

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 6's Trip

Year 6 returned from their trip to Whitemoor Lakes tired and full of smiles. They have all reported that they had a brilliant time—Michal said he wished it could have gone on even longer. We can't wait for them to share their experiences with year 5. We are very proud of how they represented the school. Thank you to all the adults who were involved.



Black History Month

We are celebrating Black History Month in school in many different ways. We have a dedicated section in our library with recommended books by black authors and/or books with black characters. Also, we have asked the children to create posters about someone who inspires them—we have already received some beautiful ones that are up on display. We will kick off Monday with an assembly on 'National Hate Crime Awareness Week' challenging language and behaviour around minority groups.

Instagram

Rectory Farm Primary has joined Instagram! This will be used to share photos around school during the day, so you can have conversations about your child's day and celebrate their successes together. Please follow and share with family if they live a bit further afield. Letters around permissions are due to go out soon!

Parent 'Stay and Read'

We are finally able to say that the library is open! After a couple of weeks of delay, we are now open and running and the children are loving the new library. Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to come to our 'Stay and Read' sessions. I hope you could see all the hard work that has gone into it over the summer. Our year 6 library monitors will be working hard to keep it looking brilliant all year round! We will do more of these reading sessions across the year.

Curriculum

Year 2 — Year 2 have had a lovely trip to the Northampton Museum this week. They enjoyed learning all about the 'Great Fire of Northampton' and had a lovely walk around to All Saint's church. They asked lots of good questions in the museum and enjoyed looking at the exhibits. What a great end to our week!

Year 3 — In Year 3 we have been exploring *Light* as part of our science curriculum. We have looked at how light travels and discovered that it only travels in straight lines. We have also tested a variety of materials to see how much light each material lets through; we could then organise our items into opaque, transparent and translucent.



Spelling Shed



1st: Beech

Patricia – Year 1

Gracie – Year 2

2nd: Rowan

Jacob – Year 2

We are launching new homework clubs this half term to support our children with their online learning. Please see the posters in classroom windows for more info about days and times!



1st: Beech



Eduard (2) –
Super Star
Collector

2nd:
Chestnut

Alexia (3) –
Most coins

1st: Maple



Jakub (3) –
Most minutes

2nd: Willow

Elliot (2) –
Most coins

Elliot (2) –
Most correct
answers

More Space homework from Pranav. He did an amazing diagram of the solar system, with facts down the side. Well done Pranav! >



Jaxson made an amazing house as a part of his history topic about the Stone Age. He even collected all of the shells! <



Kunashe in year 4 has made a great Viking longboat. It had lots of fantastic detail on it, including oars and a shiny jewel for the dragon's eye!>



Dates for your Diary

Date	Year Group	Event
Education Life Bus Visit	Year 1-6	15th and 16th October 2024
Church Visit	Year 1	16th October 2024
Secondary school applications	Year 6	By the 31st October 2024

Messages from Mrs Llewelyn (our Family Support Worker and DSL)



Hello parents/carers,

Looking for donations!

Please have a rummage in your cupboards for any board games your children no longer uses.

It would be great to have these, for wet playtimes, breakfast/ lunch club! Only complete games. Thank you!

Please remember we are a nut free school. Please can children not bring anything containing nuts into school.



Miss Walker-Collins —Acting Deputy Headteacher

Mrs. Williams—Executive Headteacher

Friday 11th October 2024

School Contact details: Tel – 01604 4011820



The Switch is a hybrid console released by popular video game company Nintendo in 2017. It's classed as a hybrid because it's designed to be played both at home on a television, like traditional consoles (think a PlayStation or an Xbox) or out and about like a portable console, such as a GameBoy. It uses two detachable and wireless 'Joy-Con' controllers on either side of the console's screen, which can be used by one or two players. The Switch can be played on the internet with the purchase of Nintendo Switch Online, in the living room together or on the go during long journeys, but bear in mind it needs to be charged just like anything else!



