WHITSTONE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter Autumn Term - Issue 6

MESSAGE FROM MRS MOULD

We've had a wonderful few weeks at school, including creating our Remembrance Garden, raising money for Children in Need, celebrating Odd Socks Day for Anti-Bullying Week, and enjoying Trailblazers' trip to Bodmin Jail. The children have made us incredibly proud with their enthusiasm, behaviour and effort. We look forward to another great week together.



Best wishes, Mrs Mould.

TERM DATES

<u>Autumn Term 2</u>

Monday 2nd November - Friday 17th December

INSET Day - Monday 4th January

<u>Spring 1 Term</u>

Tuesday 5th January - Friday 12th February

AUTUMN TERM DIARY DATES

<u>November</u>

Monday 23rd November - School Photos

Thursday 26th November - Open Morning 9:30 - 11:30

Friday 27th November - PTFA Winter Wonderland

<u>December</u>

Wednesday 2nd November - Nursery Library Trip

Thursday 3rd December - Parents Evening

Friday 4th December - Parents Evening

Wednesday 9th December - Nativity 2pm

Wednesday 16th December - Singing at St Annes

Thursday 17th December - Christmas Dinner

Thursday 17th December - Christmas Service 2pm

Friday 18th December - Christmas Party Day (wear party clothes to school)

ATTENDANCE

Explorers	89%
Voyagers	95%
Adventurers	99%
Trailblazers	89%

HOUSE POINTS

Atlantic	1101
Sahara	916
Amazon	1048
Krakatoa	990

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to....

Teddy

Zia

Lyla

Riley

Jenna

CERTIFICATES



REMINDERS

As the weather continues to be chilly, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm and waterproof coat, including optional extras like hats, scarves, and gloves.

REMINDERS

PE Days:

Explorers: Thursday

Voyagers: Tuesday

Adventurers: Wednesday and Thursday

Trailblazers: Monday and Friday

REMINDERS

Any child with diarrhoea and/or vomiting symptoms must stay away or be excluded from the school until they have been free of symptoms for 48 hours (the '48 hour rule') and feel well. If your child is sick at school, we will ask you or your emergency contact to take your child home. They should not return for 48 hours to the school premises. We appreciate that this is inconvenient in many cases, and you may not believe your child is ill, but you will appreciate that we do this in all cases and it should reduce the risk of infection for all children in school.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

We would like to remind all parents that holidays taken during term time are not considered exceptional circumstances and will result in unauthorised absence. If your child is absent without authorisation, it may lead to penalties under the Education Act 1996. Unauthorised absences could result in a penalty fine issued as £80 per liable parent, per child if paid within 21 days, or £160 per liable parent, per child if paid after this but within 28 days.

Please read the statutory statement regarding unauthorised absence during term time.



If your child is absent from school without authorisation, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £80 if paid within 21 days or £160 if paid after this but within 28 days.
If your child is further absent from school without authorisation within any 3-year period, you will be committing a further offence under the Education Act 1996. We may submit a request to Cornwall Council for a Penalty Notice to be issued, in accordance with Sections 444A and 444B of the said Act. Penalty Notices for a second offence are issued per liable parent, per child and each carry a fine of £160, payable within 28 days. Importantly, fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action such as a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.
Failure to pay the Penalty Notice may also result in legal action. If you are prosecuted and attend court because your child has not been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500. Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.
Absence not authorised by the school may also result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court under Section 444(1) or Section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996, leading to a fine of up to £2,500 and/or a custodial sentence. Again, Cornwall Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court, including legal costs.
Money raised from fines is only used by the local authority to cover the costs of administering the system, and to fund attendance support. Any extra money is returned to the government.

AUTUMN TERM CLUBS

We are excited to offer a variety of clubs this Autumn Term which will be free of charge and provide children with enrichment and social opportunities.

- Monday: Games Club
- Tuesday: Yoga Club
- Wednesday: Construction Club
- Thursday: Computing Club
- Friday: Scooter Club







Free Breakfast Club!

Come and join us each morning at 8am for free breakfast club. Book on Arbor - first come, first served.

NURSERY PLACES

We are pleased to announce that we have spaces available in our Nursery for children aged 2 to 4 years, with funded places for up to 30 hours.

If you are interested or know someone who might be, please don't hesitate to contact the school office on 01288 341241 or email school@whitstone.cornwall.sch.uk.





SAFE PARKING

For the safety of our children and the surrounding community, we kindly ask that parents do not park on the zigzag lines outside the school or block neighbours' driveways. We have received complaints from neighbours in recent months, and we appreciate your cooperation in maintaining a safe environment during drop-off and pick-up times.

Respecting our neighbours and ensuring safe access to the school is crucial for the well-being of our children. We encourage families to walk or cycle to school where possible. Thank you for your understanding and support in fostering a positive community spirit!

ACHIEVEMENTS OUTSIDE SCHOOL

Well done to Reuben for achieving his 200 metre swimming certificate and medal!









We love to hear about your achievements outside school....

