



Roxbourne Primary School

NEWSLETTER

Friday 10th November 2023

Monday 6th November - Friday 10th November - Scholastic Book Fair

This week we have held the Scholastic Book Fair in the lower hall each day. We have been delighted with the turnout and have used rewards built over time to purchase some new books for our school library. As always, thank you for your support. We hope you enjoy the books that were on offer.



November 2023 - Cut Your Carbon Month

Cut Your Carbon is a month-long challenge that we are taking part in. This week, our Sustainability Ambassadors have explained the importance of cutting our carbon footprint to every class. We are challenging everyone at Roxbourne Primary School to complete nine simple actions throughout November to reduce their carbon footprint. The actions have been posted in Google Classroom and are on display in each classroom. Our wonderful Sustainability Ambassadors will ask all pupils about their actions in the first week of December. Good luck to everyone involved!



Friday 17th November 2023 - Children in Need

On Friday 17th November is dress down day to help raise money for Children in Need! This year's theme is **Spots**, so make sure you come to school wearing as many coloured spots as you can!

All students are invited to wear their **own clothes with bright spots** on the day. We suggest a donation of £1 which will be donated to Children in Need. Please give your donation to the class teachers.



General Updates

School meals

Thank you for continuous support in booking your child's meal on the Arbor App / portal. Please continue to do so. Remember that you can make your meal selection up until the 18th December 2023! And can amend up until 08:30 on the day. If you need any assistance, our School Office team will be happy to help.

Couple of notes:

Week 1: Thursday meal option - there is an extra word in the cheese sandwich description that reads "Cheese *Tuna* sandwich". It is not a new combination, it was meant to read "cheese sandwich".

Friday Fish / Salmon fingers: if you choose this meal option, your child will have the choice at the counter between fish or salmon.

Wraparound Care

Breakfast club (07:40 to 08:40), Enrichment Club (15:25 to 16:30) and After School Care (16:30 to 18:00) are up and running - and are available to book on Arbor ! Please do so before midnight the day before you need wraparound care, otherwise bookings need to be made over the phone, which takes up quite a lot of time.

Late delivery items

We are experiencing a very large number of "late delivery items" such as violins, water bottles and packed lunches. As you can imagine, this is taking up a considerable amount of time to distribute. Please note, going forward, late delivery items will be delivered to pupils at 12:00 as long as they are clearly labelled.

Parking

Please be considerate when parking and don't block neighbours driveways, residents are being particularly impacted. It is really not necessary for parents to park on the yellow lines or block local residents. Let's continue to encourage children to cycle and scoot to school.



The Importance of Attendance

We'd like to remind parents that whenever your child misses school, this has a negative impact on your child's attendance figure and their learning. Learning at Roxbourne is carefully planned and sequenced. For example, missing one mathematics lesson has an impact on the next mathematics lesson and your child is likely to develop gaps in their knowledge when they miss school. Research shows that good attendance helps children to achieve good outcomes, helps them to fulfil their potential, develops good habits and gives them better life chances. There are many pupils in our school who achieve 100% attendance, we should all aim for the 100% mark too!

Reporting Pupil Absence

It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school of the reasons for any absence. It is vital that you contact the school on the first day of absence and keep the school updated daily if any absence is expected to continue for more than one day.

If your child is absent you must:-

- Contact us before 9.00am on the first day of absence and every day of absence thereafter.
- You may also come to the school office and provide a suitable reason for an absence, or email the office at office@roxbourneprimaryschool.co.uk

If your child is absent due to illness for **5 consecutive days or more**, medical proof may be requested. If your child is unwell for **3 or more consecutive days** immediately before or after a school holiday medical proof may be requested. If sufficient medical proof is not received then the absence will be recorded as unauthorised.

External Support For Parents and Carers

Behaviour Workshop

Call 020 8736 6550 to book
Focus on parents of 2 - 5 year olds
Virtual - 21 December 2023 - 1 - 2.30pm

Call 020 8424 1460 to book
Focus on parents of 3 - 9 year olds
Virtual - 9 November 2023 - 1 - 2.30pm

15 December 2023
Virtual Behaviour -avoiding physical chastisement 10-11.30am
Call 020 8736 6480

For families of children on the journey to diagnosis or with a diagnosis of SEND
Call 020 8424 1460 to book
Virtual - 4 December 2023 - 1 - 2.30pm



Sibling Rivalry Workshop

20 November 12 – 1 pm
Call 020 8424 1460 to book

Parenting Top Tips & Advice Appointments

Virtual / Face to Face at Cedars
Call to book - 020 8736 6222

- 02 November 2023
- 08 November 2023
- 15 November 2023
- 22 November 2023
- 30 November 2023
- 13 December 2023
- 20 December 2023

Autumn Term 2

Early Support Parenting Workshops

We all need advice sometimes....
Appointment only



Sleep Workshop

6 months and over
Call to book - 020 8736 6480
Virtual - 16 November 2023
1.30-3 pm
Call to book 020 8424 1460
11 December 2023 1 - 2.30pm





Managing Emotions Workshop

Call to book - 020 8424 1460
Virtual - 18 December 2023
12 - 1 pm

Toilet Learning Workshop

Call - 020 8736 6480 to book
Virtual - 1 November 2023 - 10-11am
Call 020 8424 1460 to book
Virtual - 1 December 2023 - 12- 1 pm

For families of children on the journey to diagnosis or with a diagnosis of SEND
Virtual - 21 November 2023 - 1 - 2 pm

Call 020 8424 1066 to book
4 December 12- 1 pm
Call 020 8736 6550 to book



Healthy Eating & meal times Workshop

Call to book - 020 8424 1066
Virtual - 12 December 2023 - 12.15- 1.15pm

<p>Safeguarding is EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY</p> <p>If you are concerned about a child call 020 8901 2690 on weekends or after 5pm call 020 8424 0999</p>	<p>Domestic Abuse Support and Advice</p> <p>If you are feeling unsafe or are experiencing domestic violence you can seek support by calling the Golden Number 020 8901 2690 or the DA helpline on 020 8907 8148 24 hrs 0808 2000 247 Stay safe!</p>
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Year Group Update

Nursery Update

This week we have continued reading and acting out Handa's surprise using a story map and props. We focussed on each fruit in the story and learned to use descriptive words. We made animal puppets using a range of art and craft materials. This activity supported children's fine motor control, independence and language.

In Maths we are learning to recognise numbers through various activities, such as playdough number stamps, digit cards hidden in the classroom, number jigsaw puzzles, threading numbers, number rhymes etc.

In PSED we have talked about the importance of using the words 'please' and 'thank you'. Please encourage your child to use these at home.

In Art and Understanding of the World we have made poppies in respect of Remembrance Day.

Suggested activity - take your child to a fruit and veg shop. Introduce them to different fruits and vegetables that they're not familiar with and talk about the colour, texture, size, smell and taste. To extend this further you could make a fruit salad with your child.

For daily updates please from the EYFS Department follow us on **Twitter/X**.

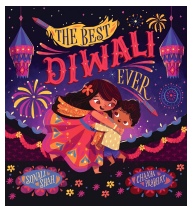


Some beautiful poppy activities going on around the nursery in respect of remembrance day.



Wishing you all a Happy Diwali.

Reception Update



In **Writing**, we have continued looking at our book; 'The Best Diwali Ever'. We have retold what was happening in some of the pictures using a simple sentence starting with the sentence opener of "This is..." Our focus task was then to write a simple sentence about one of the pages of the storybook using the pictures as a prompt to create our sentences.



RoxbourneHarrowEYFS @RoxbourneEYFS · Nov 7

...

Reception have been writing a sentence from our Diwali story. We are using our knowledge of sounds and letter formation to record them on our story sheets.



Phonics has continued this week and the children are all trying hard to learn their sounds and blend them together to make CVC (Consonant, Vowel, Consonant) words. The children have settled in well to their new groups and are confidently interacting with the different teachers who take them for phonics. Well done everyone in Reception!

Please ensure you are practising the sounds with your children everyday. If they are confident with the sounds then please begin to blend the sounds to both read and spell. The video below outlines how to best do this.

Here is a video on how to blend the sounds to read and spell words: [Parent video: How to say the sounds](#)

[Blending - Lesson 1](#)



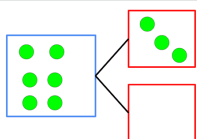
[Blending - Lesson 2](#)



[Blending - Lesson 3](#)

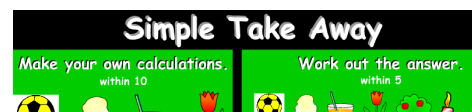


[Blending - Lesson 4](#)



In **Maths**, we embarked on grappling with the topic of subtraction. We began with the whole and subtracted an amount. Those that were left became the other part and the answer to our equation. Though trickier than addition, the children are working hard on this concept.

