

THE ISLAND LEARNING



TRUST



Parent Newsletter

CHRISTMAS 2020



MERRY
CHRISTMAS



The Island Learning Trust





Message from our CEO

'Twas the week before Christmas, and all was not yet as quiet as a mouse!
I am delighted to share our first Newsletter of 2024/25, to allow a glimpse in to the wonderful world of TILT!

As you'll see in the pages below, Term 2 has been anything but quiet in our TILT schools- not quiet- but definitely magical!

Christmas plays, concerts, discos, Christmas dinner, special events galore and all with twinkling lights and glittery sparkles! Oh and of course the main business of learning has happened too!

Behind the scenes here at the Trust offices it has been busy, preparing for the many and significant changes that will impact schools this year; the new Ofsted inspection framework, School Report Cards, keeping abreast of the Curriculum Review recommendations and the implications of the SEND Review.

In addition, we have an application in with the DfE to open a nursery at Halfway Houses Primary School, ongoing meetings linked to the School Rebuild Program at Sunny Bank, planning underway for a new block at Minster Primary and planning for the roll out of our Sustainability Strategy.

Indeed, a very busy term and year to date- whilst busy- it is essential to remember why we do what we do- it is our deep sense of responsibility to help young people achieve and thrive and be the best they can be, and that is what keeps us doing what we do!

As we head into the Christmas season, may your celebrations be filled with laughter, warmth, and cherished moments. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! With heartfelt thanks from all of us at CST, for all your support and engagement in 2025. Wishing you and your loved ones a wonderful time.

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!

Warmest regards
Debbie Rousell





**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**



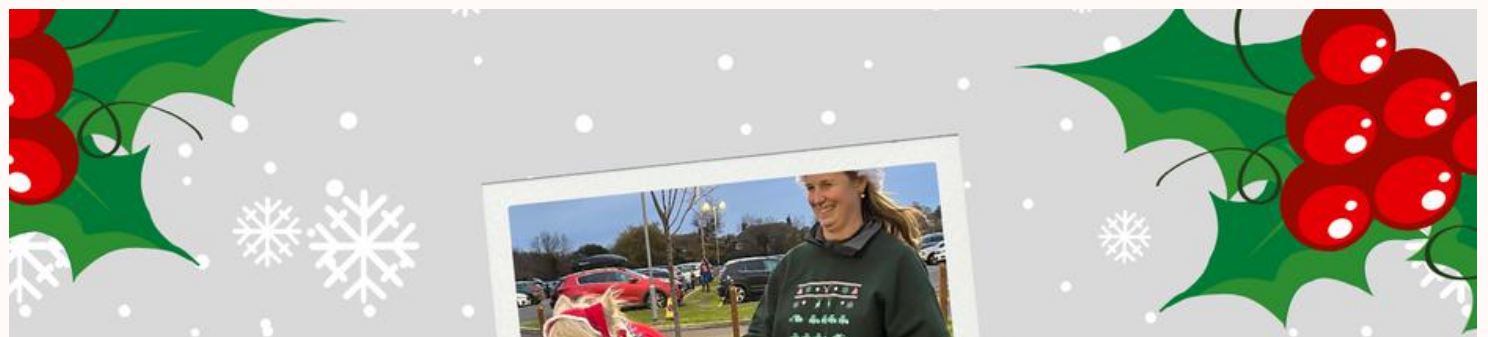




**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**







**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**







**The Island
Learning Trust**



**ADMISSIONS STILL OPEN
FOR 2026**

It is not too late to visit one of our 3 schools - **call today to arrange a tour!**



**MINSTER
PRIMARY**

**01795
872138**



**SUNNY BANK
PRIMARY**

**01795
473891**



**HALFWAY
HOUSES**

**01795
662875**



www.tiltrust.org



Merry
Christmas



Understanding your child

free online parenting courses
are here to help you



These free online courses are available in 15 to 20 minute chunks, perfect for busy parents and carers. There are five separate courses starting during pregnancy and continuing up until a child's 19th birthday.

There are five separate courses including:



1. Understanding pregnancy, labour, birth and your baby

For anyone who is expecting a baby including friends and family.

- Has information on pregnancy, labour and birth.
- Helps build loving and close relationships between children and their carers.

