

Hartshorne C of E



Primary School

# January 2024 Updates

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*Friday 19 January 2024*

## *Online Safety*

### *Report - Children's Views on Video Gaming*

*Last week the Children's Commissioner released her latest report, this time looking at the views on video gaming by children. It's a fairly short, but very interesting report with some key takeaways, for example:*

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- Around two thirds of children say that games are beneficial to mental health and wellbeing. I'm surprised at this one, I thought it would be more.*
    - There is pressure to have better gaming equipment.*
      - Concerns over paid loot boxes.*
  - Frustrations at adults not recognising the positives of gaming.*
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*That last one is really interesting, it's a very common concern I hear from children. This fits in with my talks with parents who say they don't understand their children's gaming, in turn this leads many parents into concentrating on the negatives, rather than balancing the positives.*

*It's worth having a read through the report which you can download [HERE](#).*

### *For Parents - Social Media Influencers*

*The things social media influencers do and say online can be quite impactful. Around a third of children and young people think that, because the influencer is a 'celebrity', what they share is always good. But we know that isn't the case, sometimes it can be advice based on pseudo-science, selling something because they've been paid to and much more.*

*Internet Matters have a great article where various specialists offer advice and guidance to parents/carers to help them to their children think critically about social media influencers. You can find the article [HERE](#).*

### **Meta - New Protections**

*Social media companies are coming under more scrutiny and pressure around the world to protect under 18's using their services. Last week Meta announced new policies to further protect under 18's when using Facebook and Instagram which includes further restricting content recommendations and hiding age-inappropriate content. For certain searches Meta will direct the user to expert resources. You can find out more in the SWGfL article [HERE](#).*

### **Snapchat - New Parental Controls**

*In April 2023 Snapchat introduced My AI, essentially a chatbot. There was no choice, it was an embedded feature, and whilst many users are reporting a positive or mixed experience there have been some significant concerns over the advice being given to younger users (see [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) for examples).*

*Last week Snapchat expanded their Family Center tools which, amongst other features, allows parents to restrict the ability for My AI to respond to chats. Further details of these new features can be found [HERE](#) and the full list of teen protection features can be found [HERE](#).*

### **Digital Activity and Mental Health**

*The effect on mental health and wellbeing from digital activities such as social media use, screen time etc. is a hugely debated one as there are so many different nuances, the outcome being that the research is all over the place. One organisation I completely trust is the London School of Economics and in particular, Dr. Sonia Livingstone.*

*LSE have the DIORA project, Dynamic Interplay of Online Risk and Resilience, which is a carefully designed questionnaire to understand and measure the online activities and experiences of adolescents. The project is ongoing with some good results already coming out in relation to screen time, feelings of depression and anxiety, positive and negative feelings and more.*

*LSE have put together a really handy PDF which goes into a little more depth, you could use this to ask questions with your students or even send it home to parents to use as conversation starters.*

*You can download the PDF [HERE](#).*

Courtesy of Alan Mackenzie

***We Still Need Your Rubbish!***

*Please could you start saving your plastic bottles, toilet roll tubes, spare wrapping paper, plastic bags, newspapers for our Theatre Day on Thursday 25 January.*

***Christian Vision and Values***

*Our Christian value this half term is: Aspiration & Hope*

***Vision***

Our vision and values are born out of God's love and nurture of all creation. Together we work as a family to see one another grow and flourish: Knowing that we are precious and unique to God.

We aim to live out our values in our school and the world around us: as we play our part in God's wonderful creation story

***Motto***

*God's family, growing together, inspiring our world*

***Attendance***

*Mrs Mellor will be introducing Headteacher tea parties to celebrate the progress of children's attendance. We are looking forward to introducing this new system to our attendance plan and hope that the children enjoy it!*

***Safeguarding***

*Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. If you are worried or concerned for the welfare of a child please call 01629 533190.*

***Special Tuck Shop***

*The children enjoyed their warm drinks and biscuits at playtime. Thank you*

***Dates For Your Diary***

*<https://hartshorne.secure-primariesite.net/term-dates-1/> Term dates for next academic year*

*<https://hartshorne.secure-primariesite.net/letters-to-parents/> Swimming dates for Pine Class*

*6 Feb Safer Internet Day*

*13 Feb Willow Class visit to Tutbury Castle - information to follow*

*14 Feb Governor visits into school*

*28 Feb Parents' afternoon*

*6 Mar Pine Class retreat day to Edale (Information to follow nearer the time)*

*7 Mar Pine and Willow Class Fire Safety talk*

*19 April Bikeability & Learn to Ride (Pine and Oak) Information to follow nearer the time*

*13 May Y6 SATs week*

*3-14 Jun Y4 Multiplication Tables Check*

*10-14 Jun Y1 Phonics Screening Check*

*26-28 June Pine Lake Residential for Pine Class. Information to follow*

*1 Jul Governor visits in school*

***Have a lovely weekend***

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The people  
you admire  
reflect  
the person  
you hope  
to become.

LEADERSHIP FIRST