In this image, the subtraction equation would be $9 - 3 = 6$
Start with 9 objects in the large circle (the whole) and subtract 3 (move 3 objects into one of the parts - smaller circles). The leftovers go in the other part and is your answer.



Click the [link](#) here to play a subtraction game with your children

In **Humanities**, we have continued to look at celebrations. At the start of the week we looked at Diwali and the story of Rama and Sita. We discussed the different objects and traditions associated with the Festival of Light. Later in the week we looked at Remembrance Day. We discussed the date on which it falls and the reason why people wear poppies on this day. We then made our own poppies to wear at the assembly on Monday. We also discussed what a 2 minute silence is and why people take part in this ritual on this day. We have practised standing in silence so that we are ready to join the school for the remembrance assembly on Monday at 11:00 am.

In **Science** this week, we have learnt even more about Season Changes and have focussed on Autumn leaves and Autumnal colours. If you are going for a walk or to the park with your children this weekend we would love it if you could collect some autumnal leaves, conkers and acorns to bring into school on Monday!



For daily updates please from the EYFS Department follow us on **Twitter/X**.



RoxbourneHarroWEYFS @RoxbourneEYFS · Nov 7

The witches 🧙 hats are also great for making ears and other creative uses! ...



Y1 Update

In **Writing** this week, we have been learning about setting descriptions. After reading *Lost in the Toy Museum*, we considered the time of day as well as the different things that could be seen and heard. We then planned our own setting descriptions, thinking of interesting adjectives to describe the Toy Museum.

In **Mathematics**, we have been learning how to compare and order numbers, using vocabulary such as smallest and greatest. We have also been exploring how to double and halve numbers.

In **Science**, Year 1 have been continuing to learn about the different seasons and how we can categorise months into the different seasons. In particular, we have been exploring what Autumn looks like and the weather is like.

In **History**, we have been continuing to learn about Toys over Time and how we can describe our favourite toys that we play with. We have been writing about what our favourite toys look and feel like as well as how toys are special for different reasons.

In **Phonics**, we have been learning the sounds **igh**, **ar** and **ow**.

Y2 Update

This week, Year 2 have been busy going back in time to 1666 and writing diary entries as a child during the Great Fire of London. We've been using our senses to expand our descriptive skills during **Writing** as well as showing emotions through specific verb choices. During **Maths** we've continued our learning on measurements of length which has included solving word problems involving addition and subtraction based on cm and m.

In **History** we have been exploring how we know today what happened in 1666 using extracts of the diary of Samuel Pepys.

In **Science** we have been continuing to look at stages of a life cycle of humans and animals and the differences between the stages.

Y3 Update

In **Reading** this week, we have read another non-fiction text called '*Coasts*' written by Ruth Thomson. Another text with links to our topic in Geography, which is settlements and land use. The children looked at 6 key vocabulary words: *crumble*, *arch*, *ledge*, *sandbank*, *sheltered* and *spoiled*. The children then applied retrieval and inference skills to answer questions about the fact-file.

In **Mathematics**, we have started our new unit: Addition and Subtraction. This week the children have been working on using number bonds when calculating mentally. We focused on two different strategies, one related to partitioning and one related to the 'Make ten' strategy.

In **Writing**, we have started our new writing focus. The children are using their experience of the enrichment trip to Stonehenge, to write a letter to inform. This week we have been looking at the features of letter writing and the children had the opportunity to really think about using a variety of conjunctions, both coordinating and subordinating, to create more interesting sentences.

In **Science**, we have continued with our topic for this half-term, which is Rocks and Fossils. The children learned about how igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic rocks are formed. In groups, they then investigated the durability(strength) of rocks.

In **French**, we are continuing with our unit "**J'apprends le français**" and this week we have learnt to say the days of the week in french and we have learnt to say how we feel.

Purple Log books, for spelling are taken home on a Friday, for you as parents to have a look at and discuss and practise during the weekend. Please ensure your child brings this book back on Mondays in order for them to be able to continue adding words they need to work on each week.

