

Friday 4th October 2024

Principal's Messages:

This week's awards

Well done to Poppy Sproston who was nominated for Principal's Award this week by Mr Pawley for working hard in every lesson, always listening and helping others. Antonio Szczupakowski was also nominated by Mrs Hargreaves for always having a good attitude to learning and working hard to solve tricky problems in lessons.

This week's 'Stronger Together' awards went to RD and 6H for excellent examples of working hard and being kind.



Dentist Vacancies for Children

The Practice Manager at Cheshire Dental Centre has been in touch with us to let us know that they currently have NHS appointments available for children under 17 years old.

If you would like to book an appointment for your child, please call on: 01270 256426. Unfortunately they don't currently have capacity for NHS adults, but they do offer an accessible price list which is more of an affordable option than the private price list.



Communication from school staff

Please can I ask that parents allow for a 48 hour response time when emailing teachers or support staff. I do request that they prioritise the children during the school day and avoid dealing with emails in their own time therefore they only have a small window of time each day to respond. They will of course prioritise anything of an urgent nature. Thank you for your understanding.

Uniform Update

I had a meeting with our uniform supplier this week and can now confirm that all orders should have been completed by the end of next week. I now have a greater understanding as to why there has been a backlog on some of the orders and I have worked with them to ensure that there are alternative items available if something is out of stock. There are around 20 children who have not yet ordered their free sweatshirt. If this is you, or you attempted to redeem your free sweatshirt via an online order, please could you make contact with Badged by the end of the day on Friday 11th October. After this time, free sweatshirts will no longer be available to order.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 9th October - English and Maths Open Evening at 3.30pm

Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd October - Autumn Term Parents' Evening (booking details to follow)

Friday 25th October - School closes for half term

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Thompson

School Meals

If your child is not entitled to a free school meal, please log onto their Arbor account to pay for their meal in advance of their order.

School meals are £2.35 per day.



Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red Option	Margherita Pizza with Baked Potato Wedges	Hot Dog with Baked Potato Wedges	Roast Turkey with Roast Potato & Gravy	Curry Special Menu to follow	All Day Breakfast
Yellow Option	Creamy Tomato Pasta	Vegetarian Hot Dog with Baked Potato Wedges	Vegan Sausage with Roast Potato & Gravy		Vegetarian All Day Breakfast
Green Option	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato		Jacket Potato
Orange Option	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection	Sandwich Selection		Sandwich Selection
Desserts	Raspberry Buns	Chocolate Crunch	Lemon Cake		Ice Cream
	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt		Fresh fruit or yoghurt
Seasonal Vegetables and Salad Bar					

Attendance Matters

Here are our attendance figures for this week

Our school target:	96%	
Overall school attendance this week:	92.97%	
Overall school attendance this year:	93.8%	
RB – 92.59%	2S – 96.3%	5F – 91.76%
RD – 95.58%	3J – 89.26%	5S – 94.44%
1J – 91.3%	3P – 88.17%	6E – 93.33%
1L – 92.27%	4S – 93.43%	6H – 96.17%
2P – 94.07%	4W – 97.66% ★	



For more information regarding attendance and punctuality; including term time absences and our policies, please see our webpage:

<http://www.leightonacademy.com>

Pupil leadership Teams 2024-25

Firstly, a huge thank you to all pupils in Y5 and 6 who put themselves forward for the role of Pupil Leader. The application forms were all well written and showed excellent examples of how mature and responsible our pupils are. Head Pupils were nominated by pupils in Y5 and 6 via a secret ballot and other pupil leader groups were decided by staff teams. Congratulations to our new teams as follows:



Head Pupils

Maddie and Alfie

These pupils will act as the voice of the other pupils and work on school improvement projects with the leaders and governors in school. They will also meet with visitors and be responsible for leading tours of the school.

Pupil Safeguarding Officers

Evi, Piper, Anna, Nailah, Ava, Alfie, Felix and Sienna

Our Safeguarding Officers will support Miss Lockitt and the pastoral team to ensure our school is a safe place to be.



Sports Leaders

Darcie-Mae, Iylia-Mai, Kiera-Lou, Charlea, Jamie, Jessica, Lillie-Rose, Catherine, Cheyeene, Eleanor Rose, Harly, Macie, Charlie, Finley, Luke, Priya, Kaja, Molly, Aoibhinn, Maddie and Henry

These pupils will be responsible for leading games and activities on the reception and KS1 playground at lunchtime as well as supporting Mr Broad with organising sports equipment, competitions and in-house sports' days.

KiVA (Anti-Bullying) Ambassadors

Lily, Clara, Aanika, Eva, Aimee, Aayliah, Julia and Caiden

Our KiVA Ambassadors will be trained to support pupils with low level issues that could lead to bullying and will help pupils in seeking adult support if needed.



LEGO education

**BUILD!
CODE!
CREATE!
CONTROL!**

spike

**ROBOTS!
HELICOPTERS!
CARS!
MUSIC!
AND MORE!**

**LEGO SPIKE IS BACK!
STARTING TUES 1ST OCT
CARLE LIBRARY
4PM - 5PM
AGE 6+
RING & BOOK TODAY**

I WISH MY LEGO KITS WERE AS COOL AS THE SPIKE KITS

DON'T WE ALL MATE, DON'T WE ALL.

**WED 30TH OCT -
FRI 1ST NOV | 9-3PM
YEARS 1-6**

**CLAY LANE
20 23
ACADEMY**

**THE HUB
ALSAGER
ST7 2TH**

**ACADEMY EXPERIENCE
FOOTBALL CAMP**

**£35 PER DAY
£90 ALL 3 DAYS
£25 CLA SUBS**

INSTAGRAM
FACEBOOK
TIKTOK
07876 202634

SCULPTING THE FUTURE

LA Stars Spooktacular Half Term



Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

Inset day Monday 4th November

Monday - Friday 8.00am - 4.00pm

£20.00 full day

£11.00 half day / £14.00 five hour session of your choice

Breakfast and a light snack in the afternoon are included in the session along with fruit and yoghurts.

Packed lunch to be provided by yourselves

To register please follow the link below:

<https://leightonacademy.kidsclubhq.co.uk/rdr?u=home>

Monday 28th October

Halloween Pumpkin Lanterns

Dangly Bats

Tuesday 29th October

Halloween Crowns

Halloween Masks

Wednesday 30th October

Witches Doors

'Day of the Dead' Diamond Art

Thursday 31st October

Halloween Party

Fancy Dress, Face Painting, Fun and Games

Friday 1st November

Halloween Scratch Art

Bat Jump Ups

Monday 4th November

Bonfire Night Crafts

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat