



Mrs Bennett's Blog

Thursday 22nd February 2018

Hi Everyone,

It was lovely to begin the second half of the Spring Term by welcoming over two hundred families into school, over Tuesday and Wednesday night for our parent's evenings. They were very well attended and to see so many smiling faces leaving the building was a joy. Our children are very proud to share their progress and successes with their families, so many thanks for coming along to listen to their journey so far.

As I mentioned before the holidays, **World Book Day** will be held on **Thursday 1st of March**. This is a firm favourite within the Crossflatts Primary School calendar. This year we are inviting our children and staff to come to school wearing a hat which represents a favourite character or story. The hat could be anything from a top hat, baseball cap, woolly hat or fancy hat with maybe some homemade customisation! There is absolutely no need to spend a fortune on a hat, anything goes. If any child requires any materials to help customise a hat they already have then please don't hesitate to ask your child's class teacher.

It has been brought to my attention that the Council Parking Wardens have been recently issuing fines in the local area and some of our parents have received fines. Please ensure you park within the designated areas to avoid receiving a fine as the Council are being very stringent with this.

Safeguarding

If your child uses a tablet or console to play games, there's a good chance they'll be playing online. An online game is one where the entire game or some part of it is played over the internet. Online games are played using internet-connected devices such as a smartphone, tablet, console (Xbox or PlayStation) or PC, connecting using wi-fi, or (in the case of a phone or tablet) mobile data.

Playing games online can be great fun for your child, but as a parent, it's worth being aware of the potential risks:

1. Bullying: When your child plays a game online, they may play with people they don't know. These people could call your child names, bullying them or 'griefing', which is when bullying tactics are used to win games.

2. Inappropriate content: If your child plays with older children they may encounter swearing or talk about subjects they don't understand and find upsetting.

Many online games include adult themes such as war and death, swearing and sexual content that won't be suitable for every child.

3. Grooming: The anonymity of the internet allows people to hide behind fake identities. Your child may think they are playing with someone who is not who they say they are. Adults may try to develop a relationship with a child through online gaming that could have dangerous consequences. Incidences like this are fortunately rare.

4. Hidden costs: Some online games are free to play, but developers are encouraging players to pay to upgrade weapons or skip levels.

Upgrades can range from a few pence to hundreds of pounds. Within the mobile app Smurfs Village, for instance, 'A Barrell of Smurfberries' costs nearly £24; if your child buys it accidentally, you'll get the bill.

Online gaming can help your child to learn, explore and develop creative skills and if you follow these simple tips you can help them do this safely.

1. Check game ratings: Games are given a Pan European Gaming Information (PEGI) rating that will give you some indication of the suitability of a game for your child.

Eight areas - drugs, fear, discrimination, bad language, gambling, sex, violence, and online gameplay with other people - are considered to produce age ratings of 3, 7, 12, 16 or 18. Use these ratings to make an informed choice about whether a game is suitable for your child. Remember the ages are a guide, you know your son or daughter better than anyone, if they are old enough, but sensitive, the game might not be suitable.

2. Talk to your child: Communicate with your son or daughter about potential dangers online so that they understand the risks. Find out what they play online and who they talk to.

If you ban a game, talk to your child about why you don't think it's suitable so they understand your reasoning.

3. Set restrictions: Decide how long your child is allowed to play online in a day or a week. If you have a younger child, consider letting them play in the front room rather in their bedroom so you can keep an eye on what they are playing.

4. Keep information private: Encourage your child not to give out personal details, such as their email, date of birth and address that could be used to locate them.

Make sure they use a gamer name that doesn't give too much information away, for instance OrangeGremlin is a safer name than Matthew95Bristol.

Encourage them to remain friends with other players only within the game, and not on other social networks like Facebook or Instagram.

5. Parental controls: Most gadgets have parental controls designed to help you restrict the type of content your child can access.

6. Report abuse: If your child encounters bullying or abuse online, don't be afraid to report the perpetrators.

7. Turn off the internet connection: Stop younger children going online and accidentally spending money by turning on flight mode on smartphones and tablets.

8. Join in: You might feel that your gaming years are long gone, but the best way to find out what your child is up to is to play along with them. They are probably keen to show you what they are doing (and possibly beat you!) and you'll have a greater understanding of what they are up to and how the device or game they are using works.

Attendance:

Here are last week's figures:

Our Aspirational Target	The national target	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
98%	96.1%	95.9%	95.5%	95.9%	95.3%	95.5%	95.4%	95.9%

There were 14 children late for school last week. (Before registration closed at 9am) and 7 children later than 9am

Best Wishes

Mrs Bennett

Headteacher