



Newsletter 11

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Learning & achieving together

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Keeping in Touch




For most of you, you haven't been at school now for over 6 weeks and things will have changed when you come back to school. BUT... lots of things won't change.

Your school staff are still thinking about you every day. We laugh at the funny things you've been doing and wonder if you are still getting better at your handwriting and what you are reading now. We hope you are doing the very important job you have all been given to help stop the spread of Covid -19 and are washing your hands!

All of the staff have loved hearing what you've all been up to recently and seeing the photos of all the fun things you've up to has been a joy to see.

Importantly -

- Don't be frightened, if you hear things that worry you, remember to talk to someone you trust about them.
- The few children that are back in school are not more special than you. We are looking after them because their parents/carers are doing important jobs right now.
- Even though you are missing school, you can still learn and try your best at everything you do.
- You are all very special. Keep, singing, dancing, playing, making, drawing, problem solving and learning about our amazing world.
- We will see you all soon 

Keeping Safe while gaming

Gaming can play a huge part in young people's identity and it's important that we find ways to protect and encourage the healthy parts of it, while also being mindful of the possible risks.

Gaming has changed a lot in the last decade or so. Games are now primarily designed to be played online, while in-game purchases, [micro-transactions and loot boxes](#) are commonplace, and skins and customisation have given players even more freedom to make changes to their gaming experiences.

This safety check-up is all about staying safe when playing Xbox One or PS4 . Microsoft has made a range of safety options available that should suit most parents' needs.

Create Family Accounts

Creating Family Accounts on your Xbox or PS4 is a great first step towards putting safety as a priority.

Any account with a birth date that places the user under the age of 18 will be asked to acquire parental consent to use the service.

These child accounts must be linked to an adult's Microsoft account to participate in the Xbox Live service (i.e. playing games online, downloading games and other content).

Microsoft has a [comprehensive guide](#) to the who, what, and how of Family Accounts but some of the basics include:

Set time limits on Play time

Setting screen time limits can be seen as controversial, and we have previously discussed the differences between [screen time and screen use](#). It may not be popular at first but setting a limit on 'Play Time' for Child Accounts can be a sensible way to keep a healthy balance with gaming.

You can choose various settings for Play Time – for example, total playable hours per day, session duration, or access times.

Play Time management is easy and can be done via the Xbox/PS4 system, web browser, or Xbox app. Xbox/PS4 has a clear and simple guide for setting up [Play Time limits](#) for all of those methods.

If your child reaches their time limit, it is possible to add more play time to their account, so this feature has flexibility built in.

Know your age ratings

Every game you buy and play will have a PEGI (Pan European Game Information) rating. This is the European standard for age rating on games.

There are five ratings – 3, 7, 12, 16, and 18 – and a range of content descriptors that detail what in the game could be considered harmful or offensive.

You can learn more about the [PEGI labels](#), [why they exist](#), and [what they mean](#) on the official PEGI website.

Content limits

If you're worried about your children accessing content that is inappropriate for their age, you can set up limits for what they can access through their accounts, based on the content's recommended age, be it games, movies, TV shows, and music.

Microsoft's guide to [setting an age limit for content](#) goes through it all clearly and quickly.

This doesn't have to be a blanket ban, though. If your child tries to access restricted content, you will get a message asking you for your consent for them to access it. You can then decide whether to refuse it, or choose to allow it— either permanently or as a one-off.

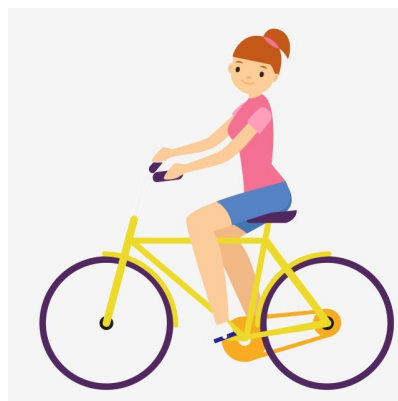
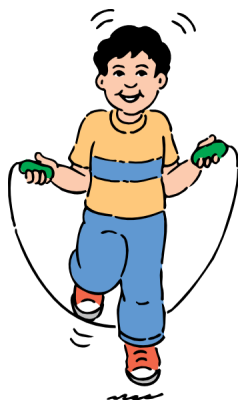
Bonus Tip - Get involved!

If you need to have a parent account on the console... You might as well put it to use.

By playing the games your kids are, you'll have a better understanding of why they like them so much, and it will help you feel more comfortable in knowing how to respond if any issues do crop up.

You might even find yourself surprised about how educational some games can be, even the simplest shoot-em-ups require an element of strategy and coordination. And hopefully you'll have some fun spending time playing games together!

So pick up that controller – it's time to dive into gaming!



There are some good things happening at the moment too!

The environment is getting a rest from all the pollution, because there are less cars on the road and less people are helping each other more and talking more to each other (please make sure you are!). Maybe after all of this, we will work out a better way to do things in the future to protect the planet!

We are all enjoying walking, cycling, skipping, baking even gardening- where we can.



**Don't forget to look after yourselves,
we will be back together soon.**