

23rd May 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

As I find myself at the end of this half term I really can't believe how quickly time has flown. Since Easter so much has been going on in school and looking ahead the second half of the Summer term looks even busier. I am sure the children are already looking forward to our first week back with our 'Made in the North East' week with lots of visits happening.

We have been able to make the most of the amazing sunny weather this week. The children have participated in both cricket and golf enrichment sessions. Please check out the articles written by the children later in the Flyer. Thank you to our special reporters! Key Stage 1 have had a great Forest School day today with Mr. Kirk Lester. Please check out the photos of their superb dens later in the Flyer.

Early Years have had lots of fun (and hands on learning) this week with Reception learning all about bees and Nursery designing, making and testing their own boats!

As a school we are really keen to enrich the children's learning through experiences and visits. Without your contributions towards the costs, these events would be unable to take place. Therefore, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support in helping us to provide the best possible education for the children. I know that the children really enjoy these experiences and they are often their most treasured memories of their time at school.

Please check out our updated diary of events at the end of the Flyer.

I am aware that during half term some of the children will be using this opportunity to participate in online gaming. This week's parent guide looks at setting effective boundaries for gaming. There is also a specific guide looking at online safety for children under 5 as we know many young children often use technology and apps at home.

Well done to Year 4 for the best attendance this week: 98.7%.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 97.5%.

Thank you very much for all of your support this half term and for the term ahead.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and have a peaceful and relaxing break. We look forward to seeing everyone safe and well back in School on **Monday 2nd June 2024**.

Mr. A. Wheatley,  
Headteacher



## Attendance Matters



**ATTEND** today...  
**ACHIEVE** tomorrow...  
**ATTENDANCE** matters.

Northumberland  
County Council

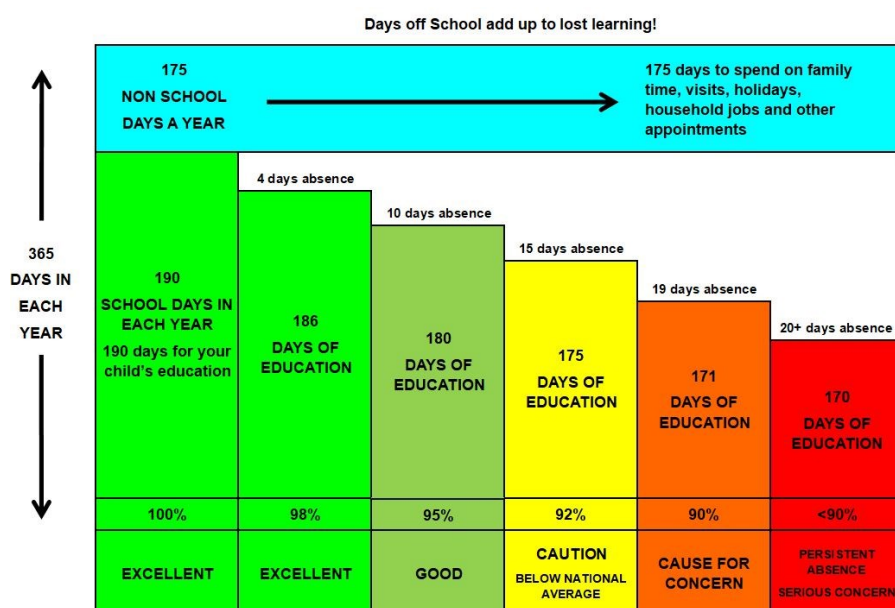


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

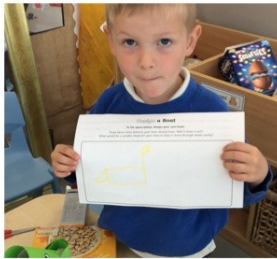
Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	94.6%	95.7%	Year 3 (Gibside)	96.3%	96%
Reception (Owls)	90.7%	95.5%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	98.7%	96.2%
Year 1 (Wallington)	95.8%	97.2%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	95.4%	97.4%
Year 2 (Craggside)	96%	96.8%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	93.8%	97.5%

Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time .



'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14



## Splish, Splash, Splosh!

Wow, the Hedgehogs have been super busy this week! As part of our water topic, we have been making our own boats by designing them first and then making them out of different materials. We have been testing them to see if they sink or float. We then started to think about the best material to use for a boat. We experimented with different materials to test how 'waterproof' they were.



