



# Linaker Primary School

## Linaker's Latest

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2025

Keeping you up to date with all the latest school news!

### Headteacher's Message



It has been a great week with lots of super learning, amazing enrichment activities and fantastic events! The week started with our new reception children and their families enjoying a Teddy Bear's Picnic and concluded with children from our choir attending Churchtown primary school for the 'Million Dreams' recording. In between, our children represented us impeccably at the 'Sing for Sefton' event and at numerous high schools, as our Year 6 children attended their chosen secondary school for a transition day. Yet another week to be proud of TEAM Linaker! Remember to be an attendance HERO - when you're not here you miss out on so many opportunities...

### This Week's Award Winners

#### THIS WEEK'S AWARD WINNERS



#### LINAKER LEARNER OF THE WEEK

N – Wynnie C  
RF – Eric L  
RG – Zohan B  
1F – Nikolay D  
1G – Wholeclass  
2F – Liam C  
2G – Ariana B  
3F – Melanie G  
3G – Alex F  
4F – Natalia H  
4G – Ayesha J  
5F – Brendon J  
5G – Sajid A-S  
6F – Robert N,  
Eleanor R & Ella T  
6G – Jaden S

#### LINAKER SUPER PUPIL OF THE WEEK

N – Jan T  
RF – Lucy J  
RG – Orry L  
1F – Scarlett MM  
1G – Meenal A  
2F – Aaron F  
2G – Isla J  
3F – Ella W  
3G – Beatrice  
4F – Wholeclass  
4G – Julie N  
5F – Ankush S  
5G – Hamdan R  
6F – Bradley A, Amelia  
W, Temirzhan Z, Oliwier  
K & Darcie W  
6G – Deon M

### Attendance

**MOMENTS  
MATTER,  
ATTENDANCE  
COUNTS.**

Linaker this  
week:

**93.75%**

Linaker Last  
week:

**94.02%**

National

Average

23/24:

**94.50%**

Well done to all this week's award winners!

## Sing for Sefton

Pupils from a number of Sefton schools came together at the Atkinson Theatre for the much-anticipated *Sing for Sefton 2025* event. After learning their songs over just two sessions with the amazing Ex-Cathedra team, the children performed with enthusiasm, confidence, and beautiful harmonies. Their behaviour and attitude throughout were outstanding; they were a credit to themselves and our school. A huge thank you to Miss E Lovegrove and Miss Critchlow for kindly volunteering their time to support us on the day.



## Acts of Kindness



Lilliana, one of our wonderful Year 4 children, cut her hair to donate to the Little Princess Trust Charity. We are overwhelmed by this display of kindness and think it really shows our #TeamLinaker ethos. Well done, Lilliana - we're so proud! #Empathy #MutualRespect



## Teddy Bear's Picnic

If you went down to Linaker on Monday, you'd have been sure of a big surprise! As our new Reception starters had their Teddy Bears' Picnic. Along with their grown-ups, they enjoyed showing their bears around their new classroom, sharing cakes and stories with friends and having a wonderful time in the afternoon sunshine. We cannot wait for this lovely lot to start with us in September and hope they all had a fabulous day today.



## It's Your Move – Year 6 Transition visit by Youth worker Tabz

# YEAR 6

On Tuesday morning, Tabz, Sefton Youth Worker visited Year 6 to talk about the making the move to High School, helped with messages from Year 7's and a most informative power point and video clips. The children were able to ask questions and identify worries and concerns – with the reassurance that their feelings were similar to many other Year 6's over the years. Tabz explained that he and his team can be found each week at one of the 5 High Schools within the areas and ready to help and iron out concerns of any kind – the children seemed delighted to hear this.

The feedback from the children was very positive.

Lexie said 'Tabz explained to us that all Year 6 pupils have very similar worries and he gave us advice on how to deal with situations. I feel more confident after his visit. Tabz also made us all laugh.'

Tomi had a similar experience, 'Tabz made me feel less nervous about moving to High School. I enjoyed his interactive lesson.'

## Transition Day – Thursday 26th June



Yesterday, all Year 6 pupils from Linaker visited their chosen High School and spent a day experiencing what it will be like in September – lessons included Science, Maths, Spanish, PE, Art and DT. This morning, through discussions with their friends, they shared their excitement of Year 7 life!

Rhea reported, 'When I first went into Christ the King, I was tense and nervous. By the end of the day, I felt more comfortable about moving to

High School.'

Olivia said 'I had a really great day at Meols Cop. I met my form tutor and new classmates. Now I am less worried about going to High School.'

## A Million Dreams at Churchtown

Fifteen talented children from our Choir and Young Voices groups in Years 3 to 5 had the wonderful opportunity to perform *A Million Dreams* at Churchtown Primary School, part of our Endeavour family of schools. The children sang beautifully and represented our school with excellent behaviour throughout the event. The song was recorded by our Endeavour Tech team and we can't wait to hear the final version!

A big thank you to Mrs Watkinson and the team at Churchtown for organising such a memorable experience!



## Year 6 Learn Survival Skills and Compassion Through Shelter Building Workshops

Recently, the year 6 pupils took part in a powerful and thought-provoking workshop delivered by the Rotary Club, focusing on shelter building and emergency preparedness in the face of natural disasters.

The hands-on experience began with a challenging scenario: the children imagined they had to leave their homes suddenly due to a natural disaster—such as a flood, earthquake or wildfire. Working in small groups, they were asked to create a survival list of just ten essential items they would need to take with them. This sparked thoughtful discussion and decision-making, helping pupils to consider what's truly important in an emergency.

The highlight of the day was the opportunity to build a real emergency shelter, based on those provided in ShelterBoxes—an innovative relief aid project supported by Rotary. The ShelterBox initiative delivers emergency shelters and essential tools to families who have lost their homes due to disaster or conflict. Children explored the contents of a ShelterBox, which can include a tent, cooking equipment, water purification tools, blankets, and even school supplies for children affected by crisis.

The learning objectives of the session were deeply embedded throughout the day. Pupils gained a strong understanding of why people may need to leave their homes suddenly and unexpectedly and began to empathise with the challenges and fears faced by families in crisis. Through both practical tasks and meaningful reflection, Year 6 developed a greater global awareness and a sense of compassion.

We are incredibly grateful to the Rotary for bringing this important learning experience to Linaker. The ShelterBox workshop not only linked to global citizenship and resilience, but also offered a real-world context that brought empathy and teamwork to the forefront of our pupils' learning.



## Attendance Award Winners!



Well done to our attendance competition winners!

**Phase 1: Reception - Class F**

**Phase 2: Year 3 – Class F**

**Phase 3: Year 5 – Class G**

We hope all the class winners enjoyed their 'golden time' celebration!

This challenge was a real team effort and it was great to see so many of our groups rise to the challenge of being in everyday on time! After a democratic vote, 5G pupils chose to watch Minecraft with a tasty treat and to make bracelets! A well-deserved reward.



## Absence Procedures

### Linaker Primary School Absence Response Flowchart



Daily tasks:

First day response to the Local Authority  
Pastoral team to triage home visits/plan individual response  
Notify social workers of absence for allocated pupils

**Day 1**

Push notification at 9.30am  
Phone call for VP/PA and all unexplained absences (followed by visit if no response)

Good morning. Your child has been given an unauthorised absence. Please contact school immediately to inform us why your child is not in school. It is school's responsibility to account for every child every day, so failure to do so is a safeguarding concern and a home visit from the pastoral team, or the attendance & welfare service may be undertaken. Thank you.

**Day 2**

Push notification at 9.30am  
Phone call for VP/PA (followed by visit if no response)

Good morning, it is Mrs Dicker from Linaker Primary School. Just checking that everything is ok as your child has been marked as absent again today. Please call school on 01704 532343.

**Day 3**

Push notification at 9.30am  
Follow with call if no response by 10am, Follow with a visit if no response.

Hello, we have been trying to contact you about your child's absence this week. Please call school on 01704 532343 to have a chat with us by 10am. Thank you, the attendance team at Linaker Primary School.

**Day 4**

Phone call followed by urgent response push notification and home visit

We have not heard from you about your child for 5 days. The situation is now extremely urgent and a home visit/welfare check will be undertaken. Please call us on 01704 532343 urgently. Thank you, Linaker Primary School.

**Day 5**

Phone call followed by referral to external agencies.

Failure to contact us by 10.30am will result in contact being made to external services as this is a safeguarding issue.

**From day 1, all contacts will be called if primary numbers are not answered.  
All unexplained absence will result in a home visit.**

## Linaker Primary School is Moving to Arbor Parent Portal and Parent App



We are excited to announce that we have moved our MIS (Management Information Systems) to Arbor and we are preparing to move parents over to the Arbor ParentApp at the end of academic year in reparation from next year.