As always, we thank you all for supporting your children with everything they do at school. Please continue to encourage your children to access the **TTRS** and **Mathletics** portals online in order that they can complete their homework and achieve the required points each week. In addition, each time they complete a reading book, please make sure they log onto **Accelerated Reader** and complete a quiz for that book, to test their knowledge and understanding of what they have read. There are also vocabulary quizzes they can complete.

Y4 Update

In **Reading** this week, we read an extract from a non-fiction book titled 'Children in History: Romans'. We learnt about what life was like for Ancient Roman children and read about how school was for them. We learnt 3 key vocabulary words: **winding**, **civilisation** and **sifting**.

In **Maths**, we continued our unit on Multiplication and Division, exploring how to multiply and divide by 10 and 100, and how to derive multiplication statements from known facts. We used place value charts to prove our calculations, and also practised describing our mathematical reasoning using the key words **factor** and **product**.

In **Writing**, we planned, wrote and edited our first diary entry piece of the year. We wrote from the perspective of a child living in Ancient Rome, making sure to include the features we learnt about last week, such as fronted adverbials, informal language and commas for lists.

In **Science**, as we are learning about the States of Matter, we explored how liquids can become solids. We conducted an experiment to observe the differences between different liquids when they freeze, and learnt about various freezing points as well.

In **History**, we embarked on our new unit: Roman Britain. As a continuation of our previous unit (Roman Invasions), we have begun exploring what life was like in Britain when the Romans had established themselves here. We learnt about burial sites, and how archaeologists use artefacts and evidence to determine historical truth. We even had a go pretending to be archaeologists ourselves!

As a reminder, please ensure that your child is engaging with the following homework pieces every week: **1) New Wave books, 2) Reading Records, 3) Accelerated Reader, 4) Mathletics and 5) TTRS**. Especially in Year 4, as children will undertake the MTC in June, please ensure that your child is practising their times tables by doing at least 10 minutes of TTRS a day. Thank you for your continued support at home.

Y5 Update

This week in **Reading**, we continued looking at the rest of Chapter One from 'Riddle of the Runes' by Janina Ramirez. We read about how Alva sneaks out at night to listen to her Uncle's meeting about a strange event that is worrying the town. We then discussed and answered questions based on our reading. In **Writing**, we planned a non-chronological report about Viking Education and wrote our report, focusing on using the correct layout and specific grammar features, including modal verbs and a bullet pointed list using a colon.

In **Maths**, we have been reading and interpreting time tables. We discussed why this is an important skill and how it can be used in everyday life. We looked at various time tables, firstly at Olympic events and how we could calculate the duration from the start to end time. We then explored bus and train timetables, using our knowledge to help us answer worded problems.

In **Science** this week, our topic is Forces and we specifically focused on the force of gravity. We learnt about Isaac Newton and how he first discovered gravity. In **History**, we explored our new topic - Vikings, and discussed why the Vikings decided to travel to England.

Purple log books, for **Spelling** are taken home on a Friday, for you as parents to have a look at and discuss and practise during the weekend. Please ensure your child brings this book back every Monday in order for them to be able to continue adding words they need to work on each week. Please could children also ensure they are completing their online **homework** including Mathletics and TTRS to enhance their Maths skills.

Y6 Update

This week in **Reading**, we have focused on the extract, Skellig, which is about a boy named Michael who discovers an unnatural creature, yet to be classified, hiding in his garage. We introduced three new pieces of vocabulary - **Scuttling, Lurched and Wilderness**. We then applied our knowledge of how to successfully answer retrieval, inference and word meaning questions.

In **Maths**, we have introduced algebra, where we have introduced the concept of being able to find a missing number in an equation. We have also been looking at using our multiplication and division facts to help us solve problems too.

In **Writing**, we have been planning and writing our **biography** around the cartographer, Gerardus Mercator, who was a 16th century geographer, most famous for creating the Mercator Map, similar to maps we are so used to seeing today.

In **Geography**, we have started our new topic, **Mapping the World**, where this week, we have learned about the different types of maps there are in the world today - **physical maps, political maps, road and street maps, topographic maps and thematic maps**.

In **Science**, we have started our new topic, **Classification**, where we have looked at what the term organism means. We also learned that different organisms have different **characteristics** and so are classified into different groups.

Please ensure the children are continuing to access all homework provision in Year 6. Children should be completing the set pages for **Mental Maths, English New Wave**, and **Reading CGP**. Children should also be completing all homework set on our online portals - **TTRS** and **Mathletics**. In addition, each time they complete a reading book, please make sure they log onto **Accelerated Reader** and complete a quiz for that book, to test their knowledge and understanding of what they have read. There are also vocabulary quizzes they can complete.

