



# SPARKLE NEWS

Spring Term 2: 2024

Friday 1st March 2024

## Dear Parents/Carers,

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## Coming Up:

Parent's evenings w/c 18th March .  
Bookings are open—see letter posted previously on dojo

Happy St. David's day! After a very wet February we are now dreaming of warmer and drier Spring days!

The children in years 1-6 really enjoyed their visits to see the Gaia and we thank the Abbey for hosting us so well. We also thank the Friends of John Moore for paying for the cost of transport for these trips. Year 5 enjoyed a full day trip incorporating work with the John Moore Museum, looking at the history of the floods and a visit to the Abbey.

Mini Police Mini police will be back on parking patrol next week, helping to keep our school area safe.

Next Term Summer Term is already looking busy. We will be having KS2 productions, class assemblies and sport's day. We are finalising dates at the moment and we will publish these in the next Sparkle News so that you have plenty of time to plan your diaries.



## *A celebration of some of the 'sparkling' moments from this term*

In partnership with Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum (GPCF), Gloucestershire County Council and the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group, Gloucestershire Local Authority coproduce a newsletter for parents and carers every two months. Please follow the link to take a look.

[Families in partnership newsletter February 2024 | Gloucestershire County Council](#)

**Parental warning:** A parent has brought to our attention the programme (on youtube) **Rainbow Friends** which appears to be based on a Roblox game. We would like to highlight to others, this programme which appears to be aimed at children, does not have child friendly content. There are further details to be found at:

[Is Roblox's 'Rainbow Friends' Safe for Kids? \(smartparenting.com.ph\)](https://www.smartparenting.com.ph/roblox-rainbow-friends-safe-for-kids/)

Teacher Thumbby states, *“given the history of [these characters] and knowing that it is a part of a game with violent themes inappropriate for very young children, then it would be more prudent to [introduce] more child-friendly, age appropriate options for the children to watch.”*

If you come across other sites, programs or games which you feel other parents would like to be warned against, please let me know and I will include them in future newsletters.

# 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.



## 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 Lipscombe 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.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday





The Billy Goats  
First  
Next  
Finally

How can we help the troll?  
Tell the goats to...  
Share the bridge...  
a different...  
a more gra...

The troll wanted to eat them...  
The troll wouldn't be able to sleep and he had a head ache...  
The troll wanted to eat the...

Long beards  
strong hooves  
eat lush green grass  
sometimes eat clothes off a washing line

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Years 3 and 4 enjoyed listening to Severn Trent in their assembly on water and waste!

These are some facts that they found out:  
It takes 24 hours to clean sewage

They clean 88 bathtubs of sewage every second!

Lots of different things are found in sewage, such as false teeth, mobile phones and toys!

Sand and grit is filtered out of the water and used to fix roads.

Poo turns to brown liquid called sludge and is used as fertiliser.

Air is pumped into the water to kill harmful bacteria.

Then clean water is called effluent and returns back to the rivers.



Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	World Book Day
w/c 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	STEM week
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Parent's evening 3.30-6.30pm
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Parent's evening 3.30-6.30pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2024	End of term. School finishes at normal time.
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Start of the summer term