Course is available in English, Urdu and for women only couples.

2. Understanding your baby

For anyone caring for a baby from birth to 12-months-old.

- Supports baby's development.
- Helps build loving and close relationships between children and their carers.
- Has information on sleep, feeding, crying, and playing as well as childcare options.





3. Understanding your child

For anyone caring for a child from birth to 18.

- Supports positive relationships between parents/carers and children.
- Adds simple, practical strategies to the parenting toolbox.

Course is available in English, Urdu, Bulgarian, Arabic, simplified Chinese and Polish.

4. Understanding your teenager's brain

For anyone caring for a teenager in Kent and one for teenagers themselves.

- Helps parents and carers understand what happens to the brain of a child as they go through adolescence and understand some of the behaviours they might be noticing,
- There is also a course designed for teenagers to access themselves.



5. Understanding your child with additional needs

For anyone caring for a child with special needs.

- Looks at some particular aspects of parenting such as sleep and anger management, helping to make it easier to work with your child's behaviour
- Supporting their development.



How to access the courses

Families can visit www.inourplace.co.uk and register for a free account with the access code 'Invicta'. Courses can be completed at an individual's own pace.

If the course raises any concerns for a child or parent/carer's wellbeing, they can contact their midwife, health visitor or School Health Team for more support.

Contact for more support:

A healthy childhood and adolescence is one of the key foundations for a healthy life. Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust's health visiting and school health teams are here to support you.

Health Visiting Service

[Kent Baby](#) has a range of information and ways to contact your local Health Visiting Team.

School Health Service

[Kent School Health](#) also lots of useful resources for parents or you can call 0800 0113474 (open 8am and 6pm) to speak confidentially to a member of the team.

For more details of the parenting support available to families in Medway, visit [Medway Health Visiting Service](#) or [Medway School Health Service](#) for more details.



This service is provided by Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust on behalf of Kent County Council.

Online Courses January 2026

Course Code	Course Title	Start	End	Day	Start Time	End Time
152991	Managing Sleep	09/01/26	09/01/26	Friday	10:00	12:00
152918	Exploring Behaviour Strategies	13/01/26	13/01/26	Tuesday	09:30	11:30
152982	Autism Awareness	13/01/26	03/02/26	Tuesday	09:30	11:30
152985	Strategies to Support Your ADHD Child - Webinar	13/01/26	13/01/26	Tuesday	19:00	20:00
151041	Introduction to Working with Children	15/01/26	12/02/26	Thursday	17:30	19:30
153004	Supporting Your Child's Anxiety	21/01/26	21/01/26	Wednesday	19:00	21:00
153173	Supporting Your family through our Screen Obsessed World	27/01/26	27/01/26	Tuesday	19:00	21:00
153189	Keeping Up with the Children- Maths	13/01/26	3/2/26	Tuesday	9:30	11:30

To help us provide the best possible experience for you, please let us know if you or your child have any disabilities or particular support needs.



To book your place on one of these FREE courses,
scan the QR code or go to
www.kentadulteducation.co.uk

and enter the course code into the search box.