Adopting Arbor will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently and bring all core school data and workflows into one system. It will eventually mean that there will be one platform for school communication and school payments (replacing our current use of School Spider Parent App and School Money). We are

really looking forward to getting started with Arbor and invite all our parents/carers to familiarise themselves using the link below: [Getting started - Log into the Parent Portal and the Parent App](#)

Arbor also offers access to many training resources which are completely free for you to make the most of! These can all be found [here](#). **We will send further communication on the Arbor Parent App on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June.** Please look out for this email and check it does not go into junk! Once you receive the email you will be able to register your child when prompted. In the short term, we will be continuing to use School Spider Parent App and School Money so there will be no issues with school communications or school payments.

## Engagement Survey



Endeavour Learning Trust is, once again, conducting its annual Community Engagement Survey. The purpose of the survey is to get feedback from parents and carers on the aspects of our work that are going well, and any opportunities we have to improve further. All parents & carers responding to the survey will have the opportunity to provide an email address to be entered into a draw for a £100 Amazon voucher. Alternatively, you can choose to answer the survey anonymously if you prefer. **The link to the survey is <https://forms.office.com/e/ptdhnPTmPA>.**

Please take the time to complete the survey (which should take a maximum of 5 minutes). We are keen get as many responses as possible so that we gain the broadest possible range of views. The feedback that we received from parents and carers last year was invaluable. **The survey will close at 4.00pm on Tuesday 8th July 2025. Thank you in advance for your support.**

## Friends of Linaker

Friends of Linaker will be continuing to sell ice lollies each Friday at the end of school, on the main playground. Thank you, Friends of Linaker, for your amazing fundraising efforts, we really appreciate all you do for our school!

