



School Newsletter



Viking Day

Year 5 Viking Day

The Year 5s had a great Viking Day recently. They spent the day having a taster of Viking life. They had the opportunity to create beeswax candles, amulets for good luck, elf stones, runes to help tell our fortunes and medicines to cure all sorts of illnesses. They acted out being warriors, shield-maidens, illuminators, weavers and made ink to scribe with. All-in-all an absolutely brilliant day.



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Reminders

A reminder that individual and family photographs will be taken on Monday 21st October.

Also, please take a look in the school lost property shed, as we're getting a rather large number of jumpers. To aid this, please remember to label all of your children's clothes.

Finally, if your child is in Reception and KS1, please don't send them into school on PE days with lace up shoes (unless they can tie them themselves). We are losing lots of PE activity time to teachers needing to tie many pairs of laces whilst helping others get changed. Velcro strap shoes are far easier for the children and maximise the children's activity time.

Bouncy Day

The younger children in the school had a fantastic time at Bouncy Day. Here are a few pictures of them enjoying the bouncy castle and slide during the afternoon. We raised a great amount of money for the Friends of Feoffment at the same time.



Smartphone Free Childhood

Thank you for all of the positive feedback and messages of support you gave me after the letter I sent out recently regarding smartphone use by children. If you would like to take the next step in committing to this, feel free to sign the parent pledge at

<https://parentpact.smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk>

Pupil Governor Post

Alongside our house captain's we have now appointed this year's Pupil Governor. This was voted for by the KS2 children. The winner was Henry Petchey, who replaces his brother in the role from last year. His deputy will be Constance Goodchild. They both delivered great speeches to the rest of the children, and will now be tasked with running the school council for the year ahead.

National Poetry Day

We had a lovely National Poetry Day last week, and some wonderful poetry was shared by some of the children during the Friday Awards Assembly. They were creative, imaginative and well-structured. They were also delivered with very clear voices from the children, demonstrating great oracy (which is a major focus for the school this year).

Friends of Feoffment News

The Friends have an upcoming meeting for planning future events, this meeting at the **Dog and Partridge at 7pm on the 15th October**. All are welcome, as the more members we have the more money we can raise for the children.

House Points Trophy

Congratulations the Sapphires house for winning the last two week's House point trophies.



Little Wandle & Early Reading Workshops

All parents and carers in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are welcome to attend a parent workshop about Little Wandle Phonics and Reading programme. Mrs Thompson will talk through the programme, how we teach phonics in school and how you can support your child at home with an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Both sessions will be the same. Please do come along!

Tuesday 15th October at 2:30pm or 6:00pm in the school hall.

Each session will be approx 40 mins. A PowerPoint and resources will be shared online afterwards for anyone unable to attend.

Parenting Support and SEND News

SENDIASS is an independent information about health services and provision in relation to SEND. They offer lots of support to parents and have information and training available for free. As well as their recorded sessions they are running the following course in October:

Understanding children and young people's behaviour as a communication need

Wed, October 23, 10:00am – 11:30am – Online

Online session for parents/carers where specialist teachers from the Speech, Language and Communication service will explore how to support the communication skills of children and young people, through our own responses, to better understand their behaviour. [Click here to register](#)

SEND booklists and recommendations

As well as topping our school library with books that explore a whole range of topics, Suffolk Libraries have compiled some fantastic book lists for children and grownups that are a great starting point for understanding and discussing ADHD, Autism and managing tantrums and meltdowns.

<https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/book-lists/adhd>

<https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/book-lists/autism>

<https://www.suffolklibraries.co.uk/book-lists/tantrums>





Contextual Safeguarding

Special Edition- World Mental Health Day



The
National
College

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about **IN-GAME CHAT**

Online gaming has become a significant part of children's entertainment, with millions of young players engaging in multiplayer games where chatting with friends or strangers is commonplace.

Gaming can have a good impact on mental health. It can help with things like:

- taking time out to relax and recharge
- having fun and chatting with friends
- learning new skills, like problem-solving or being a team player

While there are positives, online gaming chat also brings certain risks that could impact a child's mental health. Unregulated gaming chat environments can be breeding grounds for toxic behaviour, including bullying, inappropriate content, addiction and social isolation and pressure to perform.

Repeated exposure can lead to anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Parents should be aware of signs that their child's mental health may be affected by online gaming chat. Below are some tips and advice.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

This month update comes from The National College.



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