What parents need to know about



NINTENDO SWITCH



NINTENDO SWITCH ONLINE

Nintendo Switch Online is a paid service that allows the console to be played (you guessed it!) online, by linking to other Switch consoles around the world. It can be purchased through the Nintendo eShop for a single account on the device, or with a family membership plan which covers 2 accounts. The purchase options come in three tiers: 1 month, 3 months and 12 months but be aware these auto-renew unless you specify otherwise.



ONLINE DANGERS

While online, your children will be able to play with and chat to people on compatible games, which will mostly be good-natured fun, but could potentially expose them to vulgar language, indecent images or worse. There are options to limit this though, which are detailed below. It's worth remembering that many games can be played offline, so while it's not essential to get Nintendo Switch Online, it is certainly something to consider.



NINTENDO eSHOP

The Nintendo eShop is where games can be purchased over the internet and downloaded directly onto the device. If you choose to enter your bank details (or PayPal account) onto the Switch, you can save them for easy access later on. Do note however that these can be viewed by anybody with access to the console, unless you specify otherwise. A child might accidentally purchase a game or item from the shop if these details are left improperly protected, which could leave you with a nasty surprise.



NINTENDO'S VIDEO GAME SELECTION

Nintendo as a company offers some of the most entertaining and safe video games on the market. Games featuring characters like Super Mario, Donkey Kong and Yoshi are always a safe bet for a child-friendly experience. It's always prudent to check each game before you buy it (especially if the game hasn't been made by Nintendo) but as a rule of thumb, anything official containing well-known names like these will be great for your children, giving you peace of mind while they enjoy them.



PORTABLE GAMING

Being able to take the Switch anywhere is a huge bonus when travelling. What's more is that almost every game can be enjoyed without the need to 'dock' the console with a television. Battery life on the Switch varies depending on what it's being used for but typically it will last around 3 or 4 hours before needing to be recharged. When the time comes, any USB-C charger will be able to do the job, but it's best and quickest to return it to the dock, which requires a normal plug socket.



Top Tips For Parents

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Nintendo released a free downloadable app that can be used in tandem with the Switch called Nintendo Switch Parental Controls. Once you've got the app on your mobile device, it's a simple process to pair your two devices, giving you a suite of options to help make sure your child is having fun in a safe and structured environment curated by you.



ONLINE RESTRICTIONS

Another major inclusion in the app is the ability to block your child from seeing anything to do with age restricted games. There's also an extremely helpful feature that restricts access to games that have free communication features between strangers on the internet. This includes things like private messages and unsolicited images. Should you be concerned that strangers might be using the games to talk to your child, a simple press of a button will disallow any access they might have.

PLAY WITH YOUR CHILD

One of the wonderful things about the Switch is that there are an abundance of great games you and your child can enjoy together, and even with the whole family. Nintendo has a long history of making and supporting fun, family friendly games like Mario Kart and Mario Party, both of which can be played with two or more players using the Joy-Con controllers.



NINTENDO ESHOP SETTINGS

In the Nintendo eShop you can set up a password to help stop your child or somebody else from accessing any sensitive information, such as bank account details. The options here include entering a password to access the eShop to begin with, when any saved credit card information access is attempted, or when PayPal is accessed. Choosing which areas are password protected helps ensure you're deciding what level of access is given on the device. For example, if you're happy to have your child browse the shop for games they might want, you can allow access to the eShop but introduce the password before a purchase is made ensuring no mishaps occur.



LIMITING PLAY TIME

By linking the app with the Nintendo Switch, you can set time limits and reminders when you think enough time has been spent playing. It also lets you see if a game is still being played and gives you the option to automatically put the console into sleep mode if the message is ignored. This should only be used as a last resort though as it could cause some friction between you!

SET PLAY TIMES

Another handy feature is the ability to set different playtimes for days of the week, allowing you to tailor play time around you and your child's schedules. This is great for setting boundaries and encouraging gaming as part of a healthy routine. It will also help your child organise with their friends when they can all be online.



SEE PLAY HISTORY

The Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app can also send a report telling you how much time your child spends playing each game. This is a great way to spot their favourite or most played games and might be a nice way for you to find out more about a title before talking to your child about it. It could also help identify any possible issues around playtime before they arise.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how