For further information email
businesssupport2@kent.gov.uk

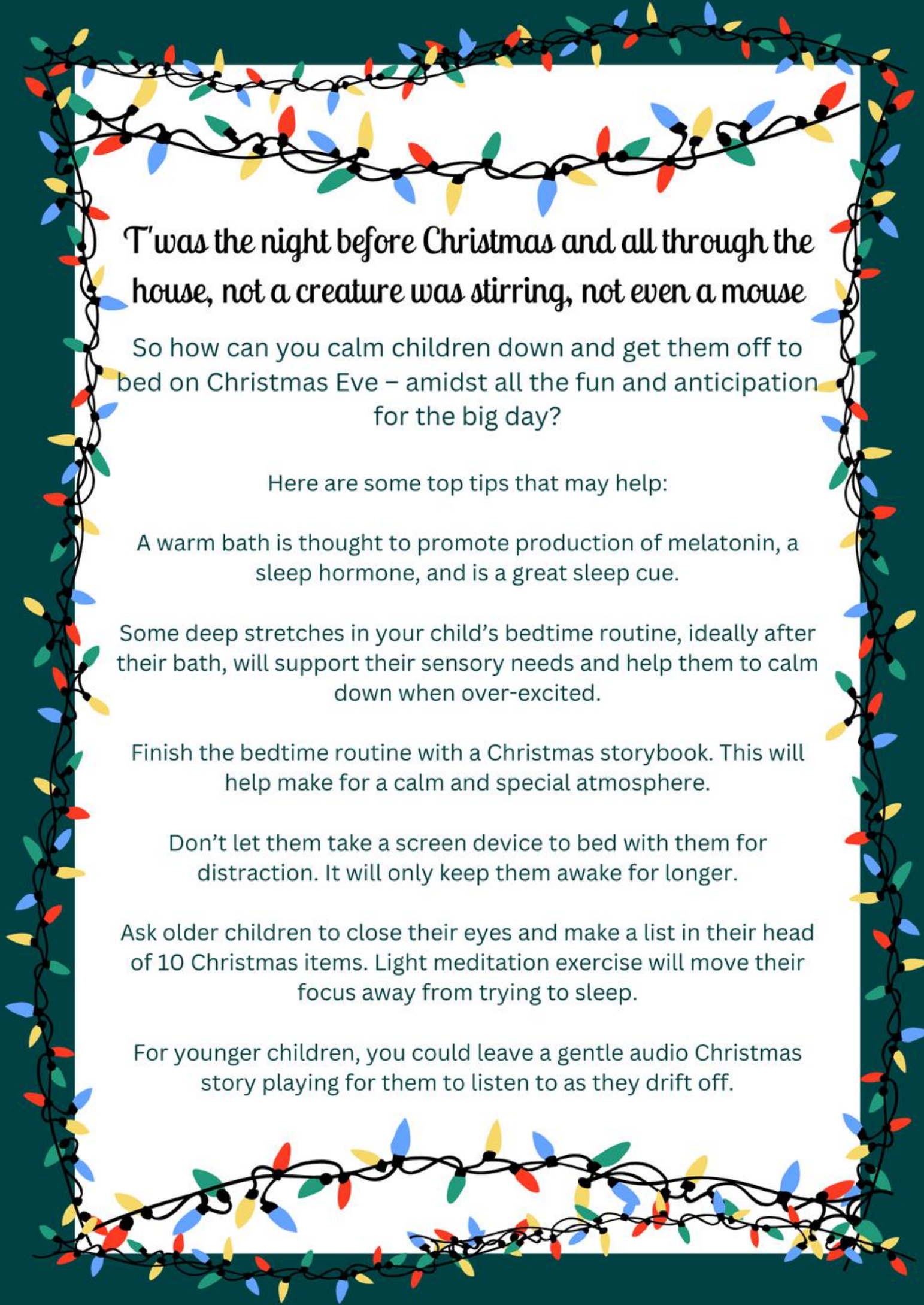
Call 03000 41 22 22



Kent Adult Education is part of
Community Learning and Skills

kentadulteducation.co.uk

Bringing learning to life



T'was the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse

So how can you calm children down and get them off to bed on Christmas Eve – amidst all the fun and anticipation for the big day?

Here are some top tips that may help:

A warm bath is thought to promote production of melatonin, a sleep hormone, and is a great sleep cue.

Some deep stretches in your child's bedtime routine, ideally after their bath, will support their sensory needs and help them to calm down when over-excited.

Finish the bedtime routine with a Christmas storybook. This will help make for a calm and special atmosphere.

Don't let them take a screen device to bed with them for distraction. It will only keep them awake for longer.

Ask older children to close their eyes and make a list in their head of 10 Christmas items. Light meditation exercise will move their focus away from trying to sleep.

For younger children, you could leave a gentle audio Christmas story playing for them to listen to as they drift off.



Merry Christmas.

See you in 2026!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about AI TOYS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

This festive season, the newest toys on the shelves do not just blink or make noise; they listen. Many now come with artificial intelligence (AI), allowing them to talk, learn, and even respond to a child's emotions. These toys can be educational and engaging, but they also collect, store, and process information. This guide explains what that means for families and why it matters.

TOYS THAT LISTEN AND LEARN

When a toy uses AI, it collects data such as voice recordings, interactions, and background sounds. This information is sent to remote servers, where it is analysed to improve responses. Your child's voice becomes training data, which may be stored indefinitely or shared with third parties.

