



Create, Adapt and Learn Together  
Manchester Road Primary Academy

## NEWSLETTER 26<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY

### ATTENDANCE 22/01/24 – 26/01/24

CLASS	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	LATES
Bumblebee	89.9%	2
Clover bee	86.8%	2
Honeybee	93.6%	12
1A	94%	5
1B	96.5%	4
2A	95.5%	3
2B	89.8%	1
3A	94%	12
3B	93.6%	10
4A	93.8%	10
4B	92%	3
5A	94.3%	3
5B	97.6%	5
6A	96.4%	6
6B	92.6%	11

97% and above Excellent
95% to 96% Attendance is slipping and will be closely monitored
95% or below Poor (high numbers of children are persistently absent)

### THE SCHOOL DAY

8.35 – 8.50am – Arrive on the school playground  
8.40am – Pupils enter school  
8.55am – Gates shut & registration begins  
11.45am – KS1 Lunch  
11.50am – KS2 Lunch  
12.35pm – Afternoon session begins KS1  
1.05pm – Afternoon session begins KS2  
3.15/3.20pm – End

### LATENESS THIS WEEK

Day	Lates
Monday	21
Tuesday	26
Wednesday	16
Thursday	14
Friday	12
Total Lates This Week	89

Lateness has a massive impact on children's learning. Not only on the children that are late, but also on the children in the classes being disrupted. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time each day.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	3B going to The Lowry
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	SENDSCO Surgery
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Year 6 Safe Squad
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 3 Droylsden Walk

### CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Parents are welcome to come and watch their child's assembly on the following dates.

Class	Date	Time
Bumblebee Mrs Frost	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	9am
5B Mrs Williams-Moore	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9am
6A Miss Andrew	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	9am

**Please note: these dates could potentially change. If they do, we will inform you.**

# STAR OF THE WEEK

CLASS	STAR
BUMBLE BEE	Bethel for settling into her new school and for some super maths.
1A	Alfie for showing resilience and determination in all that he does.
1B	Jair for showing reciprocity during ICV and helping his friends. Well done!
2A	Sophia for resilience in solving column subtraction with exchanging.
2B	Maryam for using all learning powers and for producing some excellent maths!
3B	Pharrell for settling into MRPA really well and for being supportive towards peers within Math lessons.
5A	Hallee for being a resilient and conscientious learner, who is always willing to help anyone.
6A	Macie-Ann for trying your best in all lessons and for being such a thoughtful, kind and helpful member of our class!
6B	Abu for improved concentration and good writing in English.
THE HIVE	Mayra for fantastic, descriptive writing.

## SENDCO SURGERY

The next drop in for parents/carers is 8<sup>th</sup> February. Thanks again to all who attended the last drop in which was hugely popular! Remember I am available in person or by telephone.

Several parents have also been keen to make links with parents or carers whose child may have SEND and who may be on a neurodevelopmental assessment pathway such as ADHD or ASC. We are keen to support parents and carers and have previously offered inclusion coffee mornings for parents and carers to get together.

A club has been set up on MCAS if you would like to secure a place.



**Home-Start - support for parents with under-5s, new & expectant parents**

Everyone needs a little help sometimes, and if you're feeling like life with little ones can be a bit challenging, Home-Start can help.

We offer befriending support for parents with children under 5, and our service is based on non-judgemental peer support. Parenting can be tough and there are lots of things that can make it even more challenging.

If you're

- Feeling down after having your baby
- Feeling anxious or overwhelmed
- Feeling lonely or don't have local family or friends for support
- Worried about your finances, health issues or difficult circumstances...

... or just want to offload, just get in touch! We offer support groups if you'd like to meet other new parents, as well as one-to-one support in your own home.