PIC•COLLAGE



## World Bee Day in Reception!

We celebrated World Bee Day this week by coming to school dressed in yellow and black, we enjoyed lots of bee themed activities. Later in the week we enjoyed learning how bees collect nectar, we make flowers and then without using our hands had to drink the nectar, it was impossible, but once we added a straw like tongue we were able to sip up the nectar. We also learnt about pollination, we made our own bees and as they travelled from flower to flower collecting pollen (wet paint) the children were able to see how the pollen is spread.

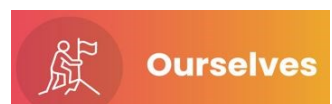
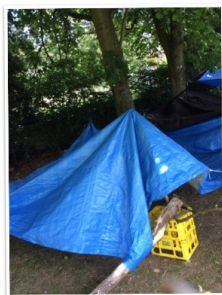


Learning



## Forest School with Year 1

We had a wonderful afternoon today doing Forest School with Kirk. Everybody worked in teams to build their own shelters. The children all chose who they were building their shelters for, we even had shelters being made for Bluey. At one point we had three shelters merged into one and the children created a pizza shop, swimming pool and a TV inside their shelter. Well done Year 1!



**Ourselves**



**Others**

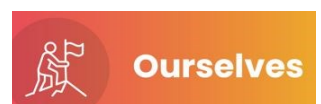


**Learning**

PIC•COLLAGE

## Fabulous Forest School with Year 2

Year 2 have had a fabulous time working brilliantly as a team, thinking about how to communicate with each other successfully so that we could make some amazing dens as well as forest self-portraits. Thank you very much to Kirk Lester from the Army Welfare Service for leading our forest school activities.



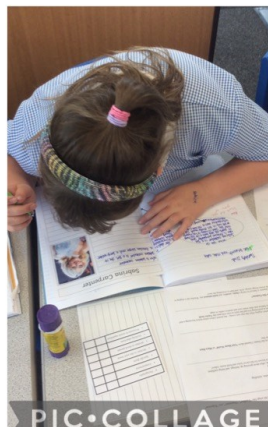
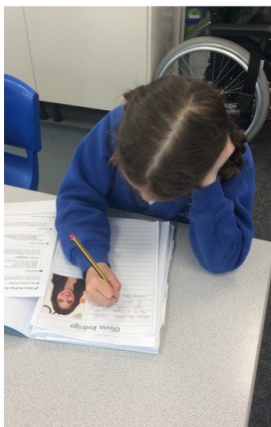
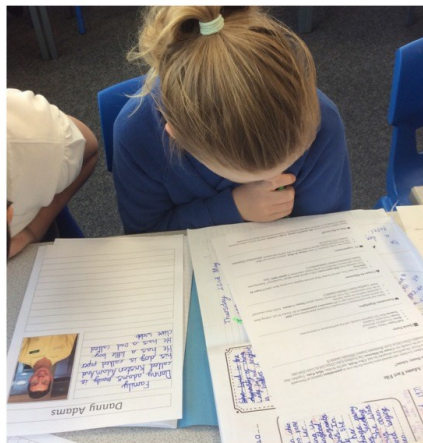
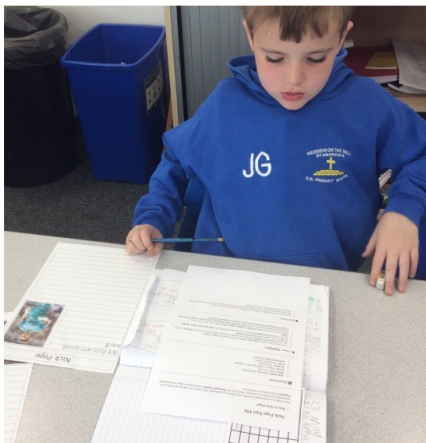
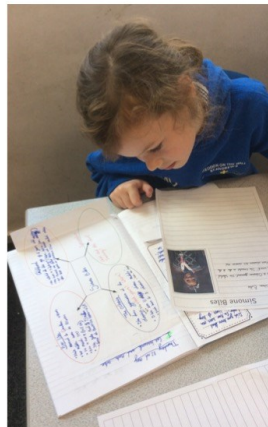
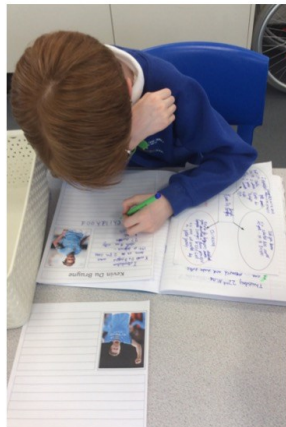
'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14



## Writing Biographies in Year 3

This week we have been writing our own biographies about celebrities of our choice. We researched our chosen celebrity on the chromebooks and made notes of the facts we found. On Friday we used our notes to help us write our biography, remembering to include subheadings.



