



20TH OCTOBER 2023

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please log onto **PARENTPAY** to make payments for trips and meals.  
If you have any difficulties please call in to the school office

Our school uniform supplier, Monkhouse is offering a huge 20% off everything in store and online between **16th October 2023 - 22nd October 2023**. If you need to top up on any uniform or P.E kit items or need a refresh on your everyday essentials and stationery, now's the time to shop. Use code **DEAL20** at checkout or in store. [www.monkhouse.com](http://www.monkhouse.com).

## MASS TIMES

### Sacred Heart Church Mass Times

There are two Churches in our Parish. Holy Family in Kirkholt and Sacred Heart on Kingsway. The Parish Priest is Father Simon and he resides in Sacred Heart Presbytery.

#### *Saturday at Sacred Heart*

5.15 Confessions

6.00 Vigil Mass

#### *Sunday*

9 am at Holy Family

11 am at Sacred Heart

### ASSEMBLY DATES

Friday 3rd November Y1 8.50 am

Friday 10th November Y2 Remembrance 8.50 am

Friday 17th November Reception Welcome 8.50 am

Friday 24th November Y3

### VISITORS IN SCHOOL

Wednesday 1st November Y1 Touchstones Toys workshop

### School Closes for half term

Friday 20th October and  
re-opens 8.45 am Monday 30th October

### PHOTOGRAPHER CHANGE OF DATE

**TUESDAY 14th November** photographer in school to take family photographs from 8.15 am and then individual photographs during the school day.



Every student. Every day.

## PENALTY NOTICES

### Poor attendance

Children who miss more than 20 sessions/10 school days unauthorised absence in a 12 week period will receive a Penalty Notice which is £60 per parent.

### Holiday absences

Children who miss 10 sessions/5 school days unauthorised absences will receive a Penalty Notice which is £60 per parent, per child. Holiday requests will be reviewed separately and in some circumstances may be approved.

# CAPTAINS TABLE

Captains Table children (and friends) all chosen this week for always lining up beautifully for dinner, for trying something she thought she wouldn't like then eating it all, excellent lunch time behaviour and for much improved behaviours.



## HEADTEACHERS AWARD

Headteachers award children chosen this week for (R) super art and craft activities/for working hard on her listening skills this week (Y1) excellent work in maths using part whole models/enthusiasm and hard work in all subjects (Y2) brilliant work displaying excellent skills in doubling/being a fantastic role model in everything he does (Y3) for showing enthusiasm and always trying/ great ideas and vocabulary in his writing (Y4) working hard on both his handwriting and his number bonds/for showing an appetite for learning with great progress shown in all subjects and in particular maths (Y5) for reading every night at home/ great contributions in lessons and always being a kind and helpful friend (Y6) for an excellent piece of writing (narrative)

Well done everyone.



# SCHOOL COUNCIL

Congratulations to Hajra in Year 4 and to Jorge in Year 2 for their winning Golden Heart design. Two hearts will be given out during Fridays assembly and at the end of every half term we will be organising a reward for the children awarded a Golden Heart.



# GIFT TEAM



This week the GIFT Team a wonderful and thoughtful afternoon with a visitor from Caritas. They are now fully trained Caritas Ambassadors and with their new role will show everyone in the school how we can help others in our community and around the world through prayer and action. They are also enjoying attending Class Liturgies in every class every Friday.

# ATTENDANCE

Well done Y2 on achieving the highest percentage attendance this week of 98% for the second week running and to Y1 for most improved. Who will get to 100% first ?



# 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

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 16 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.



## 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.

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