



Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

In the run up to the gift-giving season, I am writing to make you aware of the dangers regarding the “magnetic ball craze” that is popular among primary school aged children. Please see the announcement below from Great Ormond Street Hospital about the dangers of this product. I advise all parents and carers to pay attention to all presents bought, especially online, this year.

**Avoid purchasing this present this Christmas:**



**The Great Ormond Street Hospital warning:**

*The tiny colourful magnetic balls can be moulded together to make different shapes or sculptures, but if swallowed, can cause serious long term health conditions. If the magnetic balls are swallowed unconnected to each other, the magnetic force will try to connect with others, which can rip holes within the intestine.*

*Mr Curry, senior consultant and specialist in neonatal and paediatric surgery at GOSH, said: “We had a case this year in our intensive care unit (ICU) where a child swallowed some magnetic balls and the attractive force caused perforation of the bowel. This is really serious – swallowing a magnetic toy could cause peritonitis (an inflammation of the abdominal wall), require a temporary stoma to be fitted, require a child to have part of their bowel removed, or it could even be fatal.”*

*If either a button battery or a magnet is swallowed, lengthy surgery would be required to save a child's life.*

All the best,

Miss Lewis  
Headteacher