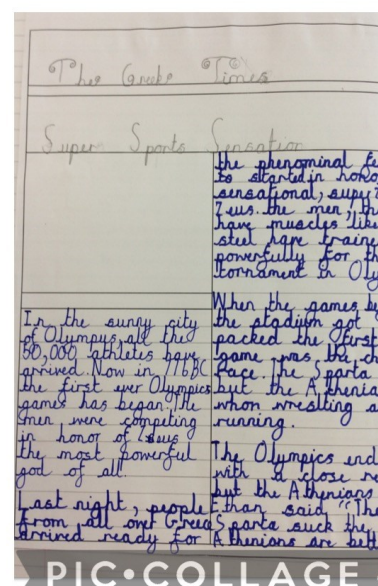
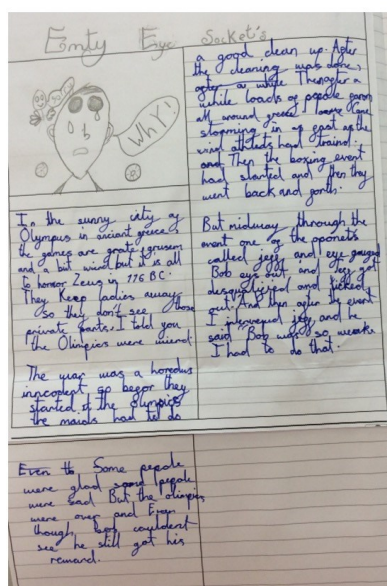
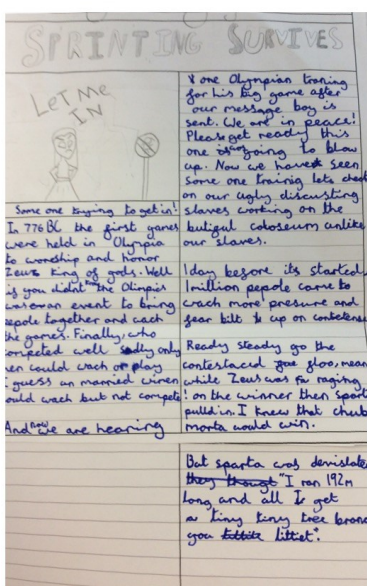
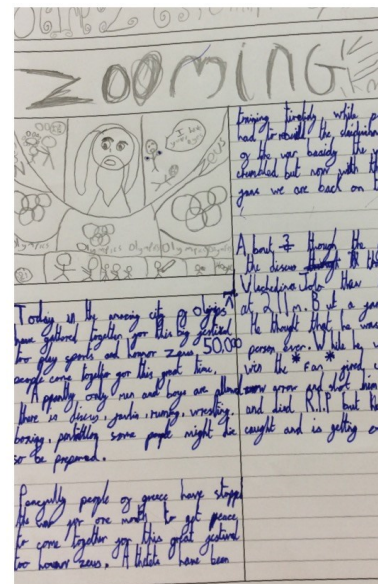
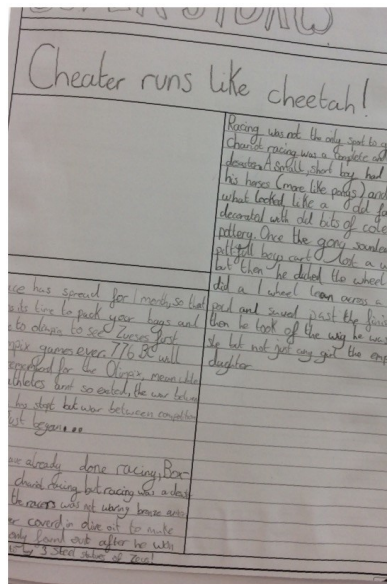
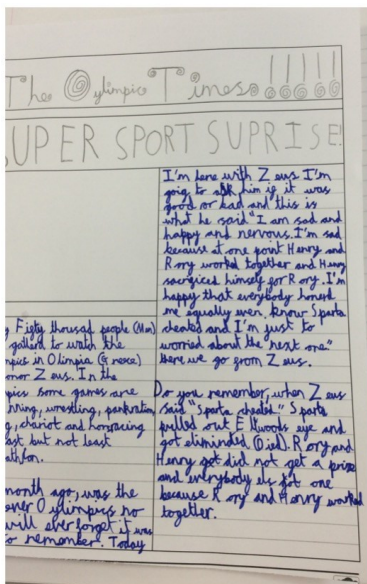
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Learning

## Writing Newspaper Articles with Year 4

In Year 4, we have been really working hard on increasing the quality of our writing. Our stamina is pretty good; we can write quite a lot. We just need to ensure that what we write is fantastic. These newspaper articles report on Ancient Greek Olympic Games. The presentation is wonderful, the use of tenses is accurate and these resilient reporters have included all sorts of wonderful grammatical features!



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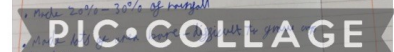
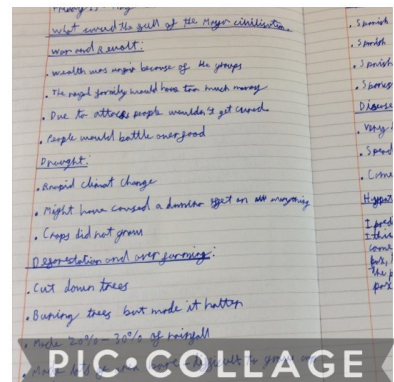
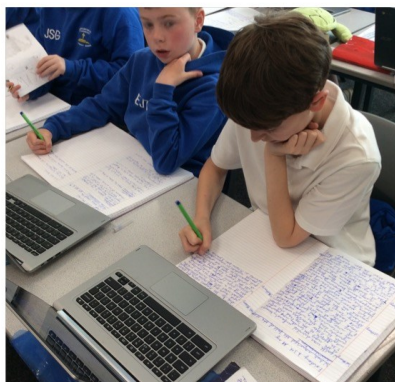
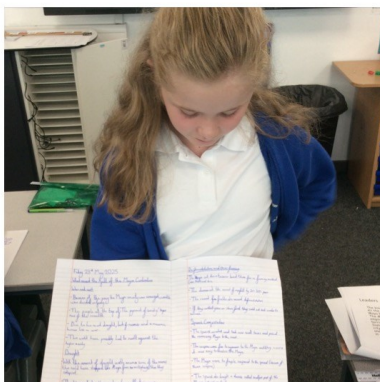
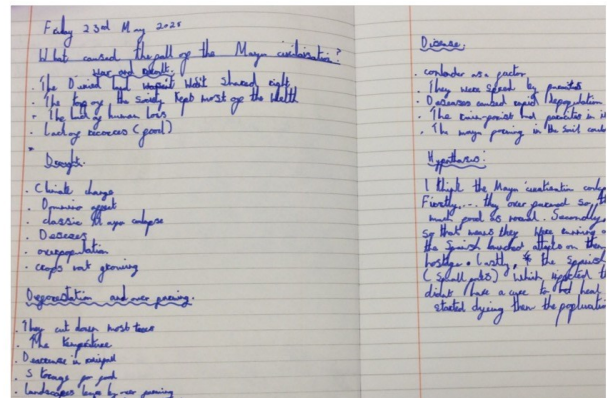
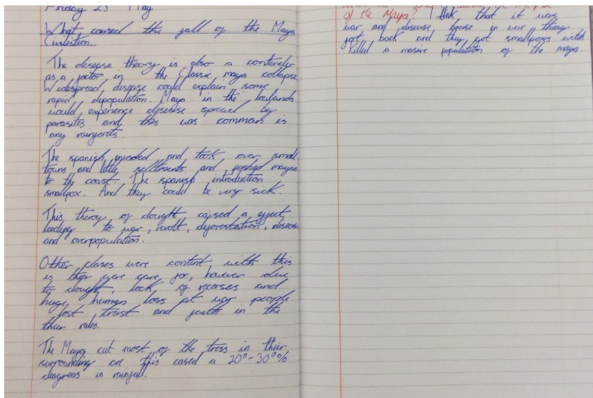
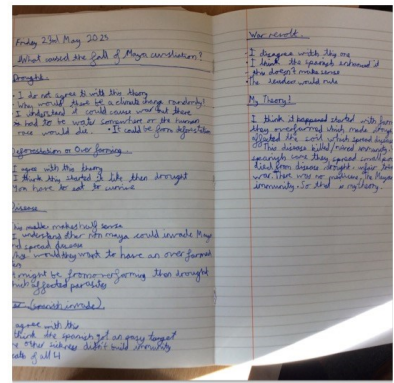
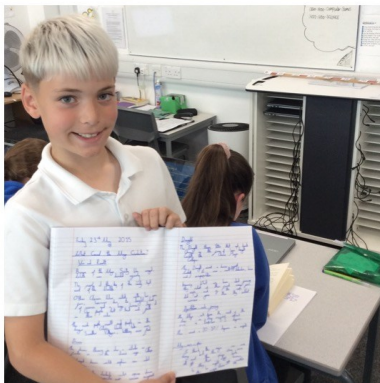