To talk to us about support for yourself or someone else in Bolton, Oldham, Stockport or Tameside, get in touch:

home-starthost.org.uk  
 info@homestarhost.org.uk  
 0161 344 0669 or 01204 216 537



## Anxiety, Anger, Neurodiversity What is ACT?



Acceptance & Commitment Therapy (ACT)  
 This powerful therapeutic approach can be used to support anxiety, anger and neurodiversity

Two-hour online talk **TUESDAY 23rd JAN**

Book Online £24  
[facefamilyadvice.co.uk](http://facefamilyadvice.co.uk)

All national for the safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to help an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many platforms, which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

# SALE What Parents & Carers Need to Know about STEAM

Steam is a computer gaming digital distribution platform and storefront. It is the biggest platform for desktop- or laptop-based gaming, with a range of more than 30,000 games available. The platform has become a lively social environment for many gamers, and allows people to trade, sell and buy gaming items for real money. Valve, the developers behind Steam, have also released different hardware that works with the platform, including the Steam Deck – a hand-held console that lets users play their favourite games while away from their computer.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### UNSUITABLE GAMES

Among the 30,000+ games on the platform, there are many that aren't appropriate for children. Individuals can view and download games featuring adult content if they verify their age – but, of course, it's easy to enter a false date of birth online. This can lead to children and young people finding games that they shouldn't have access to: featuring violence or profanity, for example.

### SPENDING SPREES

Steam hosts regular sales – including some where game prices are reduced by up to 90%. Some sales promotions also include a mini-game or event which encourages users to spend more money. The sales can be an excellent time for young gamers to purchase the titles they've been wanting, but the attractive discounts can also promote impulse buys driven by the fear of missing out.

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Steam isn't a social media site, but it certainly shares some of their elements. Users can add other people as 'friends', for example (whether they know them in real life or not), and then communicate privately with them using text or voice chat. The platform also hosts public discussions and groups for socialising. Steam users can also leave comments on the profiles of other players.

### POTENTIAL SCAMS

Sadly, Steam's immense popularity has made it a lucrative destination for internet scammers. The most common ruse is phishing: scammers send links to other users, aiming to trick them into entering their login details – which are then stolen. Once in control of the account, the scammer sends messages to everyone on the victim's friend's list, in an attempt to hijack their accounts too.

### SHADY TRADERS

The Steam Community Market is a built-in trading area where players can trade resources for their games on the platform. Gamers can exchange items, or buy and sell them using real-world currency. It's possible for unwary users to be scammed through bad trade deals, and Steam doesn't usually get involved when this happens. There are also third-party trading websites, which can be risky to use.

### SPARSE AGE RATINGS

Steam is a digital distribution platform for games of all kinds, including ones not rated by regulatory bodies. Sorting a game rated takes a long time, and can be expensive, so developers only tend to follow that process when releasing a title that will be physically sold in shops. Most games on Steam, therefore, don't have an advisory age rating on the store page.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENABLE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Steam does have some limited parental controls that can restrict exactly what games someone's account can view and access. This can be set up by navigating to the 'Family' tab in 'Settings', then selecting 'Manage Family View'. The platform then allows parents and carers to share a Steam account with their child and limit them to age-appropriate games.

### USE GIFT CARDS

Having payment methods (like card details or PayPal) linked to a Steam account makes it very easy for a child to purchase new games or spend money on items in the marketplace. An excellent and safe alternative would be to buy a Steam gift card and let your child make their purchases with that instead – putting a manageable cap on how much they can spend on the platform.

### APPLY STEAM GUARD

Steam Guard is an optional additional layer of security that protects accounts. Enabling it ensures that anyone attempting to log in to that account also needs to provide authentication via their phone or email. The computer that your child uses Steam on can be authorised to prevent having to provide separate authentication for each login.

### SHARE A LIBRARY

Using Family Library Sharing lets everyone at home share games across accounts (while still keeping their accounts separate). The entire game library from each account is shared with the other account holders – a great way to avoid having to purchase a different copy of the game for each of your children. However, if two users want to play the same game separately, you would need to buy it twice.

### SAFE MODDING

Modifying a game to customise it or to introduce new content – known as 'modding' – is common on Steam. There's nothing inherently bad about modding, but installing the wrong mods can be disastrous: they can stop games from working properly, or at all. Steam's mods are unlikely to contain viruses or malware, but it's still possible – so ensure your child reads the mod's reviews first to avoid anything dangerous.

## Meet Our Expert

Clare Codrill (a.k.a. Unswell) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the creator of two award-winning podcasts currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

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