



## Newsletter 7 - January 2023

Welcome back to school term. We hope you have all enjoyed the break and have enjoyed a positive start to the new year. Please visit the school [blog](#), which features recent updates from our curriculum. At the end of this newsletter, we have included a poster with information about age ratings for games.

### House Captains

A huge congratulations to our house captains who have been elected for the term. The children carry out various tasks to support the running of the school as well as acting as role models to their peers. All applicants made a speech to their peer group who then voted the children into these positions.



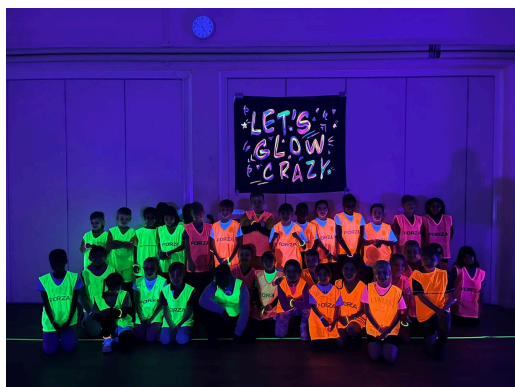
### Recent sporting events

**Dragonball:** Children from Year 3 & 4 learnt how to play Dragonball; a sport created by author JT Scott in her books Sammy Rambles. The children had to use their hands or feet to throw, kick and pass the seven Dragonballs to score goals. The children even got to meet the author!

**Active 60 - Year 5 Playground Training:** Physical activity has a wealth of benefits, such as improved confidence, increased academic achievement, positive mindset and self esteem as well as improved physical fitness. All children and young people should participate in physical activities for 60 minutes per day. Children from Year 5 attended a course this week to work on their leadership skills and learn how to enhance playground activities to promote physical activity amongst our pupils. They will now train our Sports Leaders who will introduce new games to make playtimes and lunchtimes even more enjoyable and active.



**Glow-in-the-dark Dodgeball:** As darkness fell a new tournament began at Wentworth. Year 3 & 4 children took part in the first ever Glow-in the dark Dodgeball tournament. The children loved the neon face paint and outfits and enjoyed learning a new game.



### Y5 astronomy camp

On Wednesday 17th January, the Crayford Manor House Astronomy Society Dartford visited school to work with children in Year 5. Children returned to school for an evening of hot chocolate and star gazing. One group of children were lucky enough to spot Jupiter along with three moons through one of the group's telescopes!

### Achievements

We are incredibly proud of Dexter in Y5 who has been representing Dartford District football. Dexter has recently played against Charlton and is looking forward to more opportunities of playing for the District and the school.

Freddie in Y3 has been scouted for Gillingham football club & had his first practice session with them this week. Finally Alfie in Y4 has been recognised for his work in his Scouts club outside of school - well done on the awards! Please send in any photographs or success stories for us to share.



### Clubs

All our after school clubs have now started for the new year. If your child doesn't yet attend a club and would like to, please take a look at our

[website](#) at what clubs we offer then contact [office@wentworthonline.co.uk](mailto:office@wentworthonline.co.uk) to check availability.

### Staffing

We welcome Mrs Prashar to our team who is working in Year 2 who replaces Mrs Olah.

### Roof update

Following our success at securing the funding for our KS2 hall, we are looking forward to works starting in late January. All being well, the proposed end date for the works is mid May. Whilst there will be some additional fencing around the area, entrances and the operations of the school will be largely unaffected and we will inform you of any necessary disruption.

### Dogs on the school site

Dogs are an important part of family life for many in our school community. However, dogs are not allowed on our school site during school drop off and pick up (except guide dogs). Please refer to the Code of Conduct for guidance on this. Thank you to the parents who already wait at the gate when bringing your dog with you at drop off/pick up.

### Parking

It is vitally important that our parents who drop children at school by car respect the local parking regulations. We must keep our community safe and poor and inconsiderate parking can jeopardise this. The school regularly requests visits from mobile parking enforcement cameras to ensure that our community complies. Could I make an additional plea to respect our neighbours when parking. We have been contacted on separate occasions where driveways have been blocked. At all costs the zig zags must be kept free during the specified hours.

### Lateness

It is very important that all children arrive at school on time every day. Punctuality is important for several reasons. It allows your child time to

settle into the school day, creating a positive transition from home to school time. A punctual start to the day helps establish a predictable daily routine that provides stability and security. Being in school on time maximises learning time; every moment in the classroom is valuable. Lastly, punctuality is a form of respect for others; it sets the tone for a cooperative and considerate learning community.

As a reminder, children need to arrive between 8.45 and 8.55am. If there are any key messages to pass on, please arrive at the start of the drop off time. If you do not arrive on time, please sign children in at the office, giving a clear reason for lateness. Any absence should be reported to the school office by 9.30am.

We appreciate your support in ensuring that your child is in school on time.

### Wellbeing

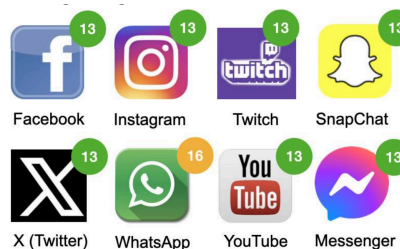
If you're finding it difficult to motivate yourself in this cold weather why not try some of the following tips:

Plan ahead - whether you choose to spend the day relaxing and watching tv, or going to work, make an achievable routine you can stick to.

Get a good sleep - set yourself up for a positive day by having a good night's sleep. Take time to wind down by running a warm bath, drinking chamomile tea or reading a book.