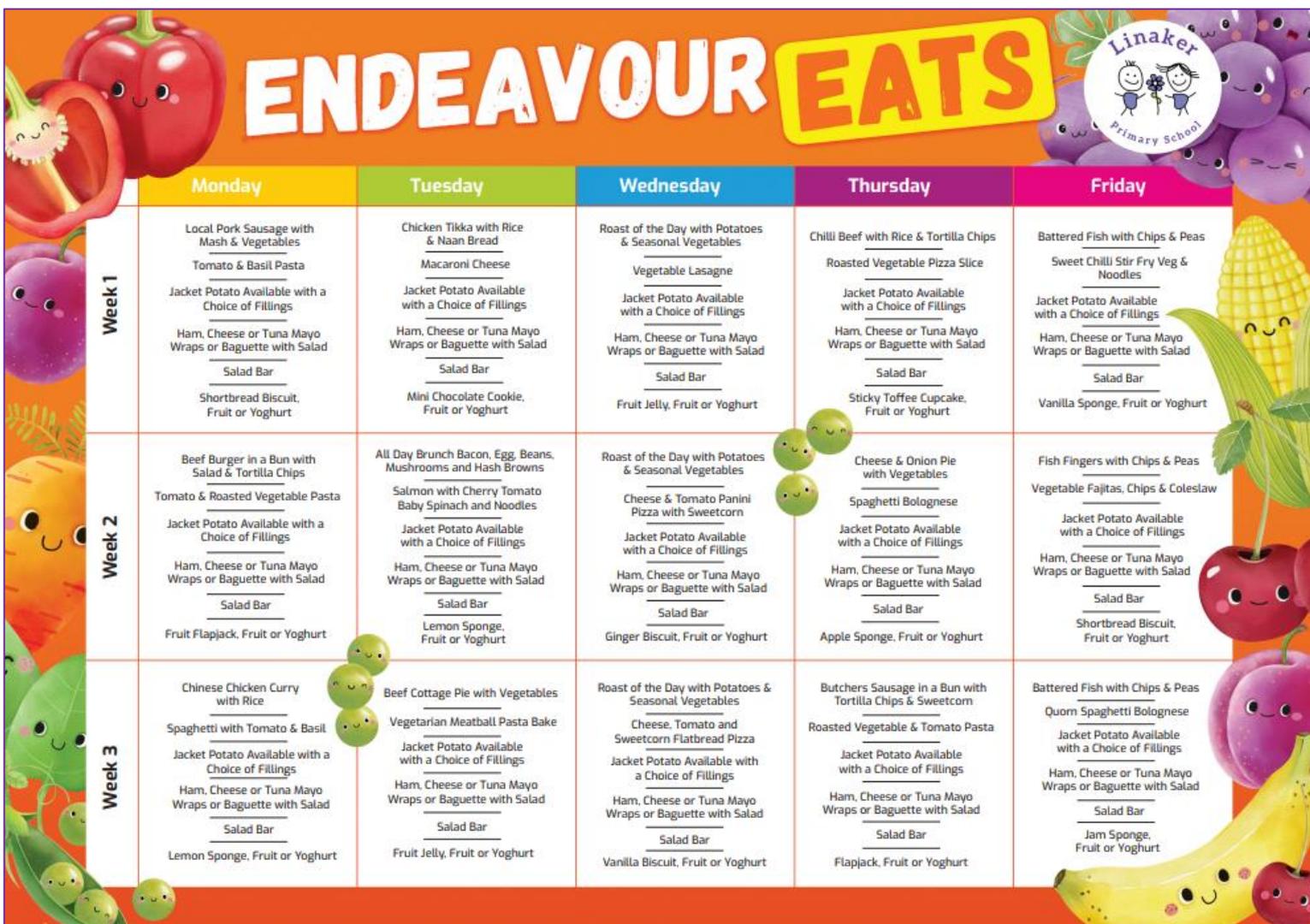


## Uniform Sales

Uniform can be purchased via school money or you can pay in school office via card.

- Nursery crew neck sweatshirt £8.05
- Sweatshirt £8.05 in school (£12 at Whittakers)
- Cardigan £9.00 in school (£13.00 at Whittakers)
- Tartan Pinafore £16.00 in school (£16.50 at Whittakers)
- White polo with logo £6:10 (£8.50 at Whittakers)
- Tartan Skirt £10 in school (£12.00 at Whittakers)
- Hi viz small book bag with logo £5.60
- Document case with logo £9.20
- PE shorts £4.55
- PE t-shirt £5.75
- Swimming Cap £1.50

## Endeavour Eats



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Local Pork Sausage with Mash & Vegetables Tomato & Basil Pasta Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Shortbread Biscuit, Fruit or Yoghurt	Chicken Tikka with Rice & Naan Bread Macaroni Cheese Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Mini Chocolate Cookie, Fruit or Yoghurt	Roast of the Day with Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables Vegetable Lasagne Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Fruit Jelly, Fruit or Yoghurt	Chilli Beef with Rice & Tortilla Chips Roasted Vegetable Pizza Slice Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Sticky Toffee Cupcake, Fruit or Yoghurt	Battered Fish with Chips & Peas Sweet Chilli Stir Fry Veg & Noodles Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Vanilla Sponge, Fruit or Yoghurt
Week 2	Beef Burger in a Bun with Salad & Tortilla Chips Tomato & Roasted Vegetable Pasta Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Fruit Flapjack, Fruit or Yoghurt	All Day Brunch Bacon, Egg, Beans, Mushrooms and Hash Browns Salmon with Cherry Tomato Baby Spinach and Noodles Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Lemon Sponge, Fruit or Yoghurt	Roast of the Day with Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables Cheese & Tomato Panini Pizza with Sweetcorn Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Ginger Biscuit, Fruit or Yoghurt	Cheese & Onion Pie with Vegetables Spaghetti Bolognese Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Apple Sponge, Fruit or Yoghurt	Fish Fingers with Chips & Peas Vegetable Fajitas, Chips & Coleslaw Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Shortbread Biscuit, Fruit or Yoghurt
Week 3	Chinese Chicken Curry with Rice Spaghetti with Tomato & Basil Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Lemon Sponge, Fruit or Yoghurt	Beef Cottage Pie with Vegetables Vegetarian Meatball Pasta Bake Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Fruit Jelly, Fruit or Yoghurt	Roast of the Day with Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables Cheese, Tomato and Sweetcorn Flatbread Pizza Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Vanilla Biscuit, Fruit or Yoghurt	Butchers Sausage in a Bun with Tortilla Chips & Sweetcorn Roasted Vegetable & Tomato Pasta Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Flapjack, Fruit or Yoghurt	Battered Fish with Chips & Peas Quorn Spaghetti Bolognese Jacket Potato Available with a Choice of Fillings Ham, Cheese or Tuna Mayo Wraps or Baguette with Salad Salad Bar Jam Sponge, Fruit or Yoghurt

## Community Information and Family Support

**Food Pantry NOW RE-OPEN** - Thursday mornings between 9-9.30am. We are glad to support our families with basic food and hygiene products with the MCKS charity. Anyone is welcome, just bring a bag! Entry is via the gate on Linaker Street. If you have any questions, or cannot make that day/time, let us know. You can speak to Vanessa in the SNUG or call the office. Thank you!



### Your Local Family Wellbeing Centres

Family is the most important influence on a child's life, from the moment they are born until they reach adulthood and beyond. Family Wellbeing Centres provide joined up support for children and young people aged 0-19 years to make family life that little bit easier. Links to the timetables at each centre are below:

[Linaker Family Wellbeing Centre](#)

[Talbot Street Family Wellbeing Centre](#)

Food cupboard basics

Toiletries and hygiene products

Free support for Linaker families

A friendly welcome



### Linaker Food Pantry

We are open every  
Thursday  
9 - 9.30 am

**PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BAGS**

Come in through the double gates on Linaker Street. If you'd like to know more, feel free to give the school office a call or drop by the SNUG to have a chat with Vanessa.



