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## Newsletter 4 - November 2023

Welcome back to term 2! We hope you all enjoyed the October half term and we are looking forward to a term full of new learning and community events. This newsletter contains our general round up of information along with important dates in the run up to Christmas. Please also find attached some flyers on online safety and family courses attached at the end. Our school [blog](#) is regularly updated with posts talking about our curriculum and school life.

### Termly value - Respect

Each term, we take one of our school values to focus on with children. This term we are looking at the value of Respect. Children attended an assembly where we spoke about how we can respect ourselves, others and our environment and we will be considering how children can display this value across the term. For more information on our school values, please see [our website](#).

### INSET day

Please be aware that Monday 20th November is an allocated staff INSET (training) day. School is closed to children on this day.

### Open afternoon / evening

Bookings for our open afternoon and evening are now available through the online platform. The events will be on 22<sup>nd</sup> November from 3:30 - 6:10pm and on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 5:00 - 7:40pm. The information on how to access the system was

shared in a letter earlier in the term - please contact the office if you require further support.

### Reading

As a school we encourage children to read as often as possible in school and at home with your support. We enjoy celebrating achievements in reading and are very proud of some of our children.

In Key Stage 1, the school presents to children who have made an excellent achievement in their reading. Last term, we recognised Ruari from year 1 and Rosie and Erina from year 2.

In Key Stage 2, children benefit from the Accelerated Reader programme - where they are able to keep track of all of the books they have read across a school year. A huge well done goes to Adeena from year 6 who has already read over a million words this year!

### Clubs reminder

Clubs continue to run after school. The last clubs of this term will be week commencing 27<sup>th</sup> November. If your child is registered for a club, please ensure that your child attends each week.

### Alumni Visits

Year 6 were very lucky to be visited by three Wentworth alumni this week who came to talk to them about their first term in Year 7. They shared what it was like for them to start secondary school and gave some insights into what our children might expect next year. Hollie and Emily, now at Wilmington Grammar School for Girls, and Freddie, now at The Leigh gave a super presentation and answered all of the questions posed to them very thoroughly. As the year progresses our Year 6s will have many more opportunities to prepare for secondary school.

### CD Recording

Letters have now been issued with details of our very exciting Christmas CD recording which is taking place on Tuesday 21st November. The Christmas cheer is certainly starting early this year and our corridors are already ringing with the sounds of classes practising their Christmas songs for the big day! CDs are available to order on Parentpay now and cost £8.99. This includes a unique download code too. Please remember to return your reply slip if you are intending to come to our community recording at 3.15pm - the more the merrier and all are welcome!

### Winter clothing

As the weather has turned colder and wetter, please ensure that your child has a named jumper/cardigan and coat in school with them.

### Attendance

What can I do to help make my child attend school every day? One of the main factors impacting children's ability to attend school every day is sleep. Ensuring your child goes to bed at an appropriate time and enjoys plenty of rest is crucial in achieving good attendance. Getting enough sleep will help them stay healthy and provide them with the energy and concentration levels they need.

### EYFS trip to Bowman's Heath

This week all of EYFS visited Bowman's Heath. They have been learning about the season of Autumn and the changes that happen during this season.



### Phonics Course Reception/Year 1 & 2 Parents & carers - Final Reminder

Would you like to:

Support your child with phonics? Understand how your child is taught Monster Phonics and English at Wentworth? Make reading more fun? Build your confidence and learn new teaching methods? Help them get ahead. This free course is for you!

Venue: Wentworth Primary School 7, 14, 21 & 28 November 2023 9-11.15am - straight after drop off.

Please book using this [booking form](#).

### E-Scooters

Please be aware that E-Scooters are not allowed on the school premises. The bottom of this newsletter shares information regarding the legalities of E-Scooters from Kent Police.

### Wellbeing

Some of us look forward to autumn, with the promise of cosy jumpers, hot drinks and spending time indoors, but for others the upcoming weeks are less appealing with fewer daylight hours and colder temperatures. As the seasons change, you may notice a difference in how you are feeling. Try to ensure you leave

yourself some 'free' time and keep time free in your busy schedule for exercising to keep healthy.



