plant was Mummy kissing Santa Claus under?
- 16. What gifts did the three kings take to baby Jesus?
- 17. What is the missing word from this famous Christmas song: Ding Dong ... On High:
- a) Happily b) Joyfully c) Merrily?
- 18. Which Christmas song includes the lyrics: 'Dashing through the snow, in a one-horse open sleigh'?
- 19. What three small words are the laughter of Father Christmas?
- 20. According to the fabulous Christmas song, what colour is Rudolph's nose?
- 21. Where does Santa live?
- 22. What might you pull on Christmas Day:
- a) A balloon b) A cracker c) A muscle?
- 23. How many times does the number 1 appear on an advent calendar with 24 doors?
- 24. Which TV family has a pet dog called Santa's Little Helper?
- 25. What two colours are candy canes?
- 26. In the movie Elf, which city does Buddy travel to in search of his father?
- 27. Can you fill in the missing words from these famous Christmas song lyrics: Chestnuts roasting on
- an open fire, .... nipping at your nose?
- 28. What's the name for sausages wrapped in bacon traditionally eaten with the Christmas dinner?
- 29. What's the name of the main villain in The Nightmare Before Christmas?
- 30. Which fairy tale was the first gingerbread houses inspired by?



## **CHRISTMAS TUNES WORDSEARCH**

Away in a Manger Choir of the Bells Dominick the Donkey Frosty the Snowman Holly Jolly Christmas Jingle Bell Rock Jingle Bells Let it Snow Little Drummer Boy Little Drummer Boy Little St Nick O Holy Nigh<sup>†</sup> Rudolph Santa Baby Silent Nigh Silver Bells

The Christmas Song The First Noel Winter Wonderland

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## ARTWORK FROM WINSTON CHURCHILL & ARETHA FRANKLIN CLASSES

Learners have recently looked at work by London Artist, **Stephen Wiltshire.** As a child he was mute, and didn't relate to other people. At 3 he was diagnosed with Autism. He had no language, living entirely in his own world. He learned to speak fully at the age 9, his



first word "paper." When he was about 7, he became fascinated with sketching landmark London buildings. Stephen Wiltshire's work has been offered at auction multiple times, with realised prices ranging from **\$58 USD all the way to \$18,559** depending on the size and medium of the artwork!





## CHRISTMAS MONEY SAVING IDEAS

- Budget and track your spending
- Homemade gifts and decorations are one of a kind, personal, can be treasured and budget friendly
- Purchase second-hand gifts and decorations
- Regift unwanted gifts you have received
- Secret Santa for family and friendship groups can ensure everyone's gets a gift whilst reducing pressure on your budget
- Purchase whole family gifts instead of buying individual presents.
- Email Christmas cards to save on the cost of buying cards and postage
- Instead of going out, have a bring and share party at home where everyone can contribute or have virtual party.
- Compare supermarket prices to find the cheapest
- Use leftover food wisely.

## ANXIETY

We all experience a degree of anxiety; it is part of being human. It is helpful to understand how we recognise anxiety within ourselves and what it looks like for us.



## When kids meltdown over the holidays

#### It does not mean

- They are a bad child.
- · You are a bad parent.
- They are trying to ruin your fun
- They are trying to embarrass you.
- · You need to fix their feelings.
- You need to jump to their demands. They are seeking a quiet, calm space.
- They need to learn a lesson. • They are defiant and refuse to listen. • You are their safe space.
- They hate you.

- It may mean
- They need a break.
- · They are overwhelmed. They need connection with you.
- They are struggling with a sensory.
- They need you to be their calm.
- They are tired, hungry, or bored.
- · They are still figuring out how to navigate their big feelings.

#### 8 WAYS A CHILD'S ANXIET) SHOWS UP AS SOMETHING ELSE

#### The perception of danaer, stress or opposition is enough to trigger the fight or 🗦 flight response leaving your child angry and without a way to communicate why

#### 2. Difficulty Sleeping

In children, havina difficulty falling asleep or staying asleep is one of the hallmark characteristics of anxiety.



