



Portobello Primary School  
Weekly Newsletter  
3<sup>rd</sup> February 2023



### Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly this week celebrated children who have used their "imagination" well this week. Well done to the following children:

**Reception:** Miles **Year 1:** Willow and Oscar **Year 2:** Charlie **Year 3:** Heidy  
**Year 4:** Iona **Year 5:** Isabella **Year 6:** Millie

### Celebrating Attendance

Well done to Y2 and Year 6 for best attendance this week at 99%!

Remember there are lots of prizes to be won this year so make sure your child attends every day! There are still 100 families in the Spring 1 raffle draw to win £50 and only 9 days left!

### Dates for Diary

- Tues 7<sup>th</sup> Feb - Safer Internet Day
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> Feb - Inside Out non-uniform day - donations welcome
- Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Feb - Valentine's Disco Reception to Year 6
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> Feb - Reception Class Live Eggs Arriving
- Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar - World Book Day - non uniform/dress up as a book character
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Mar - Y6 Robinwood Meeting: after school for parents/carers
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> Mar - Y4 trip to Newcastle Synagogue - info to follow
- Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Mar - Reception trip to Hall Hill Farm - info to follow
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> April - Y3/Y5 trip to Ikson Temple - info to follow
- Thur 27<sup>th</sup> April - Y1 trip to Gibside National Trust - info to follow

### Who visited Portobello this week?

As part of National story telling week, Reception parents and carers came along to read stories within Reception class this week, thank you for coming along the children enjoyed their story time, we hope you had fun too.

### Sport

Our Year 4 basketballers competed to a high standard at their tournament this week. They won all their games and came top in their group, deservedly coming away with gold medals. A huge well done #TeamPortobello.

### Valentine's Disco

Please make ticket payment online via Pay 360 within the Events section. If you haven't set up online payments yet, please let the office know. Once payment has been made return tear off slip from the letter which has been sent home today by next Friday 10<sup>th</sup>.



BIG AWARD  
ENDORSED BY KIOSCOPE



MUSIC MARK  
SCHOOL



# Join a **BAND**

**Ages 7 to 18  
years**



**FREE To Attend**

[gatesheadandsouthtynesidemusic hub.co.uk](https://gatesheadandsouthtynesidemusic hub.co.uk)

Gateshead Music Ensembles,  
Chowdene Children's Centre,  
Waverley Road,  
Harlow Green  
NE9 7TU



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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



### Take a Peek once a week

Within most schools at any one time, there will be a small number of children infected with head lice. Infection levels remain fairly constant, so we need your help to combat the bugs!

### **How Do I Look for Head Lice?**

To diagnose a case of head lice you need to find them alive. This is when you need to use a treatment. They move fast and are small – so they can be hard to find! Head lice range in sizes from a full stop to a sesame seed size.

### **Where to Peek:**

- Close to the scalp
- Behind the ears
- The back of the neck
- The top of the head
- Under the fringe

### **How Do I Get Rid of Head Lice?**

Wet combing method.

The wet combing ('bug-busting') method is physically removing lice using a nit comb, without using chemical treatments. This method can be helpful because head lice are growing increasingly resistant to the insecticides used to remove them.

However, success depends on adopting a painstaking approach of regular and thorough combing, ideally on a weekly basis on both short and long hair.

The best procedure is as follows:

- Wash the hair as normal using an ordinary shampoo.
- Apply conditioner liberally to wet hair (this causes the lice to lose their grip on the hair).
- Comb the hair through with a normal comb first, until the comb runs freely.
- Section the hair, then with a fine-toothed nit comb, comb from the roots along the complete length of the hair and after each stroke, check the comb for lice and wipe it clean. Work methodically over the whole head for at least 30 minutes, this can take up to 1 hour or longer (depending on the amount hair your child has)
- Rinse the hair as normal.
- **Repeat every three days for at least two weeks making sure the pesky bugs are kept at bay.**



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### Artwork

Some of you may have noticed we have had some new artwork installed near our main entrance if you haven't yet seen our four murals pop along to take a look. We commissioned a local artist called Michael Gill also known as "stripeydogdesign" to work with our Year 6 group from September last year, Michael worked alongside Mrs Duffy and developed pupil's ideas and drawings linked to landscapes local to us. They look fantastic and brighten up the exterior too. Well done Year 6.

### Inside Out - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb

As part of children's mental health week, we will be supporting the If U Care Share Foundation's 'inside out' campaign.

As part of their inside out campaign they are asking teachers, staff, and children across the region to wear an item of clothing inside out (intentionally). This is because we know that talking about feelings and emotions is more important now than it's ever been. We want to highlight just how beneficial it can be to get what's on the inside, out.

We will be hosting a non-uniform day in school on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February where all funds raised will be donated to the If U Care Share Foundation. These lifesaving funds will enable the charity to continue to support individuals and families across the region.

For more information see below:

<https://www.ifucareshare.co.uk/>

### Online payments

PAY 360 is used to pay for school trips, school meals, breakfast club bookings and tickets for film nights and donations too. This is a secure payment site where you can keep a track of your payments and school can run payment reports too. Paying online is secure for you and saves schools hours of admin time.

Before Christmas we asked all parents/carers who hadn't yet logged into Pay 360 to ask the school office for an identification code to allow a log in to be created. All you need is an email address and to remember the password you use for that address when you log in.

