



SPRING TERM (2)

MONDAY 17TH March 2025

ISSUE 21

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week we focused on the values of Courage throughout the week. We had some lovely, thoughtful nominations from pupils. Remember we love to hear about how the children are showing and sharing our school values at home!

This week in our school values meeting, not only will we be introducing this week's value of Understanding, we will also be looking at Neurodiversity Week. Pupils will also be doing activities related to Neurodiversity throughout the week and so please remember to ask your children about what they have been learning.

Finally, we wanted to make you aware that some of our children are having conversation in school about video games that they are not old enough to play. Please remind any older siblings that these games have age restrictions for a reason and that they should not allow younger siblings to play. We are also aware that monitoring the use of games and IT equipment can sometimes be a challenge and so I have included some useful information on parental controls and setting boundaries in relation to gaming.

Have a fantastic week!

Kind Regards

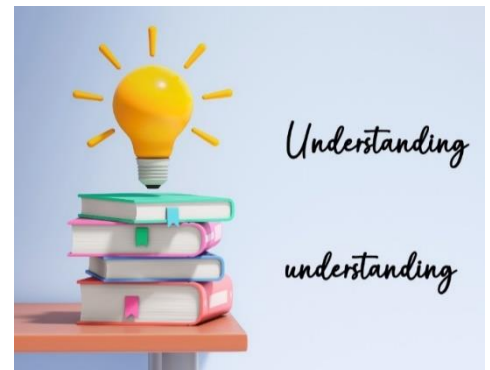
Mr M Hooper
Headteacher



Values at Stepping Stones

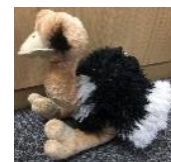
The Value of the week is Understanding

This week the value we will be discussing Understanding. We will be discussing what this can both look and feel like to each of us, daily. We will be explaining to the children how taking time to understand others, is taking time to empathise. Empathy is understanding how someone else is feeling and to understand the situation they are in. "Putting yourself in someone else's shoes". Empathy helps you to become a better friend, classmate and citizen. Please do take the time to discuss this value with your child at home and let us know when they have been able to show understanding within the family. We love to be able to celebrate home nominations for our Values' Board in school each week.



Can-do Colin

Finally, Can-do Colin has been out and about this weekend again – we can't wait to hear about all of his adventures – please do remember to send in some photos of his exploits with your child into Class Dojo. Thank you - we really do value your input from home. 😊



This week's Headteacher awards are as follows:

Alfie M

Molly

Peter



2nd April – World Autism Awareness Day

On Wednesday 2nd April, we will be learning about World Autism Day. The pupils we take part in activities within the classes where they will learn more about Autism and neurodiversity.



Wednesday 19th March is (Maple Class) parents and carers meetings via Teams – Mr Holt will inform you of your meeting time and send out a Teams link in advance of the meeting.



21st March Winmarleigh Day Camp 3

Winmarleigh Day Camp 3 will take place this Friday 21st March. Any pupils attending will be bringing home a permission letter.



Week Commencing 10/03/2025 – 14/03/2025 = Our attendance 94%.
Well done all!

94%

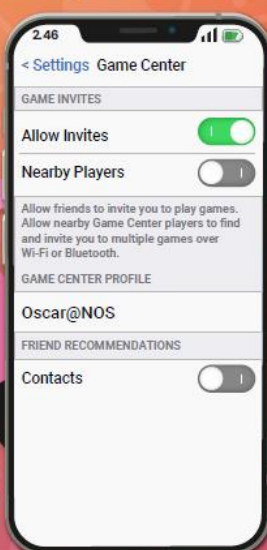
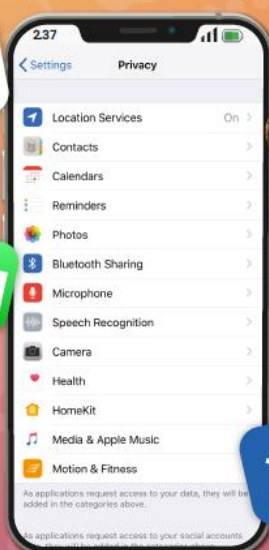
Thank you for your continued support and for mirroring our ethos and values at home.

Please remember that we are here to support you and you can contact Mrs Armstrong (Family Support – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday).

Mr Hooper and the whole staff team at Stepping Stones School

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS iPhone

Apple devices come with built-in apps already available: Mail, FaceTime and Safari, for example. However, you can choose which apps and features appear on your child's device and which ones don't. You can also manipulate the features in Game Centre to enhance your child's safety and privacy when playing games, as well as blocking iTunes or App Store purchases if you wish.



How to Restrict Built-in Apps/Features

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Allowed Apps (you may need to toggle this to 'on' at the top)
- 5 Enable or disable the apps you wish to appear (or disappear) on your child's device

How to Restrict Game Centre

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions (you may need to switch the toggle at the top to the 'on' position)
- 5 Scroll down to Game Centre
- 6 Choose between Allow, Don't Allow, or Allow with Friends Only in the settings for each feature

How to Restrict iTunes & App Store Purchases

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap iTunes & App Store Purchases
- 5 Select Allow or Don't Allow for each feature (you can also lock these settings with a password)



How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS for APPS Android Phone

On Android phones, restricting access to particular apps usually requires going onto Google Play. From there, it's fairly easy to navigate your way through the settings to manage the parental controls and authentications relating to any apps on the device. These features can prevent your child from downloading or buying anything unsuitable for their age. Updated versions of apps or games that your child has already installed may occasionally contain something inappropriate, so we've explained how to stop those, too.



How to Block App Downloads (This Also Disables In-app Purchases):

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Scroll down to the Family section and tap Parental controls
- 5 Toggle 'Parental controls are off' to 'Parental controls are on'
- 6 Create a PIN and tap OK
- 7 Confirm your PIN and tap OK again
- 8 Tap Apps & Games
- 9 Set the age limit you wish to set
- 10 Tap Save to apply your changes

How to Stop Auto-updates

- 1 Open Google Play Store
- 2 Tap the profile icon in the top right
- 3 Tap Settings
- 4 Tap Auto-Update Apps
- 5 Select 'Don't auto-update apps' and then tap Done

Restricting Apps Through Google Family Link

- 1 Open Google Play Family Link for parents
- 2 Tap the three horizontal lines in the top left
- 3 Select your child's account
- 4 Tap Manage
- 5 Tap Controls on Google Play
- 6 Tap Apps & Games
- 7 Select the age limit you wish to set



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

18
CENSORED

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.

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.

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.



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

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