#### 3. Defiance

Unable to communicate what is really going on, it is easy to interpret the child's defiance as a lack of discipline instead of an attempt to control a situation where they feel anxious and helpless.



Chandeliering is when a seemingly calm person suddenly flies off the handle for no reason. They have pushed hurt and anxiety so deep for so long that a seemingly innocent comment or event suddenly sends them straight through the chandelier

#### 5. Lack of Focus

Children with anxiety are often so caught up in their own thoughts that they do not pay attention to what is going on around them.

#### Avoidance

Children who are trying to avoid a particular person, place or task often end up experiencing more of whatever it is they are avoiding.

#### 8. Overplanning

Overplanning and defiance go hand in hand in their root cause. Where anxiety can cause some children to try to take back control through defiant behavior, it can cause others to overplan for situations where planning is minimal or unnecessary







4. Chandeliering



#### At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, co It is needed. This guide locuses on one of many issues which w

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

Defined as "ongoing hurtful behaviour towards someone online", cyber-bullying makes its victims feel upset, uncomfortable and unsafe. In the digital world, it has numerous forms – such as hurtful comments on a person's posts or profile; deliberately leaving them out of group chats; sharing embarrassing images or videos of someone; or spreading gossip about them. Cyber-bullying can severely impact a young person's mental health ... so, in support of Anti-Bullying Week, we've provided a list of tips to help trusted adults know what to look for and how to respond to it.

#### GET CONNECTED

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#### 2. KEEP TALKING

Regular chats with young people about their online lives are good practice in general, but they can also be an excellent refresher to help prevent cyber-bullying situations. Topics you might want to revisit include why it's important to only connect online with people we know and trust, and why passwords should always remain secret (even from our best friends).

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#### 3. STAY VIGILANT 🔍

Observe your child whil using technology and j they've used it. Are the normally, or out of chan Possible signs of a prob angry

#### 4. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE

If an online bullying incident does occur, it may take a while before your child is ready to open up about what happened. Just gently remind them that they can always come to you with any problems – and that they won't be in trouble. You might also suggest a trusted family member they could turn to, in case they feel too embarrassed to tell you directly. too emb

#### 5. BE PREPARED TO LISTEN

te place, they re ficult, emotional ar oth you and your listen to your child placing you up to e they're bringing you up d, and try not to show ar ement or criticism –

#### FURTHER SUPPORT AND ADVICE

If you or your child need additional help with an online bullying issue, here are some specialist organisations that you could reach out to. Childline: talk to a trained counsellor on 0800 1111 or online at www.childline.org.uk/get-support/

National Bullying Helpline: counsellors are available on 0845 225 5787 or by visiting www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/cyberbullying.html The NSPCC: the children's charity has a guide to the signs of bullying at www.nspcc.org.uk/what-is-child-abuse/types-of-abuse/bullying-and-cyberbullying/ and can be reached on 0808 800 5000

#### Meet Our Expert

Dr Cloire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

www.nationalonlinesafety.com

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#### 6. EMPOWER YOUR CHILD

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Depending on their age, your child might not want a parent 'lighting their battles for them'. In that case, talk through their options with them (blocking the perpetrator, deleting the app and so on). By allowing your child to choose the path they take, you're putting them in control but are also demonstrating that you're there to support them along the way.

#### 7. REPORT BULLIES ONLINE

#### 8. ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

Protecting themselves online is the priority, of course, but young people should also feel empowered to help if they witness other people failing victim to cyberbuillying. Even if they don't feel confident enough to call someone out on their abusive behaviour online, they can still confidentially report that person to the app or game where the builying occurred. 0

#### 9. SEEK EXPERT ADVICE

#### **10. INVOLVE THE AUTHORITIES**

If the nature of any online bullying makes you suspect that your child is genuinely in imminent physical danger – or if there are any signs whatsoever of explicit images being shared as part of the bullying – then you should gather any relevant screenshots as evidence and report the incidents to your local police force.

