

HEAD'S BLOG...

As advised last week, we have reviewed the DfE guidance for schools for Step 4. In light of the ongoing situation in Cornwall and the fact that we have experienced three bubble closures in recent weeks, we are taking a cautious approach. As a school community, we have worked hard together to mitigate the risks of transmission of the virus and protect each other as much as possible. I really want to do all we can to avoid the beginning of the summer holiday being marred by self-isolating pupils and staff. Therefore, we will be maintaining our bubbles until the end of term.

All our current procedures will continue; however, mask-wearing will be optional. Visitors to school will only be admitted for educational or pastoral support for pupils and we would also ask that you maintain social distancing around school. All our usual hand hygiene and cleaning measures will be maintained.

Updated information about what parents need to know about schools' guidance can be found here: Step 4 update - what parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

So the last week of term is almost upon us. We are looking forward to transition 'minimeets' with new class teachers, which will take place outside to ensure current bubbles are kept separate. Bubble-friendly sports days will also take place along with some y6 leavers' events.

It's looking like a hot one next week so please remember sun hats, sun cream and water bottles!

Have a lovely weekend

Ms Carmichael

Coronavirus reminders If your child develops any symptoms of Coronavirus (persistent cough, high temperature or loss of taste / smell), s/he MUST NOT come to school and school must be informed. Call 119 or get a test online at:

https://self-referral.test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/antigen/name

If you believe that your child is well enough to attend school and they have only symptoms of a 'common cold' such as:

runny nose, sore throat or a mild cough they are permitted to attend.

Did you know anyone with a family member attending school can test themselves twice every week?

The twice-weekly test kits can be accessed:

via employers if they offer testing to employees, at a local test site, by collecting a home test kit from a test site, by ordering a home test kit online on this link: https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests

NB: All absences must be reported to our school office by calling 01726 64322. You can leave a message if outside of office hours. Please DO NOT report absences via Class Dojo. Thank you.



READING

Returning School Reading Books and Library Books

Please can any reading or library books be returned to school before next Friday. We know that we are missing a number of books but also recognise this is completely understandable with all the disruption over the last 18 months. Please could you hunt out any books that belong in school and send them in with your child. We will be collecting in all current reading books over the holidays.

Summer Reading Challenge

Just a reminder that your child can have access to a wide variety of reading material through the library and can take part in the Summer Reading Challenge. You will need to sign them up and the library have organised a number of different ways to help children get books within the current restrictions and to help everybody be safe.

Check out the St Austell Library Facebook page for details about the Reading Challenge

https://www.facebook.com/staustelllibrary/photos/a.196776857007315/4412744078743884/



We are ready for the Summer Reading Challenge - signing up will be in the jungle clearing and then you can select your books. As numbers are restricted in the junior area we have shelved some books near the clearing so that you can pick and check out quickly. There are also Speedy Six packs by the entrance to the area, bundles of 6 preselected books based on genres - football, wild world heroes, adventure, school, quick reads etc. Just look at the label, pick a pack that takes your fancy and check them out, all in one go. Come to the side door in the staff carpark for admission but please be prepared to wait when there are others already signing up.



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GOOD NEWS

A massive shout out and a huge BB 'Whoosh' to Mrs Allen ...

Mrs Allen has achieved her Nurture Practitioner qualification after many months' hard work and dedication. She is an asset to our school and this further enhances her incredible support.

Well done, Mrs Allen, we're so proud of you!





Congratulations to the following children who were awarded the most valuable player in last week's Battle of the Bands KS2 competition: Ghanja, Ella, Jowan, Mason, Archie and Tyler.

An extra well done to Phoenix class for being the overall winners of the LKS2 battle and to Hope Class for being the overall winners of the UKS2 battle.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2020/21 Spring Term Diary Dates:

Fri 23rd July 2021—Last day of term NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

2021/22 Inset Days:

Mon 6th Sep 2021

Tues 7th Sep 2021

Mon 1st Nov 2021

Mon 25th Jul 2022

Tues 26th Jul 2022

PARENT SUPPORT

Does your family qualify for Free School Meals? Or perhaps because of a change in circumstances you know that the additional costs of having children at home over the summer holidays may prove challenging.

St Austell Foodbank are launching a pilot project with 4 schools in the St Austell area during the summer holidays and Bishop Bronescombe School have been invited to be part of that pilot.

The aim of the pilot project is to provide weekly access to food support so that families can avoid needing to make difficult choices about which finances need to be prioritised.

As well as weekly access to food support, families will be offered face to face onsite access to a range of support services such as good quality pre-loved school uniform, debt support, benefit checks, specialist energy advice, support with applying for Universal Credits, PIP, Discretionary Housing Payments, council tax support, crisis grants, etc.

Should you feel that your family would like further information about accessing any of this support please self-refer by emailing Your name and contact phone number to: emma@staustell.foodbank.org.uk

Self-referrals must be made by Wednesday, 21st July.