WEAK SECURITY PROTECTIONS

Some AI toys have poor password protection or open network connections. Others may have microphones or cameras that stay on, even when the toy appears to be off. This can lead to recordings being made without your knowledge, including conversations unrelated to play.

ARTIFICIAL VOICES, REAL INFLUENCE

For very young children, an AI companion may become one of the first voices they interact with regularly. How that voice shows humour, empathy, or authority can shape how a child learns to communicate. If the model is artificial, then part of what is learned is artificial as well.

PRESSURE TO KEEP ENGAGING

Some toys reward repeated use or track engagement, encouraging children to interact more. When children compare how their toys perform, it creates pressure to play more often. This increases the amount of data collected and can make learning feel like competition.

MARKETING THROUGH PLAY

Toys that learn a child's preferences may feed that data into future advertising. A toy that knows a child's favourite colour or hobby could help a company design more targeted marketing to that child and their family.

PLAYTIME AS DATA TRAINING

The information collected from children helps train AI systems. Their voice, emotional responses, and behaviour shape how machines 'understand' people. Play becomes part of a much larger system that influences how future technologies behave.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START WITH A CONVERSATION

Talk to young people. Explain that some toys learn from what they say and do. Help them understand that even friendly technology should have boundaries, and to ask questions about it. Curiosity is healthy, blind trust is not.

SET LIMITS ON USE

Turn off Wi-Fi or Bluetooth when the toy is not in use. Check for updates regularly, as they can change privacy or safety settings. Treat connected toys like any smart device; they should be monitored, updated, and switched off when not in use.

MODEL DIGITAL AWARENESS

Children learn from adults. If they see you checking privacy settings, reading terms, and talking openly about online safety, they are more likely to do the same. Show them how to question technology in a healthy way.

RESEARCH BEFORE YOU BUY

Look for toys that work offline or store data locally. Check for a free or demo version so you can test how it behaves. Read privacy policies to understand what data is collected, where it goes, and whether it's shared with others.

REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS

Find out where the data is stored and who has access to it. Some companies sell or share data with advertisers. If the toy connects through an app, check what it requests access to and limit those permissions whenever possible.

BALANCE AI WITH REAL PLAY

AI toys can be fun and creative, but they are not a replacement for real human interaction. Encourage time away from technology with activities that foster emotional and social development. Use AI toys to support learning, not define it.