National

Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday,

## **HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES & FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME**

Just a short update on the Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme as we near the school holidays. We have 78 sites across the County that are offering free activities with a meal provision for eligible families, with a varied range of activities on offer. The programme is for families in receipt of benefits-related free school meals, although we can issue a small amount of HAF codes for families meeting an additional criteria (referenced below). A maximum of 4 sessions can be redeemed at Christmas with a HAF code, with our activities generally running from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

All details and activity listings for the HAF programme can be found at https://

searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/holidays-activities-food-haf. If a family receives free school meals, then we have changed the processes and a brief online form needs to be completed so we have details of the young person and where to send a HAF code - a text or email is sent out following verification, with the form available on the above link. If a family has issues accessing online, then they can ring the FIS freephone number on 0800 408 1558 where we can sort this over the phone. HAF codes for families receiving free school meals now last the academic year, so we don't have to re-issue them throughout the year for Easter & Summer activities.

If the family are not eligible for free school meals, but meet the criteria referenced at <u>https://</u> searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/homepage/31/information-for-parents---haf then a referral can be made for a HAF code. For reference this is where a family is facing a significant financial barrier and meet one of these categories:

- Children with an allocated social worker or family support worker
- Young carers
- Those with an open early help plan

This will only be for December and need to be re-issued for each activity period as we can only allocate a certain number of codes for families not in receipt of free school meals due to funding agreements. The referral form can be found at <u>https://forms.office.com/r/</u> WZ6cU221iH and we normally turn codes round on the same working day.

Currently, we have not had as large an uptake as expected for code requests and many of our providers still have availability. Please feel free to pass this onto teams/staff to signpost towards the link to request a HAF Code - https://searchout.warwickshire.gov.uk/holidaysactivities-food-haf or for a referral where appropriate. This is a great opportunity for families to access activities, so any help would be greatly appreciated.



## SIMPLE GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Bake a gingerbread house with this simple biscuit recipe & design template.

Ingredients	To decorate	
For the gingerbread	200g flaked almonds	
250g unsalted butter	2 egg whites	
200g dark muscovado sugar	500g icing sugar, plus extra to dust	
7 tbsp golden syrup	125g mini chocolate fingers	
600g plain flour	Selection of sweets (your choice) choose your own colour theme	
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda	1 mini chocolate roll or a dipped chocolate flake	
4 tsp ground ginger	Few edible silver balls	

#### Method

1) Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Melt the butter, sugar and syrup in a pan. Mix the flour, bicarbonate of soda and ground ginger into a large bowl, then stir in the butter mixture to make a stiff dough. If it won't quite come together, add a tiny splash of water.

2) Cut out the template (download from the tips below). Put a sheet of baking paper on a work surface and roll about one quarter of the dough to the thickness of two £1 coins. Cut out one of the sections, then slide the gingerbread, still on its baking paper, onto a baking sheet. Repeat with remaining dough, re-rolling the trimmings, until you have two side walls, a front and back wall and two roof panels. Any leftover dough can be cut into Christmas trees, if you like.

3) Pick out the most intact flaked almonds and gently poke them into the roof sections, pointy-end first, to look like roof tiles. Bake all the sections for 12 mins or until firm and just a little darker at the edges. Leave to cool for a few minutes to firm up, then trim around the templates again to give clean, sharp edges. Leave to cool completely.

4) Put the egg whites in a large bowl, sift in the icing sugar, then stir to make a thick, smooth icing. Spoon into a piping bag with a medium nozzle. Pipe generous snakes of icing along the wall edges, one by one, to join the walls together. Use a small bowl to support the walls from the inside, then allow to dry, ideally for a few hours.

5) Once dry, remove the supports and fix the roof panels on. The angle is steep so you may need to hold these on firmly for a few mins until the icing starts to dry. Dry completely, ideally overnight. To decorate, pipe a little icing along the length of 20 mini chocolate fingers and stick these lengthways onto the side walls of the house. Use three, upright, for the door.

