



# OLD FLETTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Weekly Update - Monday 15th January 2024

## **Happy New Year!**

We have got off to a very cold start this year but it is not hampering our work in school. We held two successful training days on the 4th and 5th of January, where I led subject leaders through the process of reviewing their curriculums and prioritising greater vocabulary development and progression through their subjects. This curriculum work will be ongoing throughout the year and all this work will come to fruition in September, when we will share with you and publish our new curriculum offer. On Thursday 11th January, our school improvement advisor supported subject leaders further with this work. She is very impressed with the progress we have made and will be monitoring this frequently.

## **Year 5 Duxford Trip**

Year 5 braved the elements and went to Duxford to support their learning in the curriculum. The feedback from this trip has been overwhelmingly positive from everyone. Mrs Semper and Mrs Symons described the children as being a credit to our school, not only were they well-behaved and well-mannered, but their interest in learning and the questions they asked were exemplary.

## **Children and Technology**

Despite age-restrictions and guidance, I know many parents feel under pressure to allow their children access to technology and apps that are not designed for primary aged pupils. It is imperative to keep our children safe, that where possible you resist the 'pester-power' from your children to have access to these. In school social media issues often flare up in years 5 and 6 and can lead to significant disruption to learning, upset and impact on mental health. Having said all that, I appreciate parents have the right to choose what they believe is right for their children and families. Attached to this update is a 'Top Tips for Parents' on setting up controls on any new devices you may have purchased over the festive season. This will protect your child to some degree, but your constant monitoring of their online activity still remains essential.

## **Healthy Snacks at Break**

Please can I encourage you to send your child in with a piece of fruit as their snack in Key Stage 2, should you feel it is required. In years 3-5 they have an early lunch starting at 11:45, so possibly do not even need a snack. We need to promote healthy eating and discourage crisps, cakes, chocolate and biscuits.

## **Diary Dates**

### **Thursday 18th January**

Census Day lunch

### **Wednesday 24th January**

Reception maths and reading homework meeting for parents

### **Friday 2nd February**

Reception Career Day

### **Tuesday 6th February**

Safer Internet Day

### **Thursday 15th February**

Nursery Stay and Play

## **Attendance**

(8th - 12th January)

RSK	92.1%	3EB	95.5%
RMH	97.3%	4TD	92.7%
1NG	96.7%	4HT	99.3%
1JR	97.3%	5SS	98.7%
2CF	98.0%	5FS	95.0%
2AM	95.7%	6SM	96.0%
3RP	97.9%	6JP	97.0%



# Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

## IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to 'Screen Time'. From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

## ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select 'Add Child' and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

## PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At [my.account.sony.com](https://my.account.sony.com), create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

## IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

## XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

## NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

## WINDOWS 11 PCS

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

## CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

## MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

## SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under 'Broadcasting', you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

## Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years' experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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