

Meadowhead Community Junior School Newsletter



Spring Term: Newsletter 6

Welcome Back!

I would like to say a very big welcome back to all our children and their families. You may have noticed that school now has a new and updated website so please do go and have a look! If you have any comments on our new design, please feel free to share them with us.

Toy and Book Sale in School

On Tuesday, 12th March, the School Council will be holding a used toy and book sale in school. They are asking for any donations of toys and books in good condition to be brought into school between now and the 12th. All money raised will go towards purchasing new wet play equipment for each classroom. Many thanks for your support.

World Book Day

On Thursday, 7th March, we will be celebrating World Book Day in school. As usual, we will be asking the children to come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We are however asking that parents, carers and wider family members try to make a costume out of existing clothes and accessories, rather than going to a supermarket and spending lots of money on an expensive outfit. We will also be holding a Stay and Read event in school on that day with the theme of 'Journeys' – this is linked to the work the children will be doing on the day so watch this space for further details!

Safeguarding

We have again had a number of incidents of children falling out and/or threatening each other online, using social media platforms such as Snapchat. Some of the conversations that have taken have been extremely serious and have had a direct impact on the mental health and wellbeing of the children on the receiving end of the abuse. Please could I ask that all parents and carers monitor their child's online activity carefully. The children will be doing some direct online safety work in school, however, if you have any concerns regarding your child's online activity, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Blackledge, who is our Online Safeguarding Lead.

Mrs Chadwick and Mr Morris

It is with great sadness that we will say a fond farewell to Mr Morris next Thursday, 29th February. Mr Morris has been a wonderful support to both the school and myself and we will miss him greatly, however, the time has come for him to return to his school. We will still see Mr Morris from time-to-time in school but I would like to take this opportunity to thank him personally for all the excellent work he has done for school in his short time with us.

We will also be welcoming Mrs Chadwick back to work on Monday on a phased return to school. I have been asked to remain as Acting Headteacher until Easter whilst Mrs Chadwick settles back into school and finds her feet. Therefore, until Easter, I will remain the point of contact for parents in school, after which, Mrs Chadwick will take over again as Headteacher and will be available to speak to parents and carers in her usual capacity. I would like to extend my personal gratitude to all the members of the Meadowhead community who have supported me over the past six months – it has been an absolute privilege to serve this wonderful community and I look forward to continuing to drive school forward in the future.

Ms R Blackledge (Acting Headteacher)

Class Attendance for this week

Congratulations this week to class 6L!

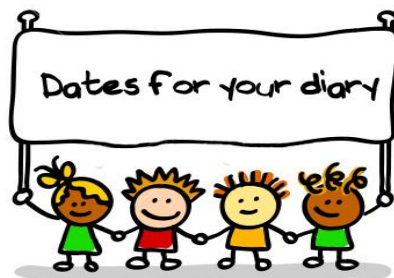
Green: 97%+

Amber: 95 – 97%

Red: Below 95%

3M	3FP	4B	4CW	5A	5C	6L	6LV
89.5%	94.8%	80.2%	88.5%	94.4%	92.2%	95%	89.8%

Our whole school, class and individual attendance target is 95%



Friday, 1st March – 6L class assembly

Thursday, 7th March – World Book Day

Thursday, 7th March – Stay and Read event in school

Monday, 18th March – Year 5 trip to France

Thursday, 28th March – break up for the Easter holidays

Welcome to your weekly bitesize information sheet on online safety – this week's theme is Smartphone Safety!

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

18
CENSORED

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.





School Council Toy and Book Sale



Tuesday 12th March

**All money raised will be spent
on new games for wet
playtimes.**

**Please bring in
donations to school
for us to sell and
hand to your school
councillor.**