To see November's calendar, go to:

<https://actionforhappiness.org/sites/default/files/Nov%202023.jpg>

### And finally...

Our very own Mrs Potts is part of the London City Singers, and has recently performed on stage. Mrs Potts often supports KS1 with their singing and we are very proud to share a [video](#) of her performance!

### Important Dates

- 17<sup>th</sup> November – Children in Need (non-uniform)
- 20<sup>th</sup> November – Staff INSET – School closed to children
- 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Open afternoon (3:30 - 6:10pm)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November – Open evening (5:00 - 7:40pm)
- W/C 27<sup>th</sup> November – Last week of clubs
- 4<sup>th</sup> December - Year 6 Christmas Performance (6pm)
- 5<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 and 2 nativity performance (1:30pm)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December - Y3/4 Carol concert at Christ Church (1:30pm)
- 7<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 and 2 nativity performance (10:30am)
- 8<sup>th</sup> December – PTA Christmas fair (3:30pm)
- 12<sup>th</sup> December – EYFS nativity performance (10am)
- 12<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas music concert (6pm)
- 14<sup>th</sup> December - Carols by candlelight - Details to follow (6pm)
- 15<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of Term 2
- 3<sup>rd</sup> January – First day of Term 3

# E-scooters – are you breaking the law?



**Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?**

**No, it's illegal...**

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them.

**Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?**

**No, it's illegal...**

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

**What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?**

**The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.**

If stopped by an officer, you may be asked to complete a breath and drugs test. You also risk a £300 fine and six penalty points on your licence for no insurance.



**Kent  
Police**

## **Think before you buy:**

The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injury and fatalities.

For more information and advice on the use of e-scooters visit [www.kent.police.uk/road-safety](http://www.kent.police.uk/road-safety)



## FAMILY LEARNING COURSES 2024

Our courses are free of charge and delivered  
virtually via Zoom unless specified

**Sure Start  
Children's Centres**  
Dartford



Please contact  
Tracy on 03000  
418992 to find  
out more or book  
a place



Managing Children's Behaviour	Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> Jan - Thurs 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb 24 12.30pm - 2.30pm 4 (sessions)
Little Cooks	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 24 10am- Midday at Oakfield Children's Centre Oakfield Lane, DA1 2SW
Autism Awareness	Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar - Weds 27 <sup>th</sup> Mar 24 12.30pm - 2.30pm (4 sessions)
Family First Aid	Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Mar - Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar 24 12.30pm - 2.30pm At Swanscombe Children's Centre pedestrian access only via Cooper Rd DA10 OBS
Supporting ADHD in the Home	Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> April - Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2024 9.30am - 11.30am ( 4 Sessions)
Managing Children's Behaviour	Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> April - Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> May 2024 6pm - 8pm (4 Sessions)
Family First Aid	Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> June - Thurs 27 <sup>th</sup> June 24 9.30am - 11.30am (3 sessions) At Brent Children's Centre, Overy Street DA1 1UP



All courses are free of charge, please call Tracy on 03000 418442 to book your place.

#### First Aid for Families

- Learn the emergency procedure and making an emergency phone call
- How to place a casualty into the recovery position
- How to use the primary survey
- How to recognise and treat choking
- How to treat and monitor bleeding, minor bruising and burns
- How to practice cardiopulmonary resuscitation



#### Managing Children's Behaviour

- Set boundaries for your child
- Understand your child's behaviour
- Praise and reward your child
- Show your child affection effectively
- Communicate better with your child

#### Little Cooks

- Plan and prepare a variety of 'no cook' dishes with your child
- Understand the importance of kitchen safety including the safe use of equipment
- Make a variety of non-cook savoury and sweet dishes
- Try new foods and discuss likes/dislikes

#### Autism Awareness

- Understand the basic principles of autism and the different aspects that can be presented
- Different expert theories and understanding of the spectrum
- The diagnosis process and how to go about it
- Behaviour management, support and coping strategies

#### Supporting ADHD in the Home

- Explore the categories of ADHD
- Share ideas and strategies for managing behaviour
- Celebrate the positives of ADHD



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 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

**18**  
CENSORED

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 Lipscombe 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 Games, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

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