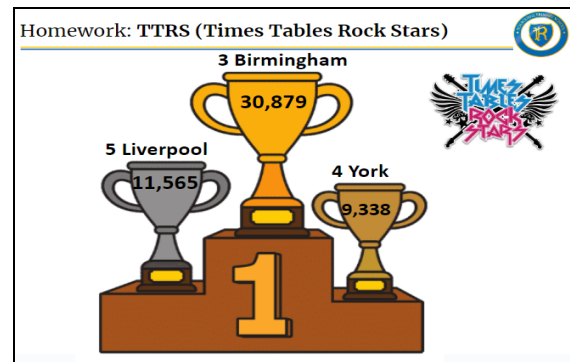
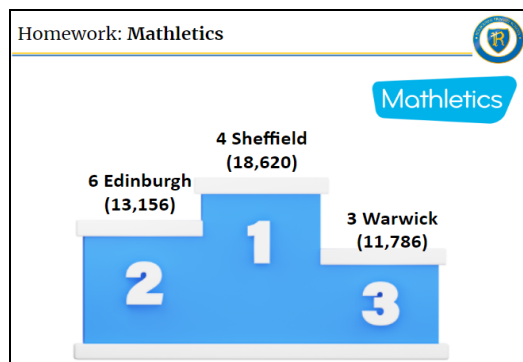
Value of the Week: Independent

Class	This week's certificates go to...
R Oxford	Akenan - for showing great independence in his writing this week! Well done Akenan! Krithvik - for independently completing his subtraction work in Maths this week! Well done Krithvik!
R Southampton	Riya - for showing great independence in class from pouring a drink for herself to creating a collage of a boat.. Riya has also shown great confidence when communicating with adults and peers. Great job! Yusuf C - has worked really hard to complete busy learning activities both independently and with peers. He has also persevered to complete our Reception changes over the last two weeks. Great effort!
1 Bath	Dhiyana - for showing great independence in writing. Remembering our 'everytime we write' checklist! Well done! Shranay - for consistently showing independence when completing Do Nows . Keep it up!
1 Bristol	Adam - for showing strong independence and settling into Bristol class really quickly! A very warm welcome to Roxbourne! Navya - for showing great independence when completing her maths independent task. Well done!
2 Cambridge	Darshan for showing good levels of independence during his writing tasks. Liana for making good choices in and around the classroom.
2 Norwich	Adam - for always showing independence in all aspects of his school work. Keep up the hard work! Veer - for developing his independence within his Writing. Great job! Keep up the hard work
3 Birmingham	Anelise - for showing strong independence when completing tasks during Mathematics and Writing; you were ensuring that you were following the steps to success! Great job! Lewis - for showing strong independence when completing the task during Mathematics. You made sure that the presentation of your working out was clear and neat when solving each calculation. Great job!
3 Loughborough	Pavithra - for working hard and independently in all areas this week.Keep it! Jaishwan - for doing his writing independently.Well done!
3 Warwick	Darius - for showing great independence while getting to know our school rules and routines. Well done and welcome to Roxbourne Primary School. You are already beginning to settle in very well. Varun - for showing great independence when working on his tasks in reading this week.
4 Sheffield	Matteo - for being a great independent learner this week and writing a fantastic diary entry. Well done! Wafa - for showing great independence skills during writing this week, well done for writing a great diary entry this week.
4 York	Anayah - for always tackling learning with an attitude of independence, trying her best to apply her own knowledge to her tasks. Great! Hayat - for beginning to show independence in his learning, especially in his Do Nows. Keep going!
5 Liverpool	Natan - for consistently being independent, every day, when completing Do Now tasks. Great job! Sai - for showing excellent independence skills when completing his non-chronological report in Writing. Keep it up!
5 Manchester	Maria - for working independently this week, being able to start her tasks quickly and quietly without any prompting. Good job! Octavian - for always showing independence especially in Writing lessons this week when writing his report. Great work!
6 Cardiff	Anaya J - for showing independence by helping to organise the science topic books from the library and supporting her class seamlessly with a range of small tasks. Shanel - for showing impressive independence in briefing each class in her role as Sustainability Ambassador. Well done!
6 Edinburgh	Abaan - for his increased independence in Reading, where he is now beginning to tackle inference and word meaning questions with greater success. Well done! Zaynab - for consistently demonstrating good independence in tasks across all learning, showing a can-do attitude towards her work. Keep it up!

