

At Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale Schools we are **KIND**:

Kind and accepting
Independent learners
Never giving up
Determined to be our personal best

Under God's guidance, we teach children the importance of *kindness* towards others, tolerance and mutual *respect*. This empowers children to have the *courage* to achieve their personal best.

Psalm 145:17

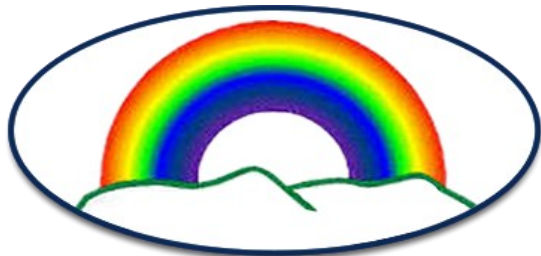
‘The Lord is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works’

Luke 2:40

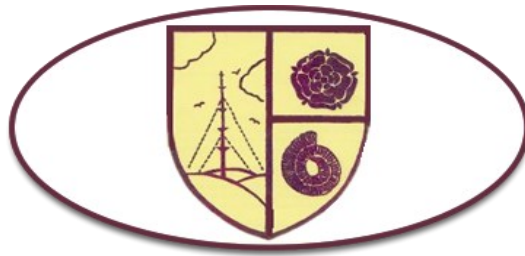
‘And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom...’

We uphold these values through our golden rules:

- Be ready
- Be respectful
- Be safe



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The Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale CE Federation Newsletter

Friday 19th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has well and truly put us all in the Christmas spirit! We've hosted the craft afternoon, Bilsdale service, pantomime, Little Owls and Reception 'sing-along', Christmas lunch and jumper day and finally the Carol Service—what a week! Thank you to all parents, carers, family and friends who have supported with all of these events.

Well done to all winners of the PTFA's chocolate raffle and thank you for everyone's support—this important fundraising means that things like the pantomime visit and gifts for the children can happen each year. A huge thanks to all of the PTFA for their hard work too.

Today we say goodbye to Rory and Olivia as they move to a new school in January—we wish them lots of luck for the future.

With best wishes for a joyful Christmas,

Mr. M. Scott Executive Headteacher

Attendance—our whole school target is 96%.

Bilsdale— **91%**

Carlton—**94.4%**

National Average—95%



Awards

Return January
2026!



Awards

Return January
2026!



Music of the Week

Next week's music of the week is 'Waltzing Matilda' - an Australian folk song.



Notes

Gifts

Thank you so much to all parents and carers who kindly bought gifts for staff, they are very much appreciated.



Collective Worship

A prayer for the final Sunday of Advent: *Heavenly Father, As we light the last candle of Advent, we rejoice in the nearness of Your Son, our Saviour. Fill our hearts with hope, peace, joy and love as we prepare to celebrate His birth. May Your light guide us through the darkness and Your grace draw us closer to You. Come, Lord Jesus, and dwell among us today and always. Amen.*

Safeguarding

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for the federation is Matthew Scott. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead for Bilsdale is Rachel Grundmann and for Carlton is Diane Jeffries. The Safeguarding Lead Governor is John Ford.

If you have concerns about the safety of a child please speak to one of the staff named above. If you have concerns outside of school hours, please follow [this link](#) to the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership website.

News from the Classes

Carlton and Bilsdale EYFS

What a wonderful week of festive fun we have had in EYFS this week! The celebrations began with our Christmas Craft Afternoon on Monday. Reception joined the whole school for a creative session, while our Little Owls enjoyed making their very own Christmas craft trees. They also loved sharing the story "The Biggest Christmas Tree Ever", which sparked lots of excitement and imagination.

On Tuesday, we concluded our RE unit by creating thoughtful birthday cards that a Christian might send to Jesus. This was a lovely way to reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

Wednesday was full of sparkle and joy! Reception had an amazing time at the pantomime, while Little Owls explored the magic of Christmas baubles, observing a beautiful range of shiny decorations. We ended the day perfectly with our special Christmas Nativity Sing-Along with families. The children were absolutely fantastic! A big well done to each and every one of them!

As we wrap up this half term, we are incredibly proud of all our children in Class 1 and Little Owls for their hard work and enthusiasm. We are also delighted to extend a warm welcome to Freddie, Arabella and Chester, who will be joining us in the New Year.

A huge thank you to all our families for your continued support throughout this term, it makes such a difference and is greatly appreciated.

Carlton & Bilsdale KS1

What a fantastic first term the children have had as Year 1 and Year 2. We have learnt so much, progressed with our reading, been to Preston Park for a day to experience what life was like for Victorians and dressed up back at school to learn in our own 'Victorian' classroom. We have danced, sung and performed brilliantly on stage in the nativity.

