



Achievement Assembly

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

Reception: Jessica **Year 1:** Harper **Year 2:** Mason

Year 3: Imogen **Year 4:** Lucas **Year 5:** Sammy **Year 6:** Eden

Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 95.1%.

Well done to Reception, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6 for best attendance this week at 95%!

Our raffle has restarted. Our next draw will take place the Friday before May half.

Dates for Diary

- Tuesday 21st May - Breakfast Club special breakfast: Toasted muffins or pancakes
- Monday 3rd June - Occasional day - school closed**
- Tuesday 18th June - Health and Sports Week - Keep fit Breakfast!
- Thurs 20th June: Lunch menu change: National Picnic Day
- Wed 26th June: Y3 trip Adventure Sunderland
- Fri 5th July - PM school summer fayre
- Thurs 11th July: Lunch menu change: End of year celebration (burger & fries & ice cream cone)

Reader of the Week Award

Celebrating our school's passion for reading! A huge congratulations to this week's school reading award winners. We are delighted to introduce this week's star readers who will receive a certificate:

Reception	Year 1	Year 2	
Amelia and Bella	Amelia and Jenson	Theo and Oscar	
Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Jack and Nate	Bella and Jacob	Samuel and Aryanna	Grace and Jack



Gateshead School Catering

Please complete a Parent & Pupil survey, closing date 30th June:

<https://consultation.gateshead.gov.uk/survey/1264>

Get quick and reliable NHS advice about your children's health?

Not sure if your child should be attending their childcare setting if they are unwell? It can be hard to know what to do for the best. Follow Healthier Together's simple guide for common conditions and illnesses: <https://www.nenc-healthierttogether.nhs.uk/parentscarers/tips-guides-and-resources-parents-and-caregivers/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool>

You can download the Healthier Together app from your app store now! Designed to reduce anxiety and worry for parents and carers and help you access the right NHS services: <https://www.nenc-healthierttogether.nhs.uk/resources/download-healthier-together-mobile-application>

Gateshead Family HUBS

For more information on Gateshead Family Hubs see the link below, our nearest one is on Harras Bank.

<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/22551/Gateshead-Family-Hubs>

Right of the week - Article 31

Every child has the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities. Next week, our Year 6 children will be doing their SATs. Our article this week should remind them that though the SATs are important, it is also important to rest and have a well-earned break!



Sport

Another great week in the league for our girls' football team who won 2 of their games and drew 2. The final week to decide the league winners is in two weeks' time!

An exciting opportunity for any pupils with special educational needs, from Durham County FA.

'Comets' is a recreational, pan-disability football programme for disabled children aged between 5 and 11. Pan-disability is the largest format of disability football, which sees players with a broad range of impairments and health conditions play together. To see a little more about Comets, check out this YouTube video - <https://youtu.be/XDrYmK62Dts>

Comets offers a new, flexible, and inclusive way of playing, one that's all about playfulness, friendships and having fun. More than anything, Comets is football that breaks the old rules and replaces them with a brand new one: JUST BE YOU. The sessions will take place at Rutherford AFC, who will be starting a new session on Sunday 19th May. For more information you can contact Andrea Fyall (Football Development Officer) andrea.fyall@durhamfa.com



COMETS

When ... Sundays
Time ... 12 - 1 pm
Date from 19th May 2024

Recreational Disability Session for
5 to 11 year olds on our 3g pitch at Rutherford AFC

Bookings via QR Code below:



Easy Fundraising

Welcome and huge thank you to Gav K, Sarah L, Steve C, Sarah K, Simon G, Jenny M, Emma L, Andrea C, Emma L, Lee K, Kate S, Deborah A & everyone for signing up to support us by shopping online through easyfundraising, it really makes a difference.

Please sign up too, it's easy and completely FREE! 8,100 brands will donate to us when you do your usual online shopping with them - at no extra cost to you!

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/portobelloprisch/N7TLL/lat/EDA0jpqh/DM1329426/facebook/>

Online Safety

This free Wake up Wednesday guide discusses the online safety risks of the video game Helldivers 2 and offers advice on how to safeguard younger players.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 18+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING

Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

PREMIUM ITEMS

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST

Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS

At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES

If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS

Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS

Thanks to an in-game "ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Social Media:
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