

Weekly Update



Friday 126th January 2024 (well it feels like it!)

Over the last couple of weeks some of our older pupils have had a few issues online. Many of the pupils playing online are occasionally forgetting their 'conduct'. Unkind things have been said and this can come into school affecting friendships.

Tips for keeping children safe when gaming

Check the games content

Most games have an age rating based on their themes those with violent and sexual content will have a higher rating. The age rating system is provided by PEGI and gives an overview of individual games which can help you to decide if it's appropriate. These ratings don't include communication features, so a game with a low age rating may let children speak to people they don't know.

Change settings

Some games let players turn off communications features, mute voice chat and report other players who behave inappropriately. Look at the settings available to see what's best for your child.

All major games consoles have [settings](#) that prevent children from finding inappropriate games. You can set limits on how long a young person can play and prevent them from speaking to unknown players. It's a good idea to explore these settings before your child plays the game.

Talk to your child regularly

Talk to your child about staying safe online, take an interest in the games they're playing and see if you can play them together and agree which ones are appropriate.

If you're going to set limits on the amount of time a child can spend playing games, make sure these are clear and that you agree them together. You could try agreeing the number of rounds your child plays instead of a length of time.

Take time to play games with your children so that you can understand the features. You can find out if there is anything concerning you need to be aware of, or safety features or parental controls which should be enabled.

Ask why they like playing the game?

Discuss who they're playing with. Do they know everyone on their contact or friends list? Explain that conversations should only be about the game, and if someone starts asking them other questions or suggests they speak using another app they should tell you or an adult they trust.

Talk to them about what they're sharing. Use examples that are easy for them to understand, such as "You shouldn't give your number or any other personal information to somebody you don't know on the street. Is somebody online you don't know any different?"

Discuss in-game purchases with your child. These can be really enticing, it's important to discuss that small amounts of money can add up very quickly. If you do allow your child to purchase items within the game discuss limits or set up their device so that purchases are turned off.

Make a family agreement

Consider creating a Family Agreement to establish some rules, which would include screen time or game-playing time. Remember that many games take a very long time to play and not all have regular 'save points'. This can be very frustrating for a child who has spent a long time trying to get to a new level only to be called down for dinner. Give them fair warning, e.g. 20 minutes then 10 minutes.

Complete a [Family Agreement](#) online, or [print out](#) to fill in.

ATTENDANCE

This week's attendance is 85.1% bring our total for this year to 93.02%

Mice	Squirrels	Hedgehogs	Badgers	Mallards	Hérons
73.17%	66.25%	86.36%	96.92%	97.08%	90%

DATES

Half term Monday 12th - Friday 16th February 2024

Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd February Parents Evening

Thursday 7th March – World Book Day- (dress as your favourite book character or your favourite PJ's so you can snuggle up with a good book)

Term ends Friday 22nd March 2024

AWARDS

	Star of the week	Valued Valley Values
Mice	Leo	Marcel P
Squirrels	Hunter	Cody
Hedgehogs	Eli	Leon
Badgers	Chelsea	Maia
Mallards	Dharma	Noah
Herons	Hollie	Amber

Have a great weekend and see you all on Monday!