



School News

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No. 13

7th December 2023

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Thursday, 7th December at 2.15pm & Friday, 8th December at 9.15am Fledglings Christmas Show

Parents, grandparents, family and friends of children in Fledglings are warmly invited to join us for their Christmas show. The children are busy practising and very much look forward to you joining them at the special Christmas show.

Friday, 8th December - Harmony Group singing at Eastry Village Hall Coffee Morning at 11.00am

You are invited to Eastry Village Coffee morning on Friday, 8th December where our Harmony Group will be singing.



Monday, 11th December at 2.00pm & Tuesday, 12th December at 9.15am

Year 1 & 2 Nativity Play

Parents, carers, family and friends are invited to join us for their Nativity plays on Monday, 11th December at 2.00pm and Tuesday, 12th December at 9.15am. The children have been practising hard and we are sure you will all enjoy their special performance.



Thursday, 14th December - Christmas Parties

Children may come to school dressed in party clothes ready for their Christmas parties during the afternoon on Thursday, 14th December. Please make sure clothes are warm enough for this time of the year. Children may bring a treat item to eat during the afternoon such as a small chocolate bar, small packet of crisps or similar item. Please ensure any treat does not contain nuts - thank you.

Thursday, 14th December - Last Day of Term 2

Friday, 15th December - INSET Day - School Closed

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Calendar

Dates for the current academic year are published on the school website and can be found under the 'Parent' tab. Please do check this regularly for updates. You can also subscribe to the calendar for your child's year group and whole school events via the tab at the foot of the Calendar page.



OTHER SCHOOL NEWS

The Children's Society Christingle Collection Candle

Thank you to everyone who has already returned their collection candles to raise money for The Children's Society who do amazing work to support those children who are less fortunate. If you haven't already returned yours, please return this by Friday, 8th December so that we can send the money to them in time for Christmas. Thank you for your support.

Early Morning Club

The register for Early Morning Club for term 3 and 4 is now open. Early Morning Club runs from 8.00 to 8.35am and cost £1.20 per day. Places must be booked and paid for in advance. As circumstance and requirements change we ask that you contact the school to book a place even if you have used Early Morning Club in previous terms.

PTFA News

A BIG THANK YOU!

CHRISTMAS DISCOS

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Christmas Disco's, the children had a wonderful time and enjoyed the many festive stalls available during the evening. A special thank you to all the parents, carers and staff who stayed to help during the evening, without you it would not have been possible.

We are pleased to announce that the evening raised an amazing £807.21 for the PTFA which will be used to support all the children at Eastry.

CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP

Thank you to everyone who visited the Christmas gift shop and especially to those parents who came along to help. We raised an amazing £306.89 at this event.

CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

We would like to thank Tesco's who kindly donated most of the crackers for this year's Christmas dinner.

NAME THE ELF!

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 'Name the Elf' competition - the winner will be announced tomorrow and we will let you know the total money raised next week.

DECORATE A BAUBLE

Thank you to everyone who purchased a bauble to decorate The Five Bells Christmas tree. Please return all decorated baubles by the morning of Monday, 11th December at the latest. Families are invited to The Five Bells on Monday, 11th December at 6.30pm when there will be a free drink and a festive chocolate for the children and mulled wine and a mince pie for the adults.

INTERNET/ONLINE SAFETY SECTION

Boundaries for Gaming

No doubt some children are hoping for a new game or games console for Christmas and you may be considering the best way to set boundaries with gaming. Please see the attached 'Top Tips' leaflet giving best ideas and tips to help with this.

Kind regards

Mr Neil Garvey
Interim Headteacher

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Week commencing 11.12.2023

MONDAY	
Home Learning Club (3.30-4.00pm)	NO
Creative Station (3.30-4.30pm)	NO
TUESDAY	
Netball Club (3.30-4.15pm)	NO
WEDNESDAY	
Singing Club (8.00 to 8.35am)	NO
Multi-Sports Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)	NO
THURSDAY	
Football Club (3.30-4.30pm)	NO
FRIDAY	

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.

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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 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 VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



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