The children have entered the classroom each morning full of smiles and news from home, it has been a privilege to watch them grow in confidence as the term has progressed.

As we have reached the final week, our newsletter includes some of the children's thoughts about KS1 so far:

"I love history the best, it is really fun."

"I wouldn't have liked to have gone to school in Victorian times because the teachers were strict and I wouldn't want to be caned!"

"I really love art and computing because we have lots of fun."

"I am proud of my reading and can read much better now."

"I like English because I love writing and doing stories. The firework poem was good."

"The dance was great and I loved the snow and the singing!"

"I have really enjoyed learning about Victorian school days, but I don't think it would have been much fun."

Well done to all Class 2 for working so hard this term and having such positive attitudes towards every aspect of your school day. Have a lovely Christmas time, keep on reading and have a good rest, ready for the Spring term and more amazing times, learning and growing together. Happy and peaceful holidays to you all.



News from the Classes

Carlton & Bilsdale KS2

As we come to the end of the first term, we asked the children to look back and share their highlights of the term:

Toby: This term I enjoyed swimming because I like jumping in the pool.

Beth: I liked going to the Life Centre because it was fun. I liked learning about space because I like space.

Rupert: I loved DT when we made our animal boxes because I love creating.

Lyla: I enjoyed fashion and design club because it was crafty.

Sam: I enjoyed the Life Centre especially the activity where I had to pull a rope and the force of a big ball pushed the small ball up.

Isabel: This term I enjoyed 'Counting on Katherine' because I enjoy English writing and finding out about inspirational people.

Daisy: I really enjoyed football as well as the Dynamic Dynasty and work on Fu Hao.

Siena: I like fractions. It is a good maths thing to learn.

Anna: I have really enjoyed RE this term because of the pilgrimage topic. I have enjoyed reading Holes because it is one of the best books I have ever read.

Reflecting on Christmas events, the children said:

Aoife: I liked going to the pantomime because they always mix it up.

Zeff: I liked the nativity because I like seeing my mum and dad laughing.

Hugo: I enjoyed the nativity which, in my opinion, was a great success.

Lydia: I liked the crib service.

Lauren: I loved the Christmas art day

Bonnie: I enjoyed Urban Kaos especially as it was a Christmas special.



Diary Dates

Monday 5th January 2026	Staff training day—school closed for children	All	n/a
Tuesday 6th January	School re-opens for all children	All	n/a
Friday 9th January	Library in	All	n/a
WC Monday 12th January	Swimming and clubs re-start	All	More info. to follow
Thursday 15th January	Y3/4 residential parent information event, 5pm	Y3/4 parents	Letter sent
Tuesday 27th January	KS2 cross country	KS2	More info. to follow
Friday 30th January	Supervised tooth brushing programme in school to work with Reception children	Reception	Letter sent
Friday 6th February	Y5/6 London trip	Y5/6	Letter sent
Tuesday 10th February	Y1-Y6 mosque visit Bilsdale at Carlton all day	Y1-6	Letter sent
Friday 13th February	School closes for half term	All	n/a
Monday 23rd February	School re-opens for all	All	n/a
Tuesday 24th February	Y3/4 dodgeball	Y3/4	More info. to follow
Monday 2nd March	Skip 2B Fit day Bilsdale at Carlton all day	All	More info. to follow
Monday 9th March	Shine Schools Festival	Choir	More info. to follow
Thursday 12th and Friday 13th March	Y3/4 residential, Newby Wiske Hall	Y3/4	Letter sent
Friday 27th March	School closes for Easter—no after school club today	All	n/a
Monday 13th April	Staff training day—school closed to chil- dren	All	n/a
Tuesday 14th April	School re-opens for all	All	n/a

IMPORTANT HOLIDAY INFORMATION

The Carlton & Faceby and Bilsdale CE Federation is now closed for the Christmas break. We hope you have a wonderful holiday! Staff may check their emails periodically but please do not expect a response before Monday 5th January.

If you are concerned about the safety of a child during this time please use the following contacts:

- North Yorkshire Safeguarding Children Partnership telephone - 0300 131 2 131
- More information about making a referral - <https://www.safeguardingchildren.co.uk/aboutus/worried-about-a-child/>
- If you have serious, immediate concerns about a child call the Police on 999.