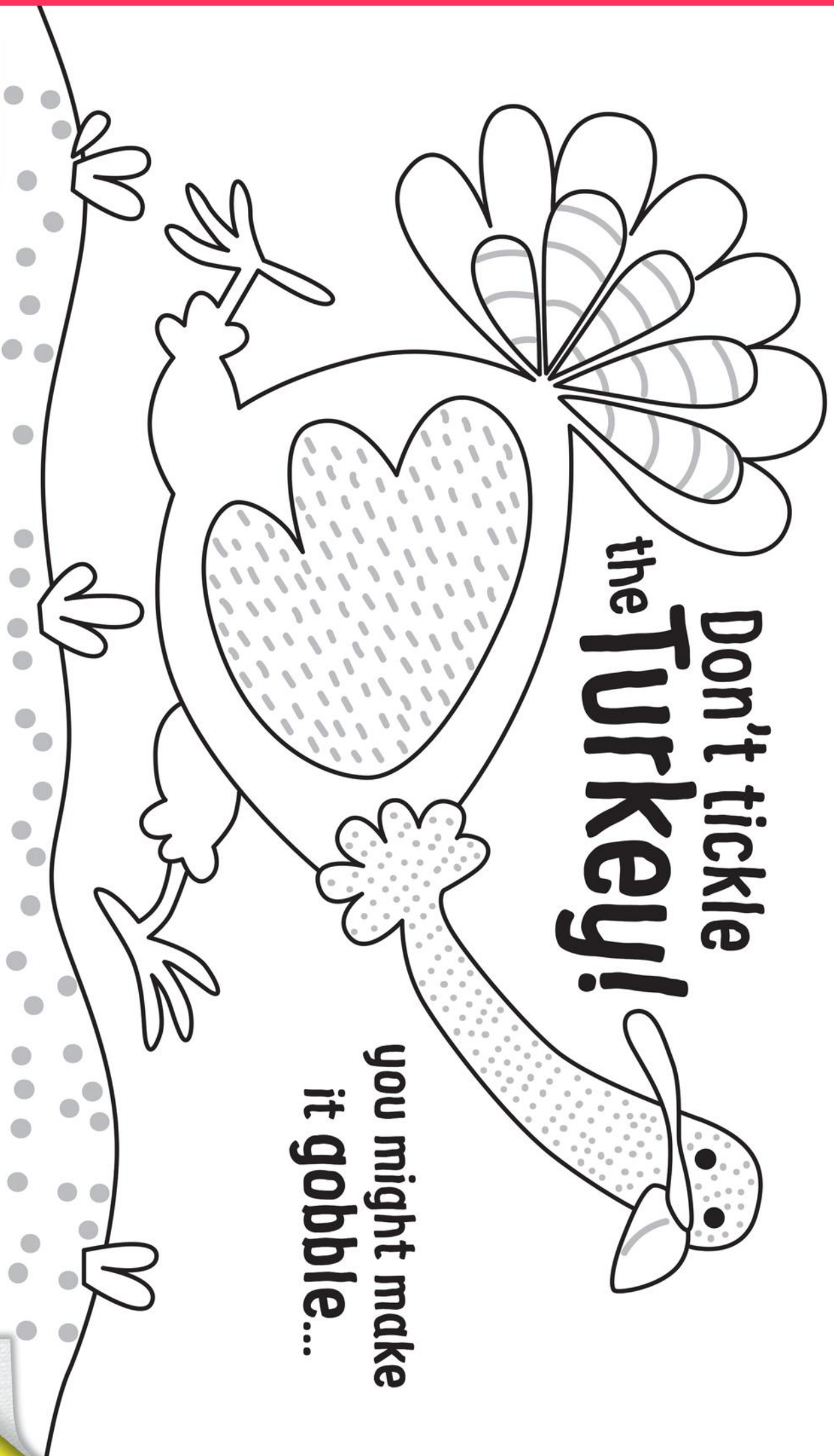
Meet Our Expert

Clara Hawking is Executive Director of Kompass Education. She advises governments, school trusts, and global organisations on AI governance and safeguarding, helping schools and families understand how technology shapes learning, wellbeing, and the digital future of children.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®



Usborne Activities

Discover more in **DON'T TICKLE® the Turkey**.
Share your activities with us using #UsborneActivities.

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Usborne Activities

Discover more in **Santa and the Elves Magic Painting Book**
Share your activities with us using [#UsborneActivities](https://twitter.com/UsborneActivities).





**The Island
Learning Trust**



ADVERTISE IN OUR NEWSLETTERS

Advertising is a powerful communication tool used to inform, persuade, and influence potential customers. It plays a critical role in shaping consumer behavior and building awareness for products, services, or ideas. In today's fast-paced world, effective advertising goes beyond just exposure - it creates emotional connections and drives action

We design visually captivating newsletters for schools and our trust, which have become quite popular among parents, children, staff and visitors alike. Now, we're offering local businesses the chance to advertise in these newsletters at an affordable rate, allowing them to reach a broad audience



SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

- Sunny Bank Primary School
- Halfway Houses Primary School
- Minster in Sheppey Primary School



TRUST PARENT NEWSLETTER

News Highlighting All Three of Our Schools and Trust



SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook and Instagram

SCHOOL WEBSITES

For each school and the trust

CLASS DOJO

Communication tool for all parents

EMAIL

An email is sent to parents with a direct link

HOW WE PROMOTE OUR NEWSLETTERS



A WIDE AUDIENCE

WEBSITES FOR THE SCHOOLS AND TRUST

in a typical 4-week period, our websites have received a total of 7,312 visits

SOCIAL MEDIA FACEBOOK

in a typical 4-week period, our Facebook pages have garnered a total of 86,000 views

CLASS DOJO FOR PARENTS

All parents at our schools are engaged and actively participate in viewing the School Story



**The Island
Learning Trust**

**FOR
MORE
INFORMATION
AND
PRICING**



**The Island
Learning Trust**

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**This is a preview edition of our complete advertising brochure.
The full version can be obtained upon request.*