Specialist Teacher Certificates

	Music Star of the Week Well done from Mr Palekar!	PE Star of the Week Well done from Mr Donnelly, Mr Wilkins and Mr. McGarvie!	RE Star of the Week Well done from Mrs Illankovan!
Reception	Klara - For lovely singing this week!	Miroslava - For always trying her best and giving everything her best effort.	
Year 1	Kush - For brilliant singing and movement in our lesson this week!	Kush - For always trying his hardest in PE and having a smile on his face.	Nova - For a great explanation about who Jesus is and why he is important to Christians.
Year 2	Presha - For your lovely singing this week!	Aavana - For amazing throwing skills and use of power.	Liana - For a great discussion about some of the key symbols in Christianity.
Year 3	Anelise - For lots of musical energy in our lesson this week!	Nerys - For great dribbling and knowledge of Hockey	Bo - For a great explanation about the key features of a church.
Year 4	Alkadi -For excellent singing in our lesson this week.	Alina - For showing fantastic dribbling and skills during Hockey.	Diana - For a great explanation about who Jesus is and why he is important to Christians.
Year 5	Biranasaa - For practice and accuracy in music.	Billie - For excellent technique when working on passing in Netball.	Amir - For a great explanation about the Christian pilgrimage places.
Year 6	Cienna - For lots of energy in music and choir this week!	Rayka - For great dribbling and passing in Hockey.	Eisa - For always shows enthusiasm and asks curious questions to deepen his knowledge about different religions.
Virtuoso Violinist of the week	Billie - For practising especially well and showing this in your violin lesson!		

TTRS and Mathletics



This week we celebrated the following classes for their high engagement on our online platforms. Well done to **4 Sheffield** and **3 Birmingham** for their fantastic work this week! Keep up the good work!

School admissions

Applications are now open for Nursery and Reception school places for September 2024. Due to high demand, places at Roxbourne Primary School fill very quickly. Should you have family, friends or neighbours with Nursery or Reception aged children, please let them know that applications are now open as detailed below.

	Nursery Admissions	Reception Admissions	In-Year Admissions
Open Days	<p>We are running a series of Open Mornings or Afternoons to provide an opportunity for prospective parents / carers to visit our school, meet with our Headteacher and ask any questions they may have.</p> <p>If any of your family, friends or neighbours, are interested in applying to Roxbourne for a place for their child or would like to attend one of our Open Mornings or Afternoons, please ask them to register using our booking form.</p>		
Your child's Date of Birth	Your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021.	Your child was born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020.	School places for children who are changing schools or have recently moved to Harrow.
Start Date	September 2024	September 2024	Flexible
How to apply?	Please click here .	Please click here .	Nursery: Please click here . Reception to Y6: Please click here .
Deadline	Monday 15th January 2024	Monday 15th January 2024	N/A
Receive outcome of application	Friday 15th March 2024	Friday 16th April 2024	Usually within a two weeks

Nursery Universal Entitlement: Please note, in Nursery, all three and four year olds are entitled to 15 hours per week of early year's education each academic year from the start of the term after their third birthday - this is known as the *universal entitlement*.

Nursery 30 Hour Provision: Three and four year olds, whose parents meet a government criteria, are also eligible for an additional 15 hours per week at zero cost to the parent - this is known as the *extended entitlement*. Eligibility guidelines can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>.

If you are not eligible for 30 Hour Provision, but are still interested in this offer, please contact our admissions team - the current charge for the additional four hours per day is only £15.00 per day.

Important Dates

Date	Time	Event
Monday 13th November 2023	All Day	Year 2 Educational Visit to Windsor Castle
Friday 10th November 2023	All Day	Odd Socks day
Friday 17th November 2023	All Day	Children in Need Fundraiser - Non Uniform Day
Tuesday 28th November 2023	18:00 - 20:00	Rayners Lane Christmas Lights Switch On
Friday 15th December 2023	15.25 - 16.30	Winter Jingle and Mingle
Thursday 21st December 2023	14:00	Last day of HT2 (and early closure)
Tuesday 9th January 2024	08:40	First day of HT3

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.

18
CENSORED

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 Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 18 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 VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



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