If you're a child who needs help, here are the details for Childline:

- Phone - 0800 1111
- Website - <https://www.childline.org.uk/>

If you're struggling with food, here are some links:

- Hambleton Food Share - <https://dev1.hambletonfoodshare.org.uk/>
- Middlesbrough Food Bank - <https://middlesbrough.foodbank.org.uk/>

Worried about your child's time online? Here is some advice from the NSPCC - [https:// www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/)

Struggling with domestic abuse? Here is some information on how to get help - [https:// www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/domestic-abuse-how-to-get-help)

Need help with your mental health? Advice can be found here – <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/mental-health-services/>



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, topping 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>

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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP NEW DEVICES FOR CHILDREN

At Christmas, millions of lucky children will be excitedly ripping the wrapping off new phones, tablets, computers or consoles. However, in the rush to let young ones enjoy their shiny gadgets, many parents neglect to set these devices up safely – increasing the chances of children going online and stumbling across adult content, making expensive downloads or installing unsuitable apps. A little time configuring the device properly can save a lot of anguish later. Here are our top tips to ensure that a dream gift on Christmas morning doesn't turn into a nightmare by New Year.

PASSCODES FOR IPHONE/IPAD

If your child's getting their own iPhone or iPad, you can set parental controls that make it difficult for them to access inappropriate content or download expensive apps. Once the device is set up, go to the Settings app and tap Screen Time, then select Use Screen Time Passcode and enter a passcode. Keep it to yourself so your child can't switch the protection off.

SCREEN TIME SETTINGS ON IPHONE/IPAD

Once you've set a Screen Time Passcode, you can adjust various safety settings. You could, for example, only allow communication with people from the Contacts app, place restrictions on App Store purchases and apply age limits to movies, music and web content. There are many more protective options available within the Screen Time settings section.

FAMILY LINK FOR ANDROID

Parents can manage Android phones and tablets, as well as Google Chromebooks, through Google's Family Link app. This gives your child some independence (and their own Google account) but lets parents monitor which apps are being used, set limits on content and ensure that parental permission is required to install apps. Look for Family Link in the Google Play Store.

ADD A CHILD TO FAMILY LINK

The easiest way to add a child's device to Family Link is to set it up with its own Google account. It's a good idea to create this before they use their new phone, tablet or Chromebook. Once they're logged in, open the Family Link app on your phone, press '+' in the top right and add a new family member using their Google account details. Then follow the on-screen instructions.

FAMILY SHARING ON A MAC

Families using a Mac get similar screen time options to iPhone and iPad users. Again, if you're setting up a Mac for a child, make yourself the main admin and add them as a user. This is handled through Apple's Family Sharing service, which not only allows you to put controls on child accounts but share apps and other purchases with them too. Search 'family sharing' at <https://support.apple.com>.

PLAYSTATION PARENTAL CONTROLS

With parental controls for the PS5, you'll need a PlayStation Network account (as the 'family manager') and the child will need their own account, which they should sign in with on the console. This all needs to be set up in advance, so you might want to do it before the big day. Go to PlayStation.com and search 'family account' for instructions.

DISCUSS IT WITH YOUR CHILD

If you're planning to implement any kind of restriction or protection settings on your child's new device, we'd recommend having a discussion with your young one first about what these controls do, and what they are for. If you try to impose parental controls surreptitiously or with no advance warning, don't be surprised if your child tries to find a way around them.

SET AN ADMIN ON PCs

On Windows PCs and laptops, it's important not to let your child share a general user account or be the main admin on the device. If you're booting up a new family PC or a child's own device, set it up using your own account details and you'll become the admin by default. Then set up children with their own separate account: Settings > Accounts > Family & Other Users > Add Other User.

SET WINDOWS LIMITS

Once your child's account has been created, a parent admin can go back into the Family & Other Users menu and apply limits to it. These include restricting screen time, the type of games and apps that can be installed, web filters and more. Microsoft also includes reporting tools which, for example, can email you with a weekly summary of your child's activity on the device.

TREAT AN XBOX LIKE A PC

The same control settings you use for a PC can be used to apply parental controls on an Xbox. Again, once your child is signed into the Xbox with their own account, you can then monitor and regulate their activity from a PC or web browser. Microsoft's dashboard allows you to manage voice communication through the console: so you can limit who can contact your child, for example.

INSTALL XBOX FAMILY SETTINGS

If you don't have a PC, but your child does have an Xbox, it might be easier to use the Xbox Family Settings app for iPhone or Android. Here, you can restrict console screen time (particularly handy if the console is in a bedroom), restrict communication and monitor the types of game being played. There's also a feature where you can allocate spending money for games or in-game purchases.

STAY VIGILANT

It's important to remember that none of these methods is 100% foolproof. Nobody will ever invent flawless filters or parental controls – not least because what's unacceptable to some parents is perfectly acceptable to others. So although devices' parental controls will help to keep your child safe online, they work best side by side with good old-fashioned parental vigilance.

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 writes regularly about internet safety issues.



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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.

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'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 can'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.

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 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.

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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.

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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.



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