Email any news or photos to: school@whitstone.cornwall.sch.uk







TRAILBLAZERS - BODMIN JAIL TRIP



















REMEMBRANCE DAY

























CHILDREN IN NEED











MAKE & BAKE SALE

RAISED...

£160.80



STAFF RAMBLE

RAISED...

£75.00





TOTAL RAISED...

£235.80

PTFA


WHITSTONE PTFA
INVITE YOU TO OUR
WINTER
WONDERLAND
27TH NOVEMBER
WHITSTONE SCHOOL
3.15-5.30PM(CASH
ONLY)
STALLS,FOOD,GAMES,
MULLED WINE,GOODIES,
CHILDREN SINGING,
HANDMADE CRAFTS
SANTA'S GROTTO.
CHRISTMAS CHEER.

LOCAL EVENTS



AGE RESTRICTION 18+

What parents need to know about GRAND THEFT AUTO (GTA)

grand theft auto

Grand Theft Auto is an action-adventure video game series where players control criminals and wreak havoc in order to complete missions and progress through the game. During the early stages of the game, it solely focuses on completing missions to go up a level. However, as the game grew more popular the makers of GTA decided to introduce a narrative to each edition of the game. The aim of this was to increase user engagement, making gamers believe that they were not just playing as the character, but they became the character. Grand Theft Auto is accessible on a number of devices including: PlayStation and Xbox, desktop computers, PSP, Nintendo DS, and Mobile.



Top Tips for Parents

THE RISK - PLAYING WITH STRANGERS

When buying GTA V you automatically have access to Grand Theft Auto Online, a version of the game that allows players to play online. They can play alone, invite players to a game, or be involved in public 'sessions' where people will be picked at random to play. When you first load into a game you are automatically placed into an open lobby, meaning you play with random people. The 'social club' is GTA's very own social platform where users can bet money, share in-game photographs (which users can like and comment on), and even message other users directly.

What parents can do

To prevent your child playing with strangers on the game, you can change the settings to ensure they only play with their approved friends list. Upon signing up to the 'social club', it automatically sets a player's visibility settings to 'everyone', meaning their name and profile information is made public. Parents can alter this by changing the visibility settings to 'only me'.

WARNING!

Due to the nature of the game and the age restrictions, GTA includes content that is inappropriate for anyone under the age of 18, including sex, nudity, violence, profane language, and substance abuse. These are the main components that make up the game - you have to do certain things and witness certain things in order to move on in the game. Exposing your child to this type of content could affect their morals and understanding of right and wrong. Additionally, your child could become desensitised to similar situations, reinforcing the fact they they would find it hard to differentiate between right/wrong and good/bad.

THE RISK - ONLINE HACKERS

Hackers can make money by helping users cheat in the game. They can do a number of inappropriate things, including killing people, stealing weapons, spawning money into the game, and even raping other characters. Spawning money tends to be a gamer's most popular choice, being able to buy $100,000,000,000 (of in-game currency) for as little as five US dollars.

What parents can do

Actively monitor your child's online activity. These websites are very easy to find, meaning children and young people can easily navigate their way to these wesbites and pay for hackers. Not only is this an illegal activity, but you have the risk of giving your personal information to someone who may misuse it.

THE RISK - ADDICTION

Addiction is a risk with any game. Game developers use persuasive design techniques to force users to invest their time, and often money, in a game. Within GTA, your character is able to progress through the game for completing missions within a certain time frame, encouraging children to keep returning to the game. Gaming addiction is now a recognised health condition and the side effects are concerning, including sleep deprevation, decreased attention span and erratic emotional behaviour.

What parents can do

There are a number of things you can do if you are concerned about your child's screen time, including setting time limits within the home, especially during meal times and before bedtime. Talk to your child and ask why they are spending so much time on the game, and enourage healthy alternatives such as outdoor activities and spending quality time with friends and family.

THE RISK - LIVE CHAT

When playing GTA online, players have the option to use a microphone to broadcast their voice live to other players involved in the 'session'. These live voice chats are not moderated, meaning anything could be said, including inappropriate language, as well as verbal forms of bullying.

What parents can do

Talk openly with your child about not giving away personal information. Also remind them that conversations can be recorded, which could damage their online reputation. Depending on the device/platform, there will be ways to mute conversations. Make yourself aware of the device's/platform's individual settings and ensure that your child knows how to block and report.

THE RISK - MICROTRANSACTIONS

By completing missions and partaking in certain activities you earn in-game currency. This allows you to buy things such as prostitutes, vehicles, weapons, ammo, new outfits, cars, apartments and more. However, the items that are available to buy often have a high price that require a lot of game time, meaning the items are pretty unrealistic to buy.

What parents can do

If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest purchasing a pre-paid gift card for your child. These can be purchased in specific amounts which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit or debit card to be used with their account.

SOURCES:
https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2103188/parentalguide
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gaming/news/grand-theft-auto-v-has-made-money-film-history/
http://www.techaddiction.ca/addiction-to-video-games.html

National Online Safety
A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com
Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061