



Monksmead School

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Headteacher: Mrs L Bub

Dear Families,

This has been an exciting week, particularly for KS1! We have all been eagerly watching as the new playground equipment has been installed and I know that the children can barely wait until they are able to actually enjoy it!

I would like to thank the Friends of Monksmead, our parent association, for helping to raise the funds to enable our children to enjoy this equipment. Projects such as this are often reliant on the kind donations of our parent community. Without the hard work and dedication of the Friends of Monksmead raising these funds, projects such as the new climbing frame would not happen.



This week, the children took part in another School Council meeting. This time they discussed behaviour in the playground, with a particular focus on our school value of 'respect'. There were great discussions about the importance of good behaviour and the right of every child to enjoy their break times. They were encouraged to look at how we can ensure that everyone treats each other with respect and how this affects everyone's experience in the playground. As always, I am very proud of the children's ability to discuss this with confidence, listening to each other respectfully and making thoughtful comments. Well done everyone!

We are rounding off our week with 'Crazy Hair Day' and I am sure there will be some fun photos to share with you! Again, thank you to the Friends for organising this event.

With kind regards

Lisa Bub
Headteacher

Notices

Tesco Blue Tokens

From 1st May, please remember to pick up a blue token when you shop at our local Tesco store and drop it in the 'Monksmead' section! The more tokens a local good cause gets the larger share of the donation they will receive.

The donation will go towards purchasing a new KS2 climbing frame. Don't forget to ask for your blue token at the till throughout May and June!

Attendance

As the new term begins, please could I remind you of the importance of regular attendance. The school attendance policy is available on the school website under the 'Our Policies' tab.

**Our school always aims for 100% attendance for all our children.
Where attendance falls below 95%, for any reason, the school will contact
parents.**

If your child is unable to attend school for any reason, please speak to the school office on the first day of absence and then on each subsequent day. On your child's return, please provide the reason for absence in writing. Please could I remind all families that holidays during term time will not be authorised.

I would also like to remind you that the school door closes at 8.55am. After this time, your child should enter the school via the main entrance. If a child arrives at school after this time they will be marked as 'late'. Where a child arrives after 9.20am they are marked as 'late after register' and this is shown as an absence for the morning even if they are then in school. All absences are reported on your child's annual report.

If you are having difficulties with attendance or timings, please speak to the school office to make an appointment to see a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Parking

Please remember to park with consideration for the safety of our children. Parking across dropped pavements and on humps can endanger the lives of our pupils.

Online Safety Tip

From National Online Safety website: 'Twitch is a gaming-focussed live-streaming service, owned by Amazon, where you can watch others play games live and listen to commentary as they play. It has 15 million daily active users and more than three million people live broadcast video game streams and other content on Twitch, with channels dedicated to just about every popular video game imaginable – both modern and retro. There are also shows that feature gaming competitions, professional tournaments, game-related chat and news. Plus, numerous non-gaming channels covering everything from cookery and music to art and travel. But Twitch is not just about watching other people's shows – anyone can broadcast their own gaming action.'

This is a popular website for many young gamers who are looking to see how other people play certain games and to pick up some tips on how to improve their own gaming skills. For this reason, I have included an information sheet about this popular site at the end of this letter.

Quiz Night

Please join us on Friday 7th June for our FOM quiz night! This is a great way to have lots of fun and support the school at the same time. The evening will be compared by our very own Mr Murrin! Please look out for details of how to purchase a ticket. Individuals and groups welcomed.

Summer Fayre

It may be hard to believe, but the summer fayre will soon be with us. The Friends of Monksmead will need plenty of help to ensure that this much-loved event is able to take place. If you would like to offer support, please get in touch with the Friends. You can speak to them in the playground or simply pop a piece of paper in their letterbox with your name and contact details.

Monksmead Local Community - A Million Jumps for Jake

You may have seen in the local press that at Yavneh Primary they have a 5 year-old, Jake, who is fighting neuroblastoma, a rare and aggressive form of childhood cancer. When not in hospital or at risk of infection, Jake goes to school as much as possible. He loves school and is very popular with his classmates.