Learning



## All about the Maya with Year 5

This week, Year 5 have been investigating possible causes of the Maya civilization's collapse, including disease, conquistadors, climate change, warfare, and over-farming. After exploring all these theories, they developed their own ideas about what might have led to the downfall of the Maya.





## Cricket with Year 6!

This week Year 6 have been enjoying playing cricket on the field. A visitor - called Dan - came in from Benwell Hill Cricket Club to teach pupils some new skills. They played a game where the batter hit four balls and then would run to collect cones with different values for their team. The fielders would wait for the last ball to be hit before running to collect all of them, attempting to quickly stop the batter from gaining more points. Finally they swapped teams in order to decide a winner. Thank you to Dan for taking the time to teach us new skills!

Article written by Lydia, Katie B and Katie E (Year 6)





## Golf Engagement Day

The children had a great time on Monday with Mr. Smith and the golf professionals from Close House. They learnt how to hold a club correctly and got to practice their swing as well as take part in some competitive games. I wonder if there is a future Masters winner among the children!

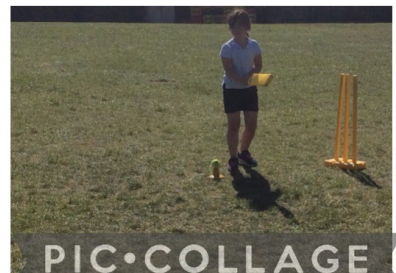


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## Striking and Fielding Club

Mr. Walker from Newcastle Foundation has been leading our Key Stage 1 Striking and Fielding Club. The children have great fun learning skills through fun activities and games. They enjoy applying them in games of cricket.



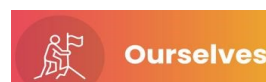
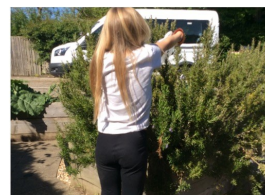
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## Gardening Club

Gardening club is a very good experience for people who love the outdoors (and biscuits)! We love gardening club ,mostly because everyone gets a different job each Wednesday! If you finish your job, you get another! Gardening club provides you with biscuits! Sometimes, we bring home, rhubarb grown in the allotment. We get to help the school ecosystem and have fun. We all have the best time!

Written by Emma, April and Anna (Year 4)





At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

18  
CENSORED

## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upson is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>

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# ONLINE SAFETY FOR UNDER 5s

## 10 Top Tips for Parents and Carers

According to Ofcom's most recent research, a significant proportion of children are already online by the time they start school, with 17% of 5-year-olds owning their own mobile phone and 50% using messaging platforms. As becoming familiar with technology is generally encouraged in younger children – and has been essential for education during the pandemic – it is crucial that trusted adults recognise both the benefits and the risks of infants and toddlers using digital devices. We've compiled our top tips to help the under-5s start their online safety journey.

### 1 USE DEVICES TOGETHER

This lets you monitor and control what your child is using the device for. It also provides the interaction that supports children's understanding of what they're seeing – allowing them to ask you questions, and so on.