6) Using the icing, stick sweets around the door and on the front of the house. To make the icicles, start with the nozzle at a 90-degree angle to the roof and squeeze out a pea-sized blob of icing. Keeping the pressure on, pull the nozzle down and then off – the icing will pull away, leaving a pointy trail. Repeat all around the front of the house. Cut the chocolate mini roll or dipped Flake on an angle, then fix with icing to make a chimney. Pipe a little icing around the top. If you've made gingerbread trees, decorate these now, too, topping each with a silver ball, if using. Dust the roof with icing sugar for a snowy effect. Lay a winding path of sweets, and fix gingerbread trees around and about using blobs of icing. *Your gingerbread house will be edible for about a week.* 

#### **GINGERBREAD HOUSE TEMPLATES GINGER BREAD STREET 3 GINGER BREAD STREET 1** GINGER BREAD STREET 2 1 X FRONT 1 X FRONT 1 X BACK 2 X SIDE 1 X FRONT 1 X BACK E 2.80 1 X BACK 2 X SIDE $\square$ 2 X ROOF 2 X ROOF 3cm 2 X SIDE 2 X 8008

## **COVENTRY UNIVERSITY VISIT**

### TUESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Eight of our year 11's attended a morning with Liam Norton at Coventry University. These are some of the photos of engagement.



A full-size ambulance for paramedic training



A real Harrier Jet for students studying aviation.



Discovering creative arts.

The Y11's found the subjects they were interested in exciting. They also looked at the photographic studio including the dark room and loaning out of equipment. Car mechanics and the building of racing cars. After Christmas visits will be made to other colleges and Universities.

## VISIT TO G.E. POWER

## THURSDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Five learners from year 11 and staff, visited G.E. Power. They had a presentation and a tour of the building. A huge thank you to Millie and Alex for arranging this from G.E. Power.

The learners were able to learn about the processes and procedures carried out by the organisation and gained an understanding of the types of contracts the company undertakes.



The learners enjoyed the visit and were proud to be in part of the building where the first jet engine was made.

G.E Power will take work experience in June 2023 which could lead to possible apprenticeships.

## **POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

We have recently updated our e-Safety Policy. If you would like to have a read of any our Policies

and Procedures these can be found on our <u>Quest Academy</u> website.





#### Please see full Early Help Network Meeting Information in email.

<b>TERM DATES FOR 2022 - 2023</b>			
AUTUMN TERM 2022			
Ends	Friday 16th December 2022		
Christmas holiday	Monday 19th December 2022 - Monday 2nd January 2023		
SPRING TERM 2023			
INSET day (no learners on site)	Tuesday 3rd January 2023		
Starts	Wednesday 4th January 2023		
Half term	Monday 20th - Friday 24th February 2023		
Trust INSET (no learners on site)	Friday 10th March 2023		
Ends	Friday 31st March 2023		
Spring (Easter) holiday	Monday 3rd - Friday 14th April 2023		
SUMMER TERM 2023			
Starts	Monday 17th April 2023		
Bank Holiday	Monday 1st May 2023		
Bank Holiday (Kings Coronation)	Monday 8th May 2023		
Half term	Monday 29th - Friday 2nd June 2023		
INSET day (no learners on site)	Monday 10th July 2023		
INSET day (no learners on site)	Tuesday 11th July 2023		
Ends	Friday 28th July 2023		

#### **Quest Contact details:**

Quest Academy Anderson Avenue Rugby Warwickshire CV22 5PE E: <u>quest.office@macintyreacademies.org</u>

T: 01788 593 112

How to contact members of staff: Please contact Reception if you would like to speak with a member of staff. You will either be transferred or reception will email the member of staff to let them know that you have called.

#### **Reporting pupil absence and lateness:**

If your child is absent for more than 7 days you will need to provide a doctors certificate. If we do not receive a doctors note and have not seen your child we will have no alternative but to refer the matter to the Safeguarding Board in line with our safeguarding procedures.

Please can we remind parent/carers to call school on 01788 593 112, before 9am if your child may be late or is unwell.

#### You will also need to contact the taxi company to let them know.





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