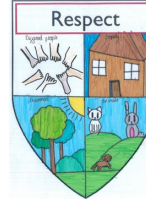


Oldswinford Cof E Primary School

'Believe, achieve and shine brighter together'



Autumn Newsletter: 15th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a mixed week it has been for the weather! One day the sun is shining and the next we've all got our umbrellas up! It certainly feels like Autumn is on the way!

Despite the weather it's been a great week in school... our new reception children have stayed for lunch (they have been brilliant!), we had our first meeting with worship group and forest school has started for 1C and Year 5. I enjoyed teaching 5F for Science this week - we were learning about gravity.

We had some really interesting conversations about how and why gravity is different on Earth to the moon. Well done 5F!

Let hope we get some dry days this weekend to enjoy! See you all on Monday.

Best wishes, Ellie Game

Value of the half term...

Responsibility

This week we discussed how it can feel really great when we are responsible and things go well but that it can be hard when things don't go the way we want. We talked about what we have to do when this happens: take responsibility for our actions, say sorry, try to put it right. The children gave some brilliant answers.

We used this quote from the Bible to help us know that God is with us and will help us when things are difficult.

'Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified or afraid, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you' Deuteronomy 31:6

A little reminder....

- Please can we remind you to name all of your child's belongings. We have HUGE amount of lost property in school without names so we are unable to reunite it with its owner.
All the things that have been left from last year have been added to our pre-loved uniform rail - don't forget to come have a look if you need something, it's all of really good quality and it's great for the environment to re-use clothes.
- It has been lovely to see children wearing their own clothes on their birthday - don't forget to do this if your child wants to. If their birthday falls on a weekend or a holiday they can wear their own clothes on the Friday before of the Monday after.

Dates

Next week we are hoping to send out a year of dates which will include all of our school events for the year. We are still waiting for confirmation for a few events but as soon as we have these, we will send it out.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

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CENSORED

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



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We are growing!

Sessions for girls to come and
enjoy football in a safe and fun
environment

Thursday Evenings

6-7pm

@Ridge Arena

8 week block

Starting 7th September

£3 p/s

all welcome

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AGES 5 - 11



Home Pitches:

5v5 7v7 9v9 11v11

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