PARENT CODE:  
\*\*\*\*\*

### 6 BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

If your child uses a device that's linked to a payment method (such as a bank card), use the parental controls to block buys from app stores, as well as in-app purchases. That will prevent your child from accidentally spending money while on your device.

### 2 ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most digital devices have built-in parental controls that can limit the type of content children have access to. If your little one uses any device (even borrowing yours), it's a good idea to explore what controls the device has and enable them whenever they have access to it.

### 7 CHOOSE SAFE APPS AND SITES

There are some fantastic apps and platforms that are specifically designed to be safer for children. Always check the PEGI age rating before downloading an app, and test it yourself before allowing your child to use it.

### 3 MANAGE SCREEN TIME

This can be tricky, especially if your child is interested in a certain video, app or game. Try to agree on some ground rules and get your child into a routine which includes certain times of the day when they go without devices.

### 8 INVOLVE THE FAMILY

If your toddler has older siblings, it's likely that their rules for device use will be different – and that they'll access content that isn't appropriate for younger ones (a particular worry if they share devices). Encourage the whole family to be good role models and help little ones stay safe online.

### 4 TALK ABOUT BEING SAFE ONLINE

Just like we teach children about being safe in the real world, we need to educate them about how to stay safe online. Use age-appropriate language to help them understand, and plenty of hand gestures can reinforce what you're telling them.

### 9 IF IN DOUBT, ASK

The easiest way to find out what your child is doing online is usually just to talk about it with them. Developing an open dialogue at an early age helps them grow up feeling able to talk to you about their digital life – providing opportunities to intervene if you're concerned.

### 5 SET A GOOD EXAMPLE

Children often learn by watching and copying those around them, and using digital devices is no exception. When you're around your child, try to follow the same rules that you've set for them. Let them see you balancing your time online with interacting with people in real life, too.

### 10 SUPPORT CREATIVE & ACTIVE PLAY

Physical and creative activities are important for a child's wellbeing, and there are plenty of ways to incorporate technology into that. For example, you could encourage games that require physical movement; dance and sing along to songs your child loves; and follow step-by-step crafting videos.

### Meet Our Expert

Konstantina Moustaka is a professional development and EYFS coordinator at an 'outstanding' nursery school in London. She has been working as a nursery and early years practitioner, both in the UK and internationally, for the past 16 years.



Source: [https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0024/254805/children-media-use-and-offtake-report-2022.pdf](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/254805/children-media-use-and-offtake-report-2022.pdf)



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## Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



w/c Monday 26th May 2025	HALF TERM HOLIDAYS
w/c Monday 2nd June 2025	Made in the North East Week
Monday 2nd June 2025	Year 5 visit to Woodhorn Museum
Tuesday 3rd June 2025	Year 3 visit to Castle Keep in Newcastle
Wednesday 4th June 2025	Year 6 visit to the Maritime Museum
Wednesday 4th June 2025	Year 1 visit to the Quayside
Wednesday 4th June 2025	Reception visit to the Farm
Thursday 5th June 2025	Year 2 visit to the Discovery Museum
Thursday 5th June 2025	Year 4 visit to the Victoria Tunnel
Friday 6th June 2025	Nursery visit to Whitehouse Farm
w/c Monday 9th June 2025	Year 1 Phonic Screen Check Week
Monday 9th June 2025	Class Photographs



## Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



Wednesday 11th June 2025 - Friday 13th June 2025	Year 1 Phonic Screening Check
Wednesday 11th June 2025	Pele Trust Swimming Gala
w/c Monday 16th June 2025	Year 6 Bee Week Transition Project
Monday 16th June 2025	Sports Day (more details to follow)
Tuesday 17th June 2025	Year 6 Leavers Service at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Newcastle.
Thursday 19th June 2025	Kaleidoscope Performance at the Tyne Theatre
Friday 20th June 2025	Armed Forces Celebration and Summer Fair
Monday 23rd June 2025 - Friday 27th June 2025	Year 6 France Trip
w/c Monday 30th June 2025	Bikeability for Year 5
Thursday 3rd July 2025 and Friday 4th July 2025	Year 6 Transition Days at Ponteland High School
Thursday 10th July 2025	Pele Trust Choir Concert (part of Kaleidoscope project)
Friday 11th July 2025	Rocksteady Concert for Parents/Carers in School Hall at 10am
Tuesday 15th July 2025	Music and Drama Showcase at 5pm in School Hall