

GOLDFIELD INFANTS' AND NURSERY SCHOOL

Spring Term Newsletter



Friday 15th March 2024

Contact us: admin@goldfield.herts.sch.uk



Happy Birthday Melissa, Owen, Florry, Jed, Esme & Bea



Be a Star of Your Emotions

We all experience a whole variety of emotions in any one day. Sometimes those feelings can leave us anxious, stressed or overwhelmed. The purpose of the 'Be a Star of Your Emotions' poster is to give children coping strategies to support their emotional health and wellbeing. It encourages them to shine a light on their feelings by taking time to: **Stop- Take a breath- And Relax**

While designed with children in mind, the poster might be useful for adults too! Print it off and display it in your house. [Click here](#) to download the poster.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER.....

18.3.24-22.3.24		Scholastic Book Fair
21.3.24		World Down Syndrome Day
26.3.224		Reception Health Screening
27.3.24		Easter Bonnet Parade
28.3.24		FROGS Easter Hunt
28.3.24		End of term- early finish Nursery- 11.30 No lunch club Reception, 1 & 2- 1.45pm
18.4.2024		Seasonal Change Day- Year 2
23.4.24		Seasonal Change Day- Year 1
24.4.24		Year 2 Trip—Roald Dahl Museum
May		My Money Month
6.5.24		Bank Holiday- School Closed
8.5.24		Wellbeing Morning
13.5.24		Class Photos
15.5.24		BLP Day
16.5.24		Electric Umbrella
22.5.23		Reception School Trip
23.5.24		Sharing Morning
24.5.24		FROGS Disco
12.6.24		FROGS Movies Night
27.5.24 to 3.6.24		Half Term- School Closed
3.6.24		INSET DAY- School Closed
4.6.24		School reopens after half term
10.7.23		Year 2 Leavers Assembly



World Down Syndrome Day is on Thursday 21st March and the theme is 'End the Stereotypes'. To mark this day we encourage everyone to wear odd socks to school.

Authorised and Unauthorised Absence. What is the difference?

Every school, by law, has to register pupils twice a day; first thing in the morning at the start of the school day, and again in the afternoon session. If a pupils fails to attend or arrives late they can be marked as absent for that session.

If a pupil of compulsory school age is absent, the register must show whether the absence was authorised (acceptable) or unauthorised (where no acceptable reason is given for absence). Only the school can approve the reason for absence.

Authorised Absence

Where a pupil is absent due to sickness and is genuinely unable to attend school, then the school, after being informed, may authorise a child's absence.

It is important that you phone or email the school or come into the office if your child is going to be absent at the start of the day. You will receive a phone call from the office if you do not inform us as it is our duty to ensure your child is safe. If we cannot make contact with you then you may receive a home visit from a member of staff.

In law, only the Headteacher can authorise a pupil's absence and may require additional evidence such as a letter from your GP or other medical proof particularly if your child's attendance is already a concern and below 95%.

Unauthorised Absence

The law states that parents or carers must ensure that their child regularly attends the school where they are registered. Should your child fail to attend school regularly legal action may be taken against you.

It is a parent's legal responsibility to ensure that their child, when of statutory school age, accesses education appropriate to age, needs and ability. Under the terms of the education related provisions of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act, each parent/carer(s) may be issued with a Penalty Notice of £60 if:

- You fail to ensure that your child attends school regularly
- You allow your child to take leave of absence in term time without a school's authorisation. A penalty notice can be issued once a child has 15 or more sessions (a session is a half day) of unauthorised absence in the current or previous school term. The absences can be either in a block or a series of odd days.
- You fail to return your child to school on an agreed date after a leave of absence
- Your child persistently arrives late for school after the register is closed.

Examples of unauthorised Absence may be if your child does not attend because of:

- Going on holiday or travelling abroad
- Days off for birthdays, shopping trips
- Feeling tired
- Bad weather
- Non urgent appointment
- Parent unwell to bring them to school
- Birthday

We will only grant a leave of absence for exceptional circumstances. A holiday or travelling abroad is not exceptional.



The Scholastic Book Fair are in school on the 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st & 22nd March. Parents and children are invited to pop along to the school hall from 3.20pm to 3.45pm to purchase books. **IMPORTANT** - We will not be taking any orders for books, we will only be selling the books that are available at the Book Fair on the day - so please attend to avoid disappointment. Payment is either card or online payment.

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, 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 to 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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