

Hob Moor Oaks

9TH JANUARY

Welcome back for 2026!

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

It was wonderful to welcome back so many happy smiley pupils into school on Tuesday morning. Pupils have quickly settled back in to their classroom and learning routines, ready for another busy half term of learning and new experiences.

Class teachers are in the process of finalising our Preparation for Life visits, and will be sharing information with you over the next few weeks. This half term we will also have new groups of pupils taking part in our Physical Development trips to Energise, Bowling and Cycling. You will be shortly receiving your child's updated class timetable and Spring Term 1 newsletter, I hope you enjoy reading them.

On Wednesday we hosted 13 Initial Teacher Training Students from Pathfinder Teaching Hub. This is a really valuable visit for the students to see our school in action, learn about our school values, philosophy and curriculum. The ITT students gave some fantastic feedback about the pupils and staff teams during the time the spent in school.

We would also like to thank all our Parents and Carers for your understanding regarding the change in pick-up/drop-off times today which were in place due to the weather warning issued.

Wishing you a lovely weekend

Date	Event
Wed 21 st Jan	9am-11am HMO Parents Focus Group
	Becky Hairdresser Visit
Thu 22 nd Jan	Becky Hairdresser Visit
W/C 26 th Jan	Woodland Educational visits week
Tue 3 rd Feb	9:30am-11am The Toilet Journey part 1/4
W/C 2 nd Feb	Forest Phase educational visit week
W/C 8 th Feb	Orchard Phase educational visit week
Wed 11 th Feb	1:30-2:30pm EYFS Stay and play

After Christmas, many younger may be enjoying new devices or apps. We encourage you to take a little time to explore these together, use parental controls where helpful, and have gentle conversations about staying safe online and speaking to a trusted adult if anything doesn't feel right. Also see attached parental controls helps help.

If you require any support please contact the admin team for the attention of Laura Moyse.

A note about appointments

If your child needs a doctor or dental appointment, please do try to arrange this outside of school time. However, if unavoidable, please make sure you follow the correct protocol:

You must show evidence of appointment **to the office** either in physical copy, or an image sent to admin.hmo@ebor.academy. **You do not need to send it to your child's class team, the admin team will update them.**

Thank you



Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At myaccount.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

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



The
National
College

NOS
National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday