



Sally Banfield

Headteacher

28<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear Parents and Families,

### **Christmas Fayre**

It is our wonderful Christmas fayre on Tuesday after school this week. Please come along to share this special event with us. We will have lots of stalls, lovely cakes and food to try and of course a very special Christmas guest will be making an appearance!

### **Winter Weather**

We are definitely experiencing episodes of wintery weather, and the temperature in the southwest has been unusually cold on some mornings. We always want our young people to be able to go outside for breaktimes and they love this. Please can we ask they come to school with clothes for the weather to keep them warm outside.

### **Absence**

We know we have a lot of cold and flu symptoms in school at this time of year. If your child is unable to attend school, please ring the absence line on 01803 327902 and leave a message **or** email [emails@combepafford.torbay.sch.uk](mailto:emails@combepafford.torbay.sch.uk) to let us know. In doing this, it really helps our attendance team and means they will not have to call you to check every day. Some parents are still using classcharts which is leading to some unnecessary phone calls. Please can we ask you to use the absence line or email.

### **Arbor**

Currently 79% of parents have downloaded the app and are using it to its full potential. If you are still yet to download the app and would like some assistance, please let us know. You only need your own

email address to do this. It will ask you for your own password for this, but the school will not see it – this is just for you to log into the Arbor app.

### **Pantomime trip to the Princess Theatre –**

It will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we have invited the whole school community to go to the Princess Theatre to watch a professional pantomime. It is a wonderful day to spend with the children and last year everyone had a fantastic time. This year we will be watching Sleeping Beauty on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December. We would like as many children as possible to be able to watch and the school is helping by subsidising ticket prices to help with this. If you would like a place, you can pay for the ticket via the Arbor app or alternatively, you can come into school to pay.

### **Christmas Brass Band Concert – 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025**

Don't forget to book your tickets for the Riviera Brass Band Christmas Concert being held at school on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 7.30pm. This is a fantastic event for all the family and all proceeds from the night are kindly being donated back to the school. Tickets are on sale through Arbor (Under Trips – Christmas Concert) at £6 each. Please invite your family and friends – children go free but must be accompanied by an adult. Light refreshments will be available on the night.

### **Dates for Christmas**

A letter has been sent to parents today with a list of all the dates for our Christmas Events. If you would like a paper copy of this letter, please let reception know and we will send a copy home with your child.

**The last day of school is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.**

## Support and Information for Families

Please find below support and other opportunities for you and your family.

### Bay of Lights Opening Night

#### The Bay of Lights Opening Night – **THIS Friday 28th November 2025**

Join us for an unforgettable evening packed with lights, music, and celebrations across Torquay.

#### Illumination Trail

Wander through the magical Illumination Trail from 4:30pm, with sound elements until 9:30pm and lighting displays glowing on until 11pm.

#### Live Music from The Banjo Stage

- 5:30pm – Razzamatazz
- 6:30pm – Harbour

#### The Strand Light Switch-On

7:15pm, led by Civic Mayor Cllr Barbara Lewis

#### **Fireworks Display – 8pm**

Fireworks launched from Haldon Pier

 Best viewing spots: The Banjo & Princess Gardens

#### Make a night of it!

Soak up the vibrant atmosphere and enjoy a drink or dinner at one of the fantastic bars and restaurants around Torquay. We advise around 6-6.30pm.

 Proudly funded by: ERBID Co, TIBO, TTCP & Torbay Council

A note for parents and carers:

Our sincere apologies for the late fireworks start time. This was a last-minute addition to the final schedule, but it does offer a perfect opportunity to enjoy an early family dinner and support local businesses before heading to the big event.

 Don't forget: Pick up a free light stick for the kids from the Otto Bandstand!

From Twenty1 & Otto Team

## Keeping your children safe online

The focus this week is on Youtube and how you can keep your young people safe online when they are using it. If you would like a PDF version of this poster, please let us know and we will be happy to forward this on.

See! It's needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps that 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 YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

### HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

### CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

### TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

### SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

### SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

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## Advice for Parents & Carers

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

### CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Cockain (a.k.a. Lunawell) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawell Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

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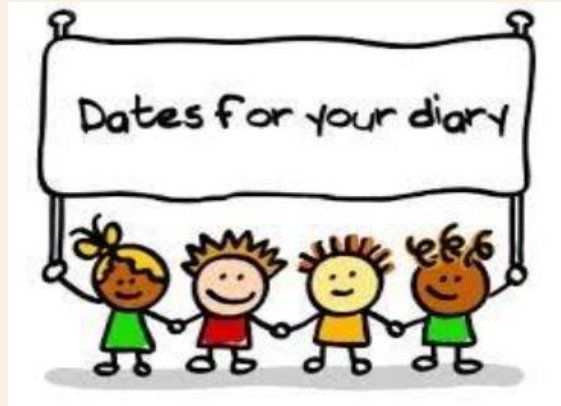
Remember that all letters that are sent out are also available on the school website in a dedicated place for easy navigation. The link for this page is here: [Combe Pafford School - Letters to Parents](#)

I hope you enjoy a lovely weekend with your friends and family.

My best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Banfield', written in a cursive style.

**Sally Banfield**  
**Headteacher**



### NOVEMBER 2025

- 25th KS2 Swimming
- 25th Community Consultation with Reps from the Local Authority (in person) 9.00am
- 28th Year 7 Swimming

### DECEMBER 2025

- 1<sup>st</sup> Non Uniform Day (Bring Raffle Prizes and Donations for Christmas Fayre)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Christmas Fayre from 3.30pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Riviera Brass Concert
- 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Jumper Day & Christmas Lunch
- 10<sup>th</sup> Christmas Nativity at St Mary the Virgin Church, St Marychurch at 11.15am
- 11<sup>th</sup> Rocksteady Christmas Concert
- 12<sup>th</sup> Sixth Form Christmas Lunch at the Willow Tree
- 15<sup>th</sup> School Christmas Nativity
- 16<sup>th</sup> Christmas Panto at Princess Theatre
- 17th Silent Disco - Lower and Middle School – AM / Upper School - PM
- LAST DAY OF TERM

### JANUARY 2026

- 5<sup>th</sup> INSET DAY
- 6<sup>th</sup> CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL