

Colne Engaine Catch Up

A great first week!

15th September 2023

We have thoroughly enjoyed our first full week back and are delighted that the children have all been so settled and hard working already! We are going to have another fantastic year!

A huge welcome to all our new Reception children too! It's an absolute pleasure to welcome you to our family – children and parents. We hope you have all had a good first week and we can't wait to see your children grow, flourish and shine on their journey with us. Our buddies are doing a wonderful job of looking after them each day.

We are so very proud of Oak Tree Class and how quickly they have settled into the rhythm of school.



**A friend is one of the nicest things you can have and
one of the kindest things you can be.**

Dates

15th – Welcome Back Coffee afternoon
22nd Wear something Green Day
2nd October - Book Fair in School
3rd October – Yoga and Mental Well-being Day
6th October – Non – Pupil Day
11th October – Harvest Festival in School
18th/19th October – Parents Evening
19th October Bikeability begins for Year 6

A few little reminders...

School gates open at 8.35am and children must be in school by 8.50 am, settled and ready for the register.

Polite reminder – we do not authorise holidays in term times.

Water only in school please.

Please order and pay school dinners before the day.

No jewellery is to be worn in school, including friendship bracelets. Children will be asked to remove these in school.

Thank you.

In School

This term, we are Being Explorers around school. Our topic webs will go up on class pages this week so do have a look to see what the learning in each class involves. The class pages will also be updated throughout the term with photos too.

E-safety lessons begin next week in all classes, and we do talk to the children about the importance of using on age-appropriate websites and social media apps outside of school too.

Just reminders for current age limits:

FACEBOOK 13+

Instagram 13+

Snapchat 13+

Twitter 13+

Snapchat 13+

Wink 13+

While the 13+ rating is given by the creators, most above national online safety puts the guidance at 15+ and 17+ due to the freedom of posts and how slow some posts can be removed. If you need any further advice on this, please do let us know.

Online Safety Tip

This newsletter online support is around social media and how it could impact on children. Top tip ideas help support positive uses.

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 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.

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.



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