If you need a code, please get in touch with Mrs Lister to request one. We would prefer all parents/carers to be using the online site payment method. Your assistance is very much appreciated.



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### Online Safety

#### What Parents Need to Know about Grand Theft Auto

A free online safety guide on Grand Theft Auto. We are aware that children as young as Reception in school are aware of this game which is most worrying.

Grand Theft Auto is an action-adventure video game series where players control criminals and wreak havoc to complete missions and progress through the game. During the early stages of the game, it solely focused on completing missions to go up a level. However, as the game grew more popular the makers of GTA decided to introduce a narrative to each edition of the game. The aim of this was to increase user engagement, making gamers believe that they were not just playing as the character, but they became the character. Grand Theft Auto is accessible on several devices including PlayStation and Xbox, desktop computers, PSP, Nintendo DS, and Mobile.


In the guide below, you'll find tips on several potential risks such as violent content, profane language and playing with strangers.




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# What parents need to know about GRAND THEFT AUTO (GTA)



Grand Theft Auto is an action-adventure video game series where players control criminals and wreak havoc in order to complete missions and progress through the game. During the early stages of the game, it solely focuses on completing missions to go up a level. However, as the game grew more popular the makers of GTA decided to introduce a narrative to each edition of the game. The aim of this was to increase user engagement, making gamers believe that they were not just playing as the character, but they became the character. Grand Theft Auto is accessible on a number of devices including PlayStation and Xbox, desktop computers, PSP, Nintendo DS, and Mobile.



## Top Tips for Parents

### THE RISK - PLAYING WITH STRANGERS

When buying GTA V you automatically have access to Grand Theft Auto Online, a version of the game that allows players to play online. They can play alone, invite players to a game, or be involved in public 'sessions' where people will be picked at random to play. When you first look into the game, you are automatically placed into an open lobby, meaning you play with random people. The social club is GTA's very own social platform where users can bet money, share in-game photographs (which users can like and comment on), and even message other users directly.

#### What parents can do

To prevent your child playing with strangers on the game, you can change the settings to ensure they only play with their approved friends list. Upon signing up to the 'social club', it automatically sets a player's visibility settings to 'everyone', meaning their name and profile information is made public. Parents can alter this by changing the visibility settings to 'only me'.

## WARNING!

Due to the nature of the game and the age restrictions, GTA includes content that is inappropriate for anyone under the age of 18, including sex, nudity, violence, profane language, and substance abuse. These are the main components that make up the game - you have to do certain things and witness certain things in order to move on in the game. Exposing your child to this type of content could affect their morals and understanding of right and wrong. Additionally, your child could become desensitised to similar situations, reinforcing the fact they would find it hard to differentiate between right/wrong and good/bad.

### THE RISK - ONLINE HACKERS

Hackers can make money by helping users cheat in the game. They can do a number of inappropriate things, including killing people, stealing weapons, spawning money into the game, and even raping other characters. Spawning money tends to be a gamer's most popular choice, being able to buy \$100,000,000,000 (of in-game currency) for as little as five US dollars.

#### What parents can do

Actively monitor your child's online activity. These websites are very easy to find, meaning children and young people can easily navigate their way to these websites and pay for hackers. Not only is this an illegal activity, but you have the risk of giving your personal information to someone who may misuse it.

### THE RISK - ADDICTION

Addiction is a risk with any game. Game developers use persuasive design techniques to force users to invest their time, and often money, in a game. Within GTA, your character is able to progress through the game for completing missions within a certain time frame, encouraging children to keep returning to the game. Gaming addiction is now a recognised health condition and the side effects are concerning, including sleep deprivation, decreased attention span and erratic emotional behaviour.

#### What parents can do

There are a number of things you can do if you are concerned about your child's screen time, including setting time limits within the home, especially during meal times and before bedtime. Talk to your child and ask why they are spending so much time on the game, and encourage healthy alternatives such as outdoor activities and spending quality time with friends and family.

### THE RISK - LIVE CHAT

When playing GTA online, players have the option to use a microphone to broadcast their voice live to other players involved in the 'session'. These live voice chats are not moderated, meaning anything could be said, including inappropriate language, as well as verbal forms of bullying.

#### What parents can do

Talk openly with your child about not giving away personal information. Also remind them that conversations can be recorded, which could damage their online reputation. Depending on the device/platform, there will be ways to mute conversations. Make yourself aware of the device/platform's individual settings and ensure that your child knows how to block and report.

### THE RISK - MICROTRANSACTIONS

By completing missions and partaking in certain activities you earn in-game currency. This allows you to buy things such as prostitutes, vehicles, weapons, ammo, new outfits, cars, apartments and more. However, the items that are available to buy often have a high price that require a lot of game time, meaning the items are pretty unrealistic to buy.

#### What parents can do

If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest purchasing a pre-paid gift card for your child. These can be purchased in specific amounts which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit or debit card to be used with their account.

**SOURCES:**  
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2103188/parentalguide>  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gaming/news/grand-theft-auto-v-has-made-money-film-history/>  
<http://www.techaddiction.ca/addiction-to-video-games.html>



**National Online Safety**

A whole school community approach to online safety

**www.nationalonlinesafety.com**

Email us at [hello@nationalonlinesafety.com](mailto:hello@nationalonlinesafety.com) or call us on 0800 368 8061