

Meadowhead Community Junior School Newsletter



Summer Term: Newsletter 3

Mini Marathon

Despite the very overcast weather today, our children completed the mini marathon with their classes. I saw lots of determination and a good will to give it their very best. Well done everyone! We will present prizes next Friday. Please look on our website for photographs of the event. Please could children now collect their sponsor money and bring it into school?

Uniform

I repeat my request that parents ensure children come to school in black school shoes. Trainers should not be worn. If children wish to change into trainers when playing outside they should bring them in a bag to school. I try my best to ensure our school is affordable and easy to purchase but I would very much appreciate parents' co-operation with this matter.

Jewellery

Please do not send your children to school wearing earrings. This is for health and safety reasons and is part of our Jewellery Policy. Please use the summer holidays as the best time for having ears pierced. Thank you for your support with this.

Year 4 Multiplication Tests

All children in Year 4 are expected to know all the x tables, up to the 12x table. In June all Year 4 children in schools across the country will sit an online test of this knowledge. The children have to recall these facts accurately and also quickly. Please give your child lots of support in preparation for the test by practising every day with them. Thank you.

Reading

We want all our pupils to become confident, fluent readers. As well as this we want children to develop a love for reading, which will follow them into their futures.

Please support your children by encouraging them to read each night at home. Listen to your child read aloud and talk about what they have read. Children will bring a book home and once it is finished the children will come to school and take an online quiz. This shows how much they have understood whilst reading.

If any parents wish to volunteer to come to school and listen to children read, please contact Ms Blackledge.

Allison Chadwick
Headteacher

Class Attendance for this week

Congratulations this week to class 3FP

Green: 97%+

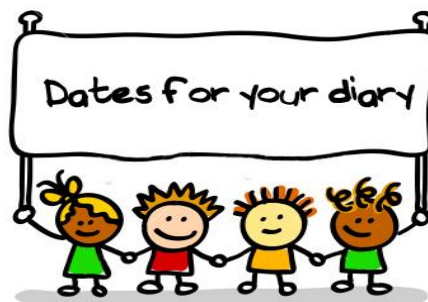
Amber: 95 – 97%

Red: Below 95%

3M	3FP	4B	4CW	5A	5C	6L	6LV
90.2%	94.2%	88.5%	88.5%	88.2%	88.3%	91.4%	92.3%

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

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**



Monday 6th May

Monday 13th May – Friday 17th May

Friday 24th May

Bank Holiday (school closed)

SATs for Year 6

End of term

Wake-Up Wednesdays

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TOWNSHIP



(on the App Store; 'Everyone' on Google Play)

Despite launching in 2011, Township remains popular with children and adults alike. A city-building game with farming elements, it tasks players with developing their settlement and unlocking new features along the way. Aimed at the more casual gamer, it's mostly child friendly – but there are still some related risks to be mindful of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISLEADING PUBLICITY

Township's developers have previously faced criticism for advertising the game on social media by using clips of gameplay which can't actually be found in the final product. This may well lead to a child or young person downloading the game with severely misplaced expectations of what they'll be playing.

IN-GAME ADVERTS

While it's common for mobile games to feature in-game advertisements for other products and services, Township employs a particularly egregious strategy seen in several similar products. It offers users in-game currency in exchange for watching such adverts, which can obviously encourage young people to willingly expose themselves to marketing material.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game's core concept of building up a settlement to increase its population and income can feel slow paced at first – and players are incentivised to spend real-world money to move things along more quickly. That can mean handing over anything from £1.99 to £19.99 for these in-game boosts: amounts that can rapidly add up to a considerable sum if left unchecked.

TIME-CONSUMING GAMEPLAY

Township's gameplay loop of acquiring resources and reinvesting them into your little community is a fun one – but this rewarding sense of making progress can lead to players spending far more hours staring at the screen than they realise. There are also special in-game events which run for a limited time, designed to entice players into even longer gaming sessions.

ONLINE MULTIPLAYER MODE

After reaching level 19, players in Township can form a 'co-op' and unlock the option to exchange goods with up to 30 other users. Online multiplayer modes are nothing new, of course – but neither are the potential risks they pose to children and young people. Chances are, youngsters will be interacting with complete (and possibly much older) strangers within the game environment.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS THE GAME IN ADVANCE

While older children may notice and understand that Township might be marketed in a potentially misleading way, it could be worth explaining to prospective younger players how and why the game differs from what's been advertised. This will help them to manage their expectations and avoid any possible disappointment if they do decide to download and play it.

MONITOR SPENDING AND SCREEN TIME

More modestly priced in-app bundles can be a welcome treat for a child wanting to speed up their progress in Township, but it's wise not to leave a linked payment method active in case a youngster gets carried away. Likewise, to prevent Township from causing an increase in screen time, parental controls on most devices allow limits to be placed on how long a game can be played each day.

BE WARY OF EXTERNAL SITES

Township's makers state that all in-game ads are age-appropriate: children won't be shown adverts recommending more violent titles, for instance. Even so, clicking on these adverts can take players out of the game and onto external sites that have nothing to do with Township or its developers: this raises the risk of children encountering inappropriate content or being tempted by online purchases.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE STRANGERS

Township's online multiplayer mode (as with any game which includes that functionality), is an avenue through which a child could be contacted by people who they don't actually know. It's worth reminding young Township fans, therefore, not to give out any personal information to strangers online – whether that's within the game itself or in the social networks associated with it.