



## Ox Close Federation Newsletter Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 – Volume 10

### **Federation Closed – PD Day – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

Just a little reminder that Monday is a training day and so school will be closed. We hope that families have a great long weekend and we look forward to seeing you on Tuesday.

### **Children in Need – Food Bank Donations**

The donations we received last week were phenomenal and we received a lovely letter this week thanking you all for your generosity. Donations across the Federation equated to 279 kilograms of food which is 350 meals. AMAZING!

### **Christmas**

The preparations have started and will continue over the coming weeks. The run up to Christmas is always a busy period in a school but is a magical experience which children and staff all enjoy.

Here is our finalised calendar of Christmas performances, parties and the Christmas lunch day:

Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 2:30pm – Reception Performance
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Lunch
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 5pm - Year 3/4 Performance
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 5pm - Year 1/2 Performance
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 2pm - Nursery Performance
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 5pm - Year 5/6 Performance
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Party Day
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Nursery, Reception and KS1 Christmas Party



### **Nursery Santa Stay and Play – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December**

Next Friday, Nursery are very much looking forward to welcoming parents and carers into nursery for our Santa stay and play Christmas workshop. You are invited to come into Nursery with your child from either 8:45am or 12:30pm to take part in some Christmassy activities and refreshments. At 10:10am and 1:40pm, you will then be able to walk to the town hall with your child to visit Santa! We are sure this will be a lovely way to start the Christmas season and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

Please could we ask that you book your place for either the morning or afternoon session through the School Shop on Arbor, if you haven't already done so. Please confirm your place by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November so that we can ensure we have sufficient adults to accompany children on the walk to the town hall. Thank you. This is open to all nursery children, including Butterflies.

### **Christmas Lunch – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**

If you would like to book Christmas Lunch for your child, could you please log onto Arbor and make the booking through the 'Meals' section. For Roast Turkey, could you please book the Red option - Minced Beef Pie. For Quorn Roast, could you please book the Green option - Macaroni cheese. There will be no sandwiches or jacket potatoes on this date. If you have already made booking for this date could you please adjust accordingly. If you are having any problems making the booking please contact the office and we can make the booking for you.

### PE Kit

With the colder weather now here and many of our PE sessions taking place outside, children are welcome to bring a pair of joggers and a hoodie/zip-up top to wear during these lessons. Please ensure that these are dark in colour (black, blue or dark grey) in line with our Uniform Policy and that a change of footwear is available to them - any trainers worn during the day cannot be used for PE, as lessons taking place outdoors can often be wet and a little muddy. Could we please also ask that earrings, if worn, remain a plain gold or silver stud and that these are removed for PE sessions. Many thanks!

### Weekly Class Charts Top Scorers

<b>Year 1</b>	Alexandra R	<b>Year 4</b>	Naava A
<b>Year 2</b>	Penelope T	<b>Year 5</b>	Henry R
<b>Year 3</b>	Tom D	<b>Year 6</b>	Robbie Y

### Attendance

Overall attendance for the week is 93.1% and the Year Group with the highest attendance is Year 1 with 97.3%. The overall school attendance for the academic year is 95.8%.

### Punctuality

The Primary starts at 8:45am. Please ensure that your child is at school on time so that they do not miss out on any learning. This week, we have had 592 late minutes – this is a significant amount of lost learning time.

### Dates for the Diary

Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	PD Day – Nursery and School Closed
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Nursery – Santa Stay and Play Workshop
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 2:30pm Reception Nativity
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 5pm Year 3/4 Carol Concert
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 5pm Year 1/2 Christmas Show
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 2pm Nursery Christmas Songs
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10am and 5pm Year 5/6 Christmas Show
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	3:15pm – Nursery and School close for Christmas
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Children back to Nursery and School

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 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.



## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe 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>

## 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, or what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

# 5/6R



In Year 6 English, we have been working extremely hard on a 'Warning Tale' in which we have focused on 'Keep off the tracks'. The whole group have done a fabulous job!



Both Year 5 and Year 6 have been focussing on fractions in Maths over the past 2 weeks. A topic that can be a little tough! All children have shown fantastic resilience and determination and are making good progress!

Last week some of our class represented the school football team at Whitworth Park Academy! All children behaved exceptionally well showing fantastic teamwork and great respect throughout the day. Well done to Ox Close Blue team who also won the competition and will represent Spennymoor Town FC at the next round of the national tournament!



Well done for an outstanding start to the year, 5/6R. Keep up the hard work that you have been showing all your teachers on a daily basis!



In DT, we are working towards making a stew inspired by a Moroccan chef. In order to do this, we have been looking at fruits and vegetables, their seasonality and where in the world different foods come from. Children were surprised to find that some food we class as vegetables are actually fruits!



PE—Due to the sports hall being used for Christmas rehearsals, our PE lessons will now take place on a Monday and Friday outside on the MUGA. Children may bring extra jackets and trousers to ensure that they are warm. PE kits should remain in school for the full week and jewellery should be removed.