*Linaker Family Wellbeing Centre*

## Tea & Toast

Pop by and join us after the school run for some toast and a cuppa!

These are informal sessions held in a friendly and relaxed space to chat, meet new people and find out what else is available locally; whilst the little ones play and explore



**Every Thursday**  
**9.15am - 10.15am**  
**Linaker Family Wellbeing Centre**



**Why not check out our social media pages and follow us on Facebook and Instagram!**



[Linaker Primary School | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LinakerPrimarySchool)



[Linaker Primary School \(@linakerprimary\)](https://www.instagram.com/LinakerPrimarySchool)

Key Dates for the Half-Term: July 2025	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Residential - Robinwood
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 5 Literacy Kicks Session
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 5 Taster Day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day (Years 5 & 6 and Years 1 and 2)
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 3 Yoga Sessions
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day (Years 3 & 4)
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers Celebration Assembly @ Salvation Army 12:45pm
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Leavers' Disco @ Linaker Primary School 5:00pm-7:00pm
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	School Closes for the Summer Holidays at 1:30pm

**Have a great weekend and we shall see you on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June!**

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about NINTENDO SWITCH 2

Nintendo launched its Switch 2 games console in early June 2025 – its first new console in eight years. While it builds on the original's success by remaining compatible with certain existing games, it also adds powerful hardware and new features like GameChat and a USB-C camera. As more children look to upgrade, it's important to understand how this new console might affect their play and safety.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### EASIER TO ACCESS MATURE CONTENT

18  
CENSORED

Despite Nintendo's reputation for family-friendly titles, mature games like *Cyberpunk 2077* and *Hitman* have been released onto the platform. With the Switch 2's improved performance, developers will be able to port even more mature-rated games. These may appeal to children due to their popularity, but they contain content that is highly unsuitable for young audiences.

### IN-APP & GAME STORE PURCHASES

The Nintendo eShop enables purchases with just a few taps. If payment details are saved and PIN protection is disabled, children may unknowingly make costly purchases – including game add-ons, cosmetic items or entire new releases – without parental approval.

### UNRESTRICTED ONLINE PLAY IN SOME GAMES

While GameChat is one feature, Switch 2 also connects to the broader Nintendo Switch Online service. Many free-to-play titles like *Fortnite* or *Splatoon 4* allow voice or text chat with strangers unless chat settings are adjusted, meaning children could encounter inappropriate language or unwanted contact.

### GAMECHAT & REAL-TIME VOICE COMMUNICATION

GameChat enables live chatting with up to 12 people, even across different games, with optional video and screen-sharing. Though children under 16 are restricted to chatting only with approved friends, the sheer interactivity could raise privacy concerns or create pressure to remain online longer.

### CAMERA COMPATIBILITY & PRIVACY CONCERNS

The optional USB-C camera supports video calling and facial overlays in games; however, this also raises the risk of cyberbullying or the unwanted sharing of personal images. The camera can be disabled, removed or covered, and parental controls are essential to manage how and when it is used.

### POWERFUL PULL OF FAMILIAR CHARACTERS

Nintendo's mascot, Mario – along with Pikachu, Donkey Kong and others – remains hugely appealing to younger audiences, especially after the success of the recent film, *The Super Mario Bros. Movie* (2023). These beloved icons are central to Nintendo's branding and often feature in merchandising, adverts and in-game promotions, creating strong emotional attachments in children and a sense of urgency to keep up with their peers.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHECK RATINGS & USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Every Switch and Switch 2 game comes with a PEGI age rating. Before buying one, ensure the content matches your child's age. Use the Nintendo Parental Controls app to monitor gameplay, set screen-time limits and manage friend requests.

### REVIEW FRIEND LISTS AND CHAT PERMISSIONS

Child profiles are restricted to chatting with approved friends only, but it's good practice to regularly check their friend list and communication settings. Use the Parental Controls app to switch off voice or video chat if necessary.

### REMOVE OR RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Avoid accidental spending by unlinking credit cards from the device. Instead, consider adding funds via prepaid eShop cards or requiring a PIN for purchases. Some banking apps can also be set to approve transactions manually.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Teach children how to block, report and capture any behaviour or content that makes them uncomfortable. The console's built-in tools allow them to create screenshots and video clips, which can aid in reporting any issues. Keeping an open dialogue helps children feel supported and safe.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Games Editor of Daily Star and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College