OTHER NOTICES

LUNCH ORDERING AND WRAPAROUND BOOKINGS

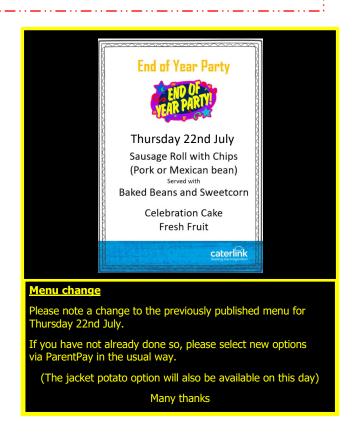
A polite reminder to please ensure your child's school lunches are booked in advance on ParentPay. This is vital to enable our kitchen staff to prepare the right amount of food. If lunches are not ordered by 9am each day, we cannot guarantee a hot lunch will be available for your child.

ParentPay should only be used to order / pay for lunches and pay for other items such as wraparound sessions, trips or swimming. Please do not attempt to book or change booked wrapround sessions via this system.

The booking letter for September's wraparound sessions has been sent via email and DoJo—please contact the school office if you have not received it.

Thank you.





ONLINE SAFETY

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hald an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be a ware of, Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.cam for further guides, hints and tips for adults



GE RATING &

Valorant is one of the hottest first-person shooters on the market. Developed by Riot Games (makers of the hugely popular League of Legends) its gameplay is similar to titles like Overwatch and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive. Players choose a character and face off in teams of five against five opponents. Currently available only on PC through the Riot Games site, Valorant requires quick reflexes and dedication to progress. However, between dealing with other players, navigating the online store and avoiding possible addiction, there's plenty for parents and carers to consider before allowing children to play.

Violence & weapons

The violence in Valorant isn't The violence in Valorant isn't gory, but players nevertheless use weapons like guns, knives and explosives to kill opponents and win a round. The selection of guns that can be bought and used ranges from fairly authentic looking to brightly coloured and cartoonish. The game's PEGI 16 rating should give parents and carers a useful indication of the intensity and realism of the combat.

Risk of addiction

Cames with a high skill ceiling — which require dedication and repetition to master can quickly become addictive. Developers design games like Valorant to hook players and keep them coming back every day; this practice has seen online shooters cultivate vost user-bases over the last decade. Children are particularly susceptible to these tactics, which can unfortunately lead to session and eventual addiction.

In-game purchases

Valorant is free to download, only Valorant is free to download, only requiring an account on the Riot Games site. There is, however, a built-in digital store where real money can be exchanged for points. Valorant's in-game currency, which can be spent on weapons. Bundles of points cost between £4.99 and £99.99 - so if a card or PayPal account is linked to the game, children could easily rack up a large bill without rack up a large bill without

Other Players

When millions of gamers from around the world discover a new title, it's sadly inevitable that some will harbour more sinister aims than winning games and having fun. In Valorant, teams audio chat via headsets – potentially exposing children to hazards such as name calling, harassment, inappropriate language and grooming. Player could also befriend each other online and then communicate autistick the game wis third-north communicate outside the game via third-party apps like Discord or TeamSpeak.

Advice for Parents & Carers

Watch for signs of addiction

If you're concerned that a child is becoming addicted to a game, it's important to step in. Warning signs include irritability when not playing, hiding the extent of their game time, an inability to stop when asked and a lack of interest in other hobbies. Encourage a healthy mix of activities and perhaps agree a set amount of gaming time each day. Seek expert help if the symptoms worsen: it's better to have all safeguarding options on the table than let an addiction go too far.

Remove payment methods

The simplest way to prevent children accidentally (or deliberately) spending money on in-game purchases is to remove their ability to. If there is a bank card or PayPal account linked to any online games your child plays, the safest option is to disconnect them. games your child plays, the salest aption is to discommend their valorant supports prepaid gift cards, so you could consider purchasing these as an alternative which gives you more control.

Report problem players

If another player becomes a problem, your chid could mute them or report them to the game's developers. From the 'Career' tab on the main menu, they can view previous matches and should select the match featuring the abusive player. Highlight that player, and the option to report is in the dropdown menu. To mute other players in a game, go to the scoreboard and either mute or drag the volume slider of that player all the way down.



Try it yourself

Games like Valorant can seem overwhelming to start with, but they are designed to be easy to pick up and play – with a level of depth for those who want it. If you have another computer, you could download a second copy of the game and play alongside your child. It's an enjoyable way to bond over something they're already interested in, while also keeping an eye on them online.

Give eSports a chance

As a popular eSports title, Valorant has many professional players who compete in tournaments for sizeable prize pots. Watching a high-octane competitive game with professional shoutcasters (commentators) on platforms like YouTube and Twitch can be exciting. You could find out when live games are being played and watch them with your child, just like you might with football or rugby.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two the biggest gaming news sites in the world: UNILAD Gaming and GAMINObible. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work — but, more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.





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www.nationalonlinesafety.com





