



Slaley First School



Friday 15th September 2023

Dear Parents,

What a rainy day we have had today! Fortunately, we have still had a lovely day in school.

The children have all had their photos taken this morning including sibling photos, individual, class groups and specific groups, such as Year 4 Buddies. Your child should have brought home their proofs tonight for the individual and sibling photos.

The children in Pine and Spruce Class all have homework tonight and this will follow the format as follows:

- Alternating weekly Maths / English
- Spellings
- Times Tables (Key Stage 2)

As last year, all homework will need to be completed and returned by Wednesday of the following week. Mrs Dixon is currently reviewing all Lexile levels for Year 2, 3 and 4 and the children will be given these next week.

Please can I remind everyone to regularly check Class Dojo. There are one or two families who haven't yet joined the class and any specific 'Class' related information will be posted on here. More whole school information will be relayed through schoolcomms (so you will receive an email.) Occasionally there will be letters sent home but other than that there will be no other forms of communication.

In school this week, alongside our two whole school simple rules we have launched our '**3 R's**' These are values that we have chosen as a staff which we think are important for our children. The values are respect, resilience and responsibility. Praise Assembly next week (Wednesday 20th - 2.45pm) will be for the parents of Early Years children and alongside our usual certificates we will be giving out ones related to our new values.

Our two new staff are settling in well. Mr Charlton our new Caretaker and Mrs Robertson, our supply teacher in Spruce class. In Pine Class, Miss Parr will be taking Year 4 maths everyday from next week and I will be teaching Year 3. After-school club will be starting up next week again on a Monday and Wednesday evenings until 5.30pm (Please collect from the Clubroom door) and multiskills, tennis, archery and recorder and choir clubs will still be continuing. Look out for some more exciting clubs on the way soon!

Have a lovely weekend everyone, I hope the weather improves so that you can all get out and about, Mrs Hayward.

This week we practiced the British Value 'Democracy' and we all voted for children to be our new members of our School Council.

Congratulations to Lily, Finley Aria and Charlie who are our new School Council members.

We know that they will be great at representing their year groups and they will be presented with their badges next week.

We will be looking for new Librarians, Eco warriors, Sports Leaders and Reading Ambassadors soon so watch this space!

PE days

Just a reminder that PE days are as follows-

Early Years – Thursday
Spruce Class – Monday and Friday
Pine Class – Monday and Tuesday



Hexham Middle School
OPEN EVENING
FOR PARENTS/CARERS AND CHILDREN
Thursday 5 October 6pm

- A presentation from Mr Atkins (Executive Headteacher) and Mr Watters (Head of School).
- An opportunity to explore our wonderful school and to learn more about life at HMS.
- A chance to speak to school staff and pupils.

No need to book - please just come along. We are looking forward to welcoming you to our school.

OPEN DAY TOURS
Friday 6 October 9.30am and 1.30pm
Please book tours using the online form on our website.

Little Reminders ...

Please remember that there are **NO MOBILE PHONES** allowed to be used on the premises.

Also, if you are leaving the school premises, please remember to shut the gate behind you.

DON'T FORGET! We have a selection of used but clean uniform in school and this is available for anyone to take on a Friday straight after school (Please come around to the Clubroom door. Currently we are not operating the foodbank as we did not have enough uptake but if the need ever arises, we can certainly start it again.

What is happening over the coming weeks?

Tuesday 26th September – European Day of Languages; this year our theme will be Germany and Mrs Seymour will be making a wonderful themed lunch as she usually does.

Friday 29th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning – 9am-10.30am. All welcome to drop in; there will be no staggered times, we are going to trial all parents together this year.

Friday 29th September (PM) Early Years to visit St Mary's Church to find out more about Baptisms

Wednesday 4th October – Harvest Festival in St Mary's Church (more details to follow)

Thursday 19th October – Bikeability (Pine Class) – More details to follow

Please scroll down for important E-Safety information ...

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

18
CENSORED

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 Minecrafter; 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 Isaacson is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 13 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 V2347, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipot.app/about/privacy.html>

NOS
National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.08.2023