

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

### December

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup>** – PTA Christmas Discos! 3:15 – 4:15 (Rec & KS1) & 4:30 – 5:30 (KS2)

**Tue 12<sup>th</sup>** – 9:15am Butterfly & Reception Xmas Performance  
10:15am KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Xmas Performance

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup>** – 1:15pm Butterfly & Reception Xmas Performance  
2:15pm KS1 (Y1 & Y2) Christmas Performance

**Thur 14<sup>th</sup>** – Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner  
Day. £1 suggested donation to charity

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup>** – 9am & 2:30pm KS2 Carol Concert  
10:30am Caterpillars finish for Christmas  
11 – 12 NEW Caterpillars Stay & Play  
3:15pm ALL FINISH FOR CHRISTMAS

### January

**Tue 2<sup>nd</sup>** – INSET DAY – School closed to pupils

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup>** – ALL pupils back for spring term

Residentials: please put these dates in your diary:

Year 4 Residential to London: 21<sup>st</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024

Year 2 Residential to Tattenhall: 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2024

Year 6 Residential to Min-y-Don: 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> July 2024

## AMAZING OUTCOME FOR OUR FOOTBALLERS!

Huge well done to our KS2 Girl's Football Teams who played in 2 tournaments yesterday against other local schools. In the morning, our Year 3s and 4s played and in the afternoon it was the turn of Year 5s and 6s. The girls did really well and we were very proud not only of their football skills, but also the characteristics they demonstrated during the event.

## COMMON ILLNESSES & AILMENTS

Please see page 2 for NHS guidance on when your child should and should not be absent from school and approximate times frames.



to all our families for

supporting Children in Need today by sending your child in their own clothes and making a donation. We value the role you play in helping your children learn to care for others. So far, it looks as though we raised £350!

## PTA DISCO TICKETS FOR SALE

Christmas Disco tickets are on sale on the playgrounds and at the main office

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

3:15 - 4:15 (Rec & KS1)      4:30 – 5:30 (KS2)

£1.50 per ticket, which includes a drink and snack.

## CHRISTMAS APPROACHING...

As your start to squirrel away Christmas presents at home, don't forget that we have a clothes recycling bin near the front entrance of school. If you need a clear out before Christmas to make some room, think of us!

Also, at this time when we are all doing more online shopping than usual, please consider using the Easy Fundraising App! So far, our school community have raised over £457 for school, just by going via the App for shopping you would be doing anyway. Win win! Please look us up on the link below or Download the app and find us!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/the-acorns-primary-and-nursery-school/>



## ACORNS FAME!

For the second time this term, The Acorns was live on BBC Radio Merseyside. This time, they asked to come in and speak to a range of our Pupil Leaders about their plans for Children in Need. We were proud of the way they spoke so articulately about our school vision and how this had inspired their decision to have a 'Comfortable in your own skin' dress down day, allowing all our pupils the chance to express their individuality.

# When should my child return to school?



<b>Chicken Pox</b> When all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> None*	<b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Glandular Fever</b> None*	<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> None*	<b>Impetigo</b> When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Measles or German Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>Scabies</b> After first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> None*	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Flu</b> Until recovered	<b>Head Lice</b> None*	<b>Threadworms</b> None*	<b>Tonsillitis</b> None*		

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and children. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe in.



This information is based on the Public Health Agency guide - full copy here

\*No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed.



## Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

### PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

### ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

### AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

### DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary, emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

### FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

### ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

### TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

### BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

### Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upchurch is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and IGN, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.

#WakeUpWednesday

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