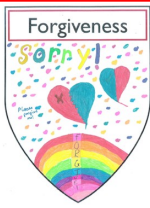


Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'



Spring Newsletter: 12th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers, Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a great start to the new year. Everything has started back really well at school and the children seem happy and settled.

You may have seen that the weather forecast is predicting very cold weather next week - can you please help by sending children with warm coats and hats/gloves scarves if they have them. We will monitor the temperatures and bring them in at playtimes if it is too cold but it is nice for them to get outside if they can and are wrapped up warm enough.

Thank you for your support with this.
Have a lovely weekend and see you on Monday.
From Ellie Game

Value of the half term...

Commitment

This week we introduced our new value and explored what it might mean. It was also the Christian celebration of Epiphany on the 6th January so we linked the commitment of the wise men to our new value. Epiphany is a day where we remember when the three wise men visited Jesus.

**"We saw his star in the east
and have come to worship him."**

Matthew 2:2

New Caterers!

The new provision has gone off to a brilliant start with lots of positive feedback from children and parents.

I've been delighted with the new salad bar and the new hydration station which is water flavoured with fruit for the children to help themselves to. I have tried the roast dinner and chicken wraps - both of which were delicious and full of flavor.

I can't wait for next week!



Reception places

The closing date for applications for Reception September 2024 is approaching (15th January 24) there are still a significant number of parents across the borough who have not yet applied for a primary school. The Admissions Service have sent reminder letters but they have asked that we remind all families that applications need to be made by 15th January 2024, any received after this date will be treated as a late application. If there are any parents who are struggling to complete an application via the online system a paper form can be emailed if you get in touch with admissions.

A little reminder...

Please remember we are a nut free school and children are not able to bring anything containing nuts to school. Many thanks for your support with this.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At my.account.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVS

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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