

16th December 2022

MOORSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and friends,

What a term it has been! We have been on visits and trips to Harlow Carr, the library, Crucial Crew, our local care homes to sing to them and explored our local area, as part of our Geography fieldwork. We have welcomed visitors to inspire us and enhance our learning experiences; authors Dan Smith and James Nicol, Dr Hammersley, Mr Chalmers from the fire station and Mr Russell who talked to Upper Key Stage Two about WW1 and life in the trenches!

We have welcomed parents to join us for our phonics workshops, Harvest Assemblies, our Reading Cafe, the Christmas Fair and fabulous Christmas performances AND our children have been working hard in their learning across the curriculum in their first term in new year groups! Our after school clubs have been really popular with children learning new skills - performance techniques in Recorders and Drama club and keeping themselves fit and working as a team in football and multi sports! I could not be more proud of all our children who have really grown in confidence through our recent productions and shown resilience when taking on new challenges over the course of the term. It certainly has been a busy one and everyone is deserving of a break!



As a school, we are continuing to target areas to develop to further improve our children's educational experiences and high quality teaching and learning across the curriculum. This includes children's health and well-being. One vital aspect of this is keeping our children safe online! With new devices gifted to them over the holidays, PLEASE ensure that as parents they are accessing apps, games and websites that are age appropriate and keep checking who they are talking to online. I have attached a useful poster to support you with this.

Attendance

Attendance has fluctuated over the term - understandably so when there are such nasty bugs and germs around. However, some children have been absent from school when they are not ill and they are therefore missing vital learning time, which leads to gaps in their knowledge and understanding of the curriculum. If your child is struggling to come into school and they are not unwell, please contact Mrs Price in the New Year. We are very keen to support you with this as attendance is extremely important.

Our whole school attendance this week is 84.34% with the winning class being Year 5! Well done to them!

Over the course of the term, 40 children have had 100% attendance - this is super! The class with the highest attendance across the term is Year 1! Well done to them!



w/c	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
31.10.22	90.54%	95.65%	98.86%	91.84%	96.45%	92.9%	91.63%
07.11.22	92.67%	95.17%	85.96%	91.05%	98.02%	93.98%	93.16%
14.11.22	98.94%	98.55%	92.04%	92.59%	94.47%	93.55%	89.66%
21.11.22	87.15%	96.62%	96%	86.24%	89.71%	93.52%	90.08%
28.11.22	96.83%	99.03%	93.78%	94.74%	99.54%	98.16%	90.49%
05.12.22	91.15%	92.38%	93.39%	91.58%	91.06%	87.33%	88.93%
12.12.22	67.2%	88.46%	88.6%	83.77%	87.4%	93.09%	89.92%

FOMS

Our FOMS set up an enterprise project for us to work together to make as much profit as possible from a £10 note!! Well done to Year 5 who made £45 profit, raising the most money for school at the Christmas Fair! Thank you to everyone who came and supported our Christmas Fair on Wednesday. We raised £650 and £1250 on the raffle!! This is fantastic as the funds will help us to provide even better resources and learning experiences in school! Also.....thank you so much to our FOMS who worked tirelessly to achieve this - really impressive!

Forest School

The next term, Years 3 and 4 will have Forest School on a Wednesday and Early Years and Year 1 will be on a Friday. Please ensure that children have lots of layers, hats, gloves and scarves! Forest school will start on the first day back as this is a Wednesday!

Marrick Priory

Year 6 are going on their residential to Marrick Priory on 9th January. There will be an information session for parents on Thursday 5th January at 2.30pm. If you cannot attend, please do not worry, we can arrange a phone call with Mrs Jemmett.

Parent Consultations and Reports

Thank you to everyone who attended parent consultations over the past 2 weeks. Reports will be emailed out to you today and paper copies will come home in January so that they do not get lost in amongst all the Christmas bits and bobs coming home!



I would just like to say a HUGE thank you to all our staff for all their hard work over the term. They really do go above and beyond to care for and support all our children. A huge thank you to you all for working with us and communicating with us when you have any worries, concerns or queries. It really does make all the difference to our children and our school community.

Have a fantastic and safe Christmas holiday with your families and we look forward to seeing you on 4th January.

With very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2023,

Mrs Rowett
Headteacher



Merry Christmas from Team Moorside

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	Training Day
Wednesday 4 th January 2023	School Re-opens for the Spring Term
Thursday 5 th January 2023	Marrick Meeting for Parents at 2.30pm

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.



WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.



STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.



Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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