

Bryn Offa Newsletter

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Friday 9th February

This will be the last newsletter for some time while we try new ways of passing on important information to parents. As we are attempting to cut down on waste (and not information) we will still be sending letters and notifications, but more targeted to the families the information is relevant to. It is really important you check your child's book bag every day and to make sure we have any changes to mobile number or email as short reminders and notifications will come via the School Money system.

Gaming

As this week has been Child Mental Health Week and Tuesday was 'Safer Internet Day' I thought this would be a good time to share some information on the dangers of gaming. All information in this newsletter is taken directly from the NSPCC and is relevant to all families.

Gaming can be a great way for young people to relax, socialise with their friends and have fun. Children can play on games consoles, apps or websites, and chat to other players or watch them play through live streaming. However, there are some dangers and with so many games available online, it can be hard for parents to know how to keep their child safe.



What are the risks of online games?

- **Children may view inappropriate or upsetting content** if they play games that aren't suitable for their age. This could include sexual or violent material. It might be in-game content or produced by other players.
- **Some players can be abusive toward others** or try to exclude them from the game. Some players may also hack another user's account or try to steal and destroy their virtual possessions. This can be as upsetting for a young person as if it happened in real life.
- **Children may play with adults they don't know.** People of all ages play games. Some adults may exploit this and try to build an emotional connection with a child for the purpose of grooming.
- **Some children may find it hard to stop playing games** or find that gaming is getting the way of them doing other activities.

5 ways to help children play safe

1. **Check the game's content** - Always check age ratings but remember they don't cover everything. It's important to check the game out yourself before letting a young child play it. If you want extra information about the content of a boxed console or computer game, take a look at the Video Standard's Council's Additional Consumer Information (ACI).
2. **Know how to mute, block and report** - Help children understand that people they meet online may not always be who they claim to be. Some games let you mute, block and report other users. Make sure your child knows how to do this if someone in the game upsets them or makes them feel uncomfortable. Childline has online gaming advice to help them do this. Remind your child they can come to you if they're ever worried.

3. **Be Share Aware** - Remind your child not to give out any personal information, photos or videos to anyone online, even if they know them. If your child plays games with people they don't know, remind them not to take the conversation off the game, onto other social networks or into a private chat.
4. **Activate safety settings** - Turn on parental controls on gaming consoles to help prevent children from downloading age inappropriate games or seeing harmful material. You can also turn on privacy settings on some games to control what other users can see about you and stop strangers from contacting you. Contact the O2 & NSPCC Online Safety Helpline for free on 0808 800 5002 for advice on how to do this.
5. **Keep the conversation going** - Have regular conversations with your child about staying safe online. Agree what games are suitable for them to play and help them understand why others are inappropriate. Talk to them about the types of games they may be watching on game streaming sites.



Wildlife School for Class 2- Wednesday afternoon

Class 2- Please ensure that you send your child in with their outdoor clothing and wellies on Wednesday afternoon.



Forest School for Class 1- Thursday afternoon

Class 1- Please ensure that you send your child in with their outdoor clothing and wellies on Thursday afternoon.



BOPA CAKE SALE

**Friday 16th February
3.15pm in the Art Room**



Donations of cakes to sell at the Cake Sale would be appreciated and may be left at the school office on Friday morning or placed in the Art Room from 3pm.



Please come along. Everyone welcome!



Next Week – Week commencing Monday 12th February

Monday during school – Year 5 John Muir Award session

Monday after school – Choir and Ju Jitsu

Tuesday during school – Year 5/6 pupils visit to The Marches to watch Beauty and the Beast and Guitar lessons

Tuesday after school- Parents Evening

Wednesday during school – Wildlife Survival School for Class 2 (pm)

Wednesday after school – Parents Evening

Thursday during school - Recorder Club (during lunch) and Forest School for Class 1 (pm)

Friday after school – BOPA Cake Sale