

DATES FOR THE DIARY

March

- Mon 11th** – Year 2 (both classes) Beach Trip
8 UKS2 pupils to Chester University
- Tue 12th** - Parents' Evenings for Reception & Y6 only
- Wed 13th** – Year 1 (both classes) Beach Trip
Parents' Evenings for Reception & Y6 only
- Thurs 14th** – Reception & Y6 class photos
- Fri 15th** – Dress Down for bottle or choc donation
- Mon 18th** – Year 6 to Riveracre for SNAPTRAP
performance (online / internet safety)
- Wed 20th** – 5:30pm PTA Easter Family Bingo
- Thurs 21st – Fri 22nd** - Year 4 London Residential
- Thur 28th** – Dress Down for £1 contribution to PTA
Finish for the Easter holidays

April

- Mon 12th** – All pupils return to school
- Fri 19th** – House Day (wear colour of your House)

May

- Wk beginning Mon 13th** - SATs week for Y6
- Fri 24th** – Break up for half term

Residentials: please put these dates in your diary:

Year 2 Residential to Tattenhall: 3rd – 4th July 2024

(Deadline for payment in full: Monday 6th June 2024)

Year 6 Residential to Min-y-Don: 8th – 12th July 2024

PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS

On page 2 we have included a poster that we feel all of our community will benefit from understanding;

Protected characteristics are aspects of a person's identity that are protected under the Equality Act 2010. This law makes it illegal to discriminate against someone based on these characteristics, helping to promote a fair and equal society, which we strive for at The Acorns every day.

PTA FAMILY BINGO

Tickets are now on sale for our PTA Easter Bingo on **Wednesday 20th March**
Doors open 5:30pm, eyes down 6pm

Tickets available from the playgrounds and the office and include refreshments:

£1.50 Adults £1 Child

(Maximum charge of £5 per family)

Bingo books and raffle tickets will be on sale on the night, so please bring your change and your dobbers!

Please send your children in their own clothes on Friday 15th March in exchange for a chocolate or bottle donation.

ASK ME ABOUT...

Education is most effective when schools and parents work in partnership. So, this week;

Caterpillars: *The Colour Monster (feelings/emotions)*

Butterflies: *what Captain Hook did to the ship*

Reception: *the story of The Gingerbread Man*

1Mc: *the different coins I know*

1/2T: *the difference between mammals & reptiles*

2M: *similarities & differences between reptiles & amphibians*

3U: *the Bus Stop method*

3/4T: *rivers*

4G: *Christian symbols for Easter*

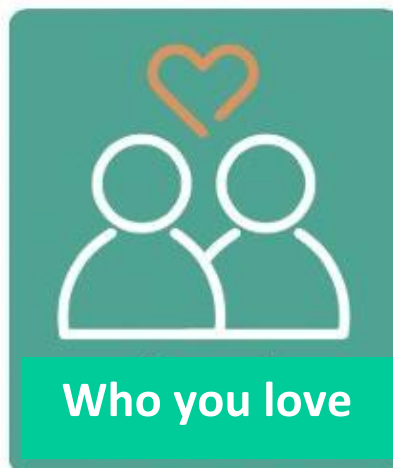
5I: *what a natural disaster is*

5/6K: *how a hurricane is formed*

6T: *reading with Reception on World Book Day*

Discrimination

is when someone is treated badly, based on one or more protected characteristic:



Part of our Gaming & Gambling Series



Brought to you by
NOS National Online Safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What you need to know about... GAMING STREAMERS & INFLUENCERS



What are they?

'Gaming Streamers & Influencers'

Streamers are people who stream themselves gaming, drawing, making things etc. for people to watch on the internet. Usually this will be done live, and others are able to chat with them in real time while they do so. Influencers are social media stars who hold influence over the people that follow them, like a kind of trend-setter or taste-maker, who companies often pay to promote their products. A streamer could also be considered an influencer in their chosen area.

JADAGAMING



Know the Risks

Adult Content

Many streamers use platforms such as Twitch or YouTube to broadcast themselves. YouTube for example, is only for ages 13+ (YouTube kids is for under 13s) and may contain a lot of other adult content. Streamers themselves, may be unsuitable for younger audiences with the kind of content they make, and with many opting to stream live, anything can – and does – happen.

Authenticity Risk

A lot of streamers will have some kind of sponsorship deal in place with a company trying to sell their products to an audience. When the audience is mostly younger viewers, they may not realise that streamers are getting paid to promote a product and may not necessarily have their best interests in mind.

Bullying and hate

While some streamers do employ moderators to try and combat hateful comments or bullying in their comments sections, they can still be very hectic. Hateful language is quite common, and people looking to groom children or engage in online bullying behaviour, could frequent the live chats.

Subscriptions

Streamers also make money through subscriptions on websites like Twitch, where fans will donate them a small amount as little or as often as they like. Called 'bits', they can be bought in bundles of varying prices which can be gifted to streamers via 'cheers'. Children could buy these 'bits' in large amounts without realising what they're doing, leaving a big bill behind.

Safety Tips

Discuss what's real online

Be sure to teach kids the difference between what's real and honest, or fake and untrustworthy online. Photoshopping fake images and videos and bragging about themselves online is unfortunately quite commonplace so it is difficult to tell what is real or fake. People with large followings can be promoting unhealthy or unattainable lifestyles to children to boost their own online influence.

Use filters

There are filters that can be put in place to block out a lot of adult content on streaming sites. Just make sure you have access to children's accounts so you can set the parameters and keep track of what they're seeing yourself. Usually, parental controls will be located in the settings portion of an account's menu.

Check age settings

Both YouTube and Twitch state that they are not suitable for children under 13 years old, but other sites might be different. YouTube Kids, for example, is for ages 13 and under, and offers much of the same kid-friendly content that YouTube does without the risk of running into something improper.

Affiliate links

Keep an eye out for affiliate links in social media posts and tags like #ad. UK influencers have to follow the CAP Code for advertising standards, but many don't. It can be hard to tell who is working through legitimate channels because it's almost impossible to regulate. Many streamers encourage fans to buy merchandise through online shops and stores.

Action & Support

Name check streamers

If your child has begun showing an interest in a streamer or influencer, check their names on Google. Some popular streamers have been discovered flouting industry regulations and using their young audiences to enhance their personal wealth through scams whilst others may swear on streams or promote drinking, substance abuse or links to gambling sites they operate to their young audiences.

Talk to your child

Initiate an open dialogue with your child about the kind of content they're consuming online. Ask about their favourite streamers and whether they like their personalities or the games they play and the community they have. Also remind them about what they should and shouldn't be sharing about themselves online and that just because social media stars do it, it can also be damaging.

Block and report

If you suspect a streamer might be taking advantage of their audience, or worse grooming children in any way, and have irrefutable evidence, do not hesitate to block and report them. First, block your child from being able to view their content and alert other parents to your concerns. Go immediately to the police or local authorities with the evidence of what you've seen.

Our Expert Mark Foster



Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.