

Headline:

Gaming is a popular past-time for many children, young people and adults. For most children and young people, gaming is a fun way to spend time with friends and create opportunities to develop teamwork, concentration skills and problem-solving. Many games have adopted an interactive online element-whether it's playing against other users, chatting or making purchases.

Many games have a chat function enabling users to interact with one another. Dependent on the privacy settings chosen, gamers can be contacted by people they may or may not know, or play against 'bots'.

A bot is a character or player that is controlled by a computer, created by external sources, to send messages to gamers. Often, these messages contain links to external websites which are inappropriate for children and young people; showing violent or sexual content. Bots can sometimes be hard to spot as their messages can seem very realistic. If your child receives a message from an unknown user, ask them to not respond or click on any links contained within the message. Report these users directly to the site.

Often the communication within gaming is to coordinate multi-player game tactics, although it can be just to chat as gamers play. Messages can take the form of instant messenger (similar to texting) or voice over internet protocol (VoIP). VoIP allows gamers to talk to one another (usually through a headset) in a group conversation during the game.

This communication can present as a risk to young people as gaming platforms can be used by adults seeking to harm young people. Playing games can be exciting and consuming and sometimes this can mean that children can become a little less guarded when considering who they talk to and what they share. It may also be seen as 'normal' to talk to adults in a game – especially if children can learn from them – than it would be to talk to an adult on another social media platform. Some offenders seek to exploit this and encourage children to chat with

the aim of a building a relationship with them. Offenders may also try to encourage a child to move from a game to a private messenger platform to have one-to-one conversations with them. These platforms help offenders to build a relationship with a young person quickly and are often harder to moderate than group chat within games.

The precise functionality of each game varies however there some ways to support children to stay safe if they chat whilst gaming:

- Have ongoing conversations with your child about who they are talking to online. Questions about whether they know them in real life and what they share are vital to support your child to be safer in gaming.
- Take time to explore games with your children. Ask them to show you what they like about the game and take an interest. Speak with them about making their profile private if possible and talk with them about information that is safe to share e.g. nicknames as opposed to full names.
- Be aware of the chat platforms your child is using. Ask your child about what they would do if someone within a game asked to talk to them in private, whether that's on another platform or within the game. Help your child to identify this warning sign and explain what they can do can help them to keep safe.
- All young people need support to make safe decisions online. It is recommended that primary aged children remain under adult supervision whilst gaming, for example ensuring an adult is within earshot of VoIP conversations and able to see any chat taking place.

If you are worried that a child is being groomed in a game, or on any other

Coming Soon

Foundation Stage Sports Day
Tuesday 26th June

KS1 Sports Day
Wednesday 27th June

Summer Fayre
Thursday 12th July

Year Six Production to Parents
Wednesday 18th July (09:15 and 14:15)

Year Six to Marlowe Theatre (Shrek)
Thursday 19th July

Tag Day (Holiday Theme)
Friday 20th July

Last Day of Term
Wednesday 25th July

Term Dates 2017/18

Term 6
Tuesday 5th June 2018
Until
Wednesday 25th July 2018

Term Dates 2018/2019

Term 1
Tuesday 4th September 2018
Until
Friday 19th October 2018

Term 2
Tuesday 29th October 2018
Until
Tuesday 18th December 2018

Term 3
Thursday 3rd January 2019
Until
Friday 15th February 2019

Term 4
Tuesday 26th February 2019
Until
Friday 5th April 2019

Term 5
Tuesday 23rd April 2019
Until
Friday 24th May 2019



Uniform

A navy blue jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan.
Navy, black or grey trousers, tailored shorts, skirt or dress/navy and white checked dress. A white or blue polo shirt, shirt or blouse. Flat plain black shoes or trainers (no heels or open toes).
www.tesco.com/ues

online platform you should seek support. You can contact your local police or report to via the CEOP website. If you believe a child is in immediate danger call the police on 999.

If you would like to talk to a professional about any other online concerns, please call the NSPCC on 0808 800 5000.

Mr Carthy

News

Ice Pops

There will be ice pops for sale on the infant playground after school on the 26th June.

Reminders

Games and Puzzles

If you have any old games and/or puzzles that you no longer need, Mrs Damerell would love them for Friday Clubs! If you have any spares, please could you bring them to the office, and we'll make great use out of them!

School Uniform

Please can we ensure that your child's School Uniform is named, as our lost property is growing and we want to be able to ensure you get back all clothing that's been lost.

Parking Outside School

You MUST NOT wait or park on yellow lines during the times of operation shown on nearby time plates. For the Zig Zag lines outside of the school gates, this is between 08:30am - 09:30am and 15:30pm – 16:00pm. Double yellow lines indicate a prohibition of waiting at any time even if there are no upright signs, at all times of the day.

In the Community

MEND

Mend is a free lifestyle programme for 2- 4 year olds and their families where they try to help take the fuss out of meal times, and help tame temper tantrums. They are holding two sessions one at the Woodlands children and family hub, in Gillingham on the 18th September 2018 from 10.00- 11.30 am.

The other at All saints children and family Hub in Chatham on the 20th September 2018 at 12.45-14.15pm.

For more information please call 01634 333741 or visit change4life@medway.gov.uk

Summer Parenting Surgery

There will be a parenting surgery from the 31st July – 31st August 2018. The surgery will be open Monday – Wednesday 10.00am – 2.00pm in two locations.

- Woodlands Hub, woodlands road, Gillingham, ME7 2DT
- Gillingham Hub, 11 The Vineries, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 2AD

They will be offering 1 hour individual parent appointments where parents can book a time to discuss any particular

parenting topics and receive 1:1 support around this. To book a session, parents must contact Alissa Stuart on 01634 334288 or by email Alissa.stuart@medway.gov.uk

Pat on the Back

The classes with the best attendance for the week beginning the 11th June 2018 were 3F, 3K and 5C with an amazing 99.3%! 2BK had only 1 late pupil during this week, and a fantastic 98.35% of children arrived on time. Well done to everybody!

Inclusions This Week

- Year 6 Summer Fayre Helper Letter
- Year 6 Class Photo Proofs
- Star Wars Change 4 Life Summer Pack

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination

Head Teacher: Mr Carthy

Deputy Heads: Mrs Langthorne (4-7 year olds) and Mr Chantler (7-11 year olds)

Family Liaison Officer: Mrs Vella

Inclusion Manager: Mrs Hill

This school operates a very clear whistleblowing policy for staff