



Tonwell St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Bridgman



'Knowing each child, growing each child, in God's love'

Friday 5th February 2021

Dear parents,

Thank you for joining us for our parent consultations this week. We hope that you found it helpful to discuss your child's achievements and targets. I only have a couple of updates for you this week.

Remote Learning

New learning packs are available to collect from school on Friday 12th February. **Please return your child's current pack with all of their learning from the past two weeks.**

Thank you to those of you who have shared feedback with us. We will be trialling some pre-recorded sessions after half term and developing our remote learning policy. You can find our remote education offer attached to the newsletter and on our website. Please contact us if you have any questions, need any extra guidance or information.

Reading

Ware Library is open for Ready Reads like them on Facebook to keep up to date

Join your child to the library now – It's free! It's easy you can join online when you visit Hertfordshire Libraries website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives

You will receive a temporary membership number which can be used to access the online eBook and eAudio library BorrowBox. Library membership will enable your family to take full advantage of Ready Reads – we select you collect. All you need to do is fill out the online form with details of the type of books required and collect.

For further details visit <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/other-library-services/ready-reads.aspx> If you are unable to access online services, please phone 0300 123 4049 and a member of the library service team will be able to help you fill out the form.

Collins Connect Big Cat reading scheme have made their books available for free online throughout February. You can use the following information to access them: <https://connect.collins.co.uk/school/portal.aspx>

Go to the teacher portal, login: parents@harcpercollins.co.uk, password: Parents!21

Safer Internet Day and Online Safety

We will be learning about online safety as part of Safer Internet Day next week. Mrs Bridgman's live sessions will be all about keeping safe online. This year's theme is 'An Internet we trust' and we will be looking at online relationships and the information available online. We are aware that many of our older children enjoy online gaming and that during lockdown children may be having more screen time than we would like. Please see the information below from <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>.



Gaming

Gaming is loved and enjoyed by children and adults across the world. It can be a way for children to be social, learn new skills, develop team work and relax. However, gaming also comes with risks for children. It can be difficult to keep up with the latest games and how they work. Here we take a look at key safety concerns and how you can support happier, safer gaming for your child.



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How can I make gaming safer for my child?

Talk with your child about gaming. Talk with your child to learn the games they like, what the content of those games are and what features the games have. This will help you to understand more about how your child plays games and how appropriate different games are. Once you know which games your child likes, you can use NSPCC's [Net Aware](#) to search for apps and games to find out more about them and how safe they are.

Learn together. You can use our resources to teach your child about safer gaming at all ages. For primary age children you can use our [Jessie & Friends](#) (ages 4-7) and [Play, Like, Share](#) (ages 8-10) resources. Secondary age children can access advice about gaming through the [Thinkuknow](#) website, as well as through on-going conversations with you.

Set boundaries and safety settings. [Internet Matters](#) make it easier to put safety settings in place, providing step-by-step guides for each console or device. Spend time setting these up with your child and make sure they know how to block and report on the games they are playing. You should also talk with your child to create an agreement for gaming; think about how much time they can spend, which games they can access, if you will allow in-app purchases and what spaces they can play in. For primary aged children it is advisable to have them play in shared spaces/the same room as you. Look at PEGI ratings for games. For example, Fortnite is PEGI rating 12, which means it is not suitable for children under that age.

How risky is in-game chat?

Gaming is often a social activity for children and talking with friends is part of their enjoyment. However, in-game chat can pose risks such as:

- **chatting with people they don't know.** This can include adults that are seeking to make contact with children with the intention of [sexual grooming](#) and offences.
- **inappropriate or unmoderated chat.** Whilst a lot of chat is moderated, chat is live and there is a risk of exposure to sexual language, swearing or bullying.
- **requests to make chat private.** Once chat is moved off a monitored platform, no one is moderating it. This can be used to pressurise children into sharing personal information, photos, video or chat that they don't want to.
- **offering gifts or trades.** This may be used by offenders to build trust and a relationship with a child, as part of grooming.

Learn more about in-game chat and what you can do to make it safer by reading our [parents and carers guide to in-game chat](#).

Kind regards,
Mrs Bridgman