



# School News

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No. 27

18th April 2024

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Friday, 19th April - Year 4 Class Worship at 9.00am in the School Hall

Parents and carers of children in Year 4 are invited to join us for their class worship at 9.00am in the school hall.

### Friday, 19th April - School Nurse visit to do Fledglings Hearing Rechecks

### Tuesday, 23rd April - PTFA Bags2School

The PTFA have arranged another 'Bags 2 School' collection on Tuesday, 23rd April. Donations can be placed in black sacks and left on the grass verge in the school car park **before 9.00am on Tuesday, 23rd April**. Please do not bring your bags before this date as we have nowhere to store them safely, thank you.

### Tuesday, 23rd April - 'Managing Children's Behaviour' Course 1.00 to 3.00pm in the School Hall

The first of the 4 week course for parents entitled 'Managing Children's Behaviour' starts on Tuesday, 23rd April. If you are interested in joining this course please speak to Mrs Inglis, FLO or the school office.

### Wednesday, 24th April - RNLI visit to school for Water Safety Workshops

### Friday, 26th April - Year 3 Class Worship at 9.00am in the School Hall

Parents and carers of children in Year 3 are invited to join us for their class worship at 9.00am in the school hall.

## WEBSITE SECTION

### Calendar/School News

Upcoming events at the school can be viewed on the Calendar page of our school website. Here you can see dates for events throughout the academic year and also subscribe to your child's Year group so that events are automatically transferred in to your online diary. Please do check back regularly as this is kept updated as new events are arranged.

We also include information regarding dates for the upcoming week in this School News which can also be viewed on the school website.

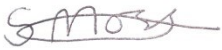
Both our Calendar and School News can be viewed under the 'Parents' tab on the school website.

## HEALTH ADVICE/ONLINE SAFETY SECTION

### Township - Online Game Safety Advice

Township is an online game aimed a children aged 4+ that continues to be popular since it's launch over 10 years ago. Although this is viewed as a child friendly game there are still some risks that parents should be aware of when allowing their child to play this game. Please see the attached for further information.

Kind regards



Mrs Sarah Moss  
Headteacher

### AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Week commencing 22.4.24

MONDAY	
<b>Cheerleading &amp; Dance (3.30-4.15pm)</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Creative Station (3.30-4.30pm)</b>	<b>YES</b>
TUESDAY	
<b>Ballet (3.30-4.10pm)</b>	<b>YES</b>
WEDNESDAY	
<b>Singing Club (8.00 to 8.35am)</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Netball (3.30 to 4.15pm)</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Multi-Sports Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)</b>	<b>YES</b>
THURSDAY	
<b>Football Club (3.30-4.30pm)</b>	<b>YES</b>
FRIDAY	



It all starts with...

**We all play at:**  
Nonington Cricket Club, Holt Street,  
Nonington CT154HX

**Session dates:**  
Fridays May 3rd, 17th, 31st. June 7th,  
14th, 21st and 28th. July 5th.

**Session timings:**  
6-7pm (there's a bar and BBQ too).

**Contact:**  
Rebecca Smith on 07443 605873

Sign up today at  
[allstarscricket.co.uk](http://allstarscricket.co.uk)




**DYNAMOS  
CRICKET**

**INTROS**

**This is  
our game.**

[dynamoscricet.co.uk](http://dynamoscricet.co.uk)

**Join us at:**  
Nonington Cricket Club, Fredville Park, Holt Street, Nonington CT15 4HX

**Session dates:**  
Fridays: May 3rd, 17th, 31st. June 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th. July 5th.

**Session timings:**  
6-7pm.  
Relax and enjoy the beautiful setting of Nonington Cricket Club.  
We have a fully stocked bar open and BBQ every Friday evening.

**Ages:**  
8-11

**Contact:**  
Rebecca Smith  
[rebecasmith.ash@gmail.com](mailto:rebecasmith.ash@gmail.com)  
07443 605873



**FREE personalised New Balance shirt**

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# TOWNSHIP



(on the App Store; 'Everyone' on Google Play)

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Despite launching in 2011, Township remains popular with children and adults alike. A city-building game with farming elements, it tasks players with developing their settlement and unlocking new features along the way. Aimed at the more casual gamer, it's mostly child friendly – but there are still some related risks to be mindful of.

#### MISLEADING PUBLICITY

Township's developers have previously faced criticism for advertising the game on social media by using clips of gameplay which can't actually be found in the final product. This may well lead to a child or young person downloading the game with severely misplaced expectations of what they'll be playing.

#### IN-GAME ADVERTS

While it's common for mobile games to feature in-game advertisements for other products and services, Township employs a particularly egregious strategy seen in several similar products. It offers users in-game currency in exchange for watching such adverts, which can obviously encourage young people to willingly expose themselves to marketing material.

#### IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game's core concept of building up a settlement to increase its population and income can feel slow paced at first – and players are incentivised to spend real-world money to move things along more quickly. That can mean handing over anything from £1.99 to £19.99 for these in-game boosts: amounts that can rapidly add up to a considerable sum if left unchecked.

#### TIME-CONSUMING GAMEPLAY

Township's gameplay loop of acquiring resources and reinvesting them into your little community is a fun one – but this rewarding sense of making progress can lead to players spending far more hours staring at the screen than they realise. There are also special in-game events which run for a limited time, designed to entice players into even longer gaming sessions.

#### ONLINE MULTIPLAYER MODE

After reaching level 19, players in Township can form a 'co-op' and unlock the option to exchange goods with up to 30 other users. Online multiplayer modes are nothing new, of course – but neither are the potential risks they pose to children and young people. Chances are, youngsters will be interacting with complete (and possibly much older) strangers within the game environment.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### DISCUSS THE GAME IN ADVANCE

While older children may notice and understand that Township might be marketed in a potentially misleading way, it could be worth explaining to prospective younger players how and why the game differs from what's been advertised. This will help them to manage their expectations and avoid any possible disappointment if they do decide to download and play it.

### MONITOR SPENDING AND SCREEN TIME

More modestly priced in-app bundles can be a welcome treat for a child wanting to speed up their progress in Township, but it's wise not to leave a linked payment method active in case a youngster gets carried away. Likewise, to prevent Township from causing an increase in screen time, parental controls on most devices allow limits to be placed on how long a game can be played each day.

### BE WARY OF EXTERNAL SITES

Township's makers state that all in-game ads are age-appropriate: children won't be shown adverts recommending more violent titles, for instance. Even so, clicking on these adverts can take players out of the game and onto external sites that have nothing to do with Township or its developers: this raises the risk of children encountering inappropriate content or being tempted by online purchases.

### TALK ABOUT ONLINE STRANGERS

Township's online multiplayer mode (as with any game which includes that functionality), is an avenue through which a child could be contacted by people who they don't actually know. It's worth reminding young Township fans, therefore, not to give out any personal information to strangers online – whether that's within the game itself or in the social networks associated with it.

### Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new games and tools, he's also a parent who prioritises online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: <https://www.wired.it/gadget/videogames/2019/10/11/italian-ideogame-tech-not-all-mobile-games-7444448-1/> | <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.fingersoft.township>