Eat well - give your body the nutrients it needs by planning tasty and nutritious meals. This will set your body up for a good day ahead but also gives your mind something to focus on.

Spend time with others - why not go out and do something fun with a friend, such as taking a long stroll around the park or booking an activity-packed day out?



[PEGI](#) can give additional information such as content descriptors, which will give you an indication of the type of content that your child might view e.g. violence, if accessing the app/game etc. Take a look at this [article](#) to see why age ratings are so important for apps and games.

Age ratings for films are recommendations for parents/carers. Age ratings are based on the content of the films, such as bad language, threat and violence. This [guide](#) helps to explain the importance of these age ratings for films.

Scroll down for additional guidance on age ratings.

### And finally...

Congratulations to the chair of the PTA Mrs Bowman and family who welcomed baby Ivy to the world earlier this week!

### Important Dates

- 24th Jan - 9am - PTA meeting
- 31st January - Young Voices at the 02
- 5/6th February - Y4 Kingswood trip overnight
- 7th February - Class photographs
- 9th February - Last day of Term 3
- 19th February - First day of Term 4
- 21st February - Open Evening
- 22nd February - Open Evening
- 23rd - 28th Feb - Book Fair
- 4th March - Staff INSET - School closed to pupils
- 5th March - Y3 trip to Kent Life
- 7th March - World Book Day
- 12th March - Hearing & Vision check EYFS
- 18th March - Last week of clubs
- 22nd - 25th March - Y6 PGL weekend
- 28th March - Last day of Term 4

### Rail Safety

National Rail is committed to improving children's knowledge about safety when using the railways. Following the tragedy of an 11-year old a few years ago on the railway, it's vital that our young people know how to stay safe near railways. In our assemblies this week we watched a video from National Rail. At home, you can access lots of [additional resources](#) and activities about [rail safety](#).

### Kent Fostering

Could this be the year you become a foster carer or host for Kent County Council? Kent Fostering and Supported Homes are looking for new carers and hosts to join our outstanding fostering community in helping to care for some of Kent's most vulnerable children and young people.

Being part of our team you'll receive excellent support, fantastic training opportunities and could really make a positive difference to a child's life. If you'd like to find out more please have a look at our website [kentfostering.co.uk](http://kentfostering.co.uk) or give us a call on 03000 420002.

### Online Safety

Age ratings are in place for all apps and games. These are there to help protect your child. Here are the age ratings for some of the popular apps that children are accessing -

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and educators with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit [nationalonlinesafety.com](http://nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Part of our Online Mental Health & Wellbeing Series



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[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

What you need to know about...

# AGE RATINGS



What are they?

'Age Ratings'

A game's age rating can be used by adults to make an informed choice as to whether or not a game is suitable for their child. The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system rates games and, instead of indicating the level of ability required to physically play a game, it indicates the suitability of content for that age group. 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18 are the labels that can be awarded to games and a variety of content descriptors such as violence, bad language and fear are used to further clarify why the label was assigned.

16 & UP ONLY



## Know the Risks

18+

### Inappropriate content

The biggest and most obvious risk of not following the age rating system is that children may view or hear age-inappropriate content. Many games now include scenes of a violent or graphic nature which could be upsetting or considered too intense for younger players.

### Peer pressure

Peer pressure has a large role to play in age ratings being overlooked. Children don't want to be the ones left behind and can put their parents under pressure to allow them to play a game beyond the recommended suitability, especially when all of their friends are playing it already.

### Level of 'Kudos'

Playing a game with a label that is higher than their age can be viewed by some children as a challenge and to gain a good reputation amongst friends. Kudos is attributed to the child playing the age inappropriate game resulting in more children wanting to follow suit.

### Free Platforms

In order for a game to be released on popular platforms, such as PlayStation and Xbox, game developers must pay for a PEGI rating. However, smaller development teams are sometimes reluctant to pay these fees and games are often released on other platforms, such as Steam, without any age restrictions.

## Spot the Signs

### Being vague

Be aware of children being vague around the content of what they want to play. If they are unwilling to supply you with information about what the game is about, this can be an indicator that you wouldn't allow them to purchase it if you knew.

### Unofficial sites

There are plenty of indie games that can be bought using online stores that don't necessarily have age restrictions. If you notice your child using sites such as GOG or itch.io rather than official channels such as the Google Play Store, they might be accessing games that aren't officially rated but still aren't age appropriate.

### Unfamiliar terminology

Your child might start using phrases or terminology that is new to them or mimicking actions that they have learnt from a game without realising their inappropriateness.

### Wanting to be secluded

Be aware if suddenly your child wants to move the device that they play their games on into a more secluded area of the house away from adults. It is a good idea for your child to play online games in a shared area where you can see the screen.

### Be aware of spending

Setting up accounts with online stores require bank account details. Keeping an eye on your bank balance means that you will be able to tell if there has been a new purchase and can provide you with an opportunity to ask about what new game they've purchased.

## Safety Tips

### Do your research

If you've noticed a new game that your child has downloaded then use quality resources to make sure that your knowledge is up to date. Online websites, such as National Online Safety, can provide you with the information you need.

### Review parental controls

Review your parental controls on the stores where you buy games from. Most sites allow parents to set passwords to block games with certain age restrictions from being downloaded.

### Encourage open dialogue

Encourage open dialogue with your child. You don't want to be in position where they won't talk to you if something has made them feel uncomfortable in a game because they are worried they will get in trouble for playing the game in the first place.

### Discuss ratings

Talk to your child about why the game has been awarded a certain label. Debate the positives and negatives of playing a game and decide on some ground rules together.

## Our Expert

Heather Cardwell



Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding online and educating children around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.