Since diagnosis aged 3, Jake has had many gruelling treatments – lots of chemotherapy and three rounds of MIBG therapy (involving weeks of isolation in a lead-lined room). He is currently undergoing six months of immunotherapy, to be followed by radiotherapy and surgery. One of the cruelties of neuroblastoma is that if Jake goes into remission there is a 50% chance of relapse. The survival rate upon relapse is around 10%. Trials are available to give Jake the best possible chance of going into, and staying in remission. They are not available yet on the NHS, so with the support of Solving Kids Cancer, Jake's parents are building up a war chest for when the time comes to access that treatment. They need to raise more than £200,000.

Schools in Borehamwood are joining with Yavneh Primary to take part in a special jumping event during the week of 20th May. As part of our PE sessions that week, children will be counting how many jumps they can do. Our school total will then be added to the grand total. The aim is for the children to achieve one million jumps across all the schools! As part of this, we will be asking parents to make a donation to help support Jake and his parents. More details will follow. Thank you in advance for supporting a child from our community.



AGE RESTRICTION
13+
with parental permission

What parents need to know

Twitch



Twitch is a gaming-focused live-streaming service, owned by Amazon, where you can watch others play games live and listen to commentary as they play. It has 15 million daily active users and more than three million people live broadcast video game streams and other content on Twitch, with channels dedicated to just about every popular video game imaginable – both modern and retro. There are also shows that feature gaming competitions, professional tournaments, game-related chat and news. Plus, numerous non-gaming channels covering everything from cookery and music to art and travel. But Twitch is not just about watching other people's shows – anyone can broadcast their own gaming action.



Top Tips for Parents

THE RISK - IT'S LIVE & UNCENSORED

As gamers get engrossed in their games, it is very common to hear rather choice words, so the chance of your child encountering swear words and bad language is extremely high. There is not only the language of the person running the stream that you need to consider, but also the language of other Twitch users in the text-based chat that accompanies streams.

What parents can do

There's not much you can do to reduce exposure to bad language on Twitch, but if there are any troublesome users, it is possible to block them. It is a good idea to spend a little time with your child as they explore different channels on the platform, as this will give you an idea of the sort of content they are being exposed to. As Twitch does not offer any parental control options, this is the best way to police what your child is doing. If your child is overwhelmed or disturbed by comments that are being posted in the stream chat, it is possible to hide it from view by clicking the little arrow to the right of the Subscribe button.

THE RISK - UNWANTED CONTACT FROM OTHER USERS

Just like any website or platform with a social element to it, there is the risk that your child will not only come into contact with the sort of people you might rather they didn't, but also that they could be harassed, groomed or bullied online.

What parents can do

Within Twitch settings, in the Security and Privacy section, it is possible to block messages – known as 'whispers' – from strangers. It's worth noting that this option only blocks messages by those who are not your friend, someone you follow, someone you subscribe to, one of your mods, or one of your editors. Taking things further, it is possible to completely block users who become problematic. Show your child how to make use of this option by clicking on a user's name and in the little pop-up that appears, click the icon that looks like a little speech bubble to block them. If your child wishes to report the user to Twitch, click the three dots button beneath the block option and click Report.

THE RISK - VIOLENT GAMES & ADULT CONTENT

Like so many websites, Twitch does not allow children under the age of 13 to create an account, but in practice, there's nothing to stop anyone signing up by simply entering a false date of birth. In addition to swearing, commentary provided by other Twitch users may well contain adult content, and the games themselves can be rather violent. Bear in mind that many of the games on the market these days have an age rating of 18, and this is indicative of the bad language, sexual content and violence that they may contain.

What parents can do

There is nothing that can be done to prevent your child from accessing whatever channel they want – short of using your router settings or parental control software to block access to the site completely. One of the problems with Twitch is that while there is plenty of child-friendly content out there, it is not at all easy to quickly identify what might not be suitable. Spend some time working with your child to help identify channels that will be appropriate for them. While it may be hard to ensure they stick to these channels, it is useful for them to know that there is content available that is not overtly adult in nature.



THE RISK - WEBCAM SHARING

As well as seeing streaming footage of games, Twitch also lets users share their webcam, so people can see them.

This gives yet another way for people to share inappropriate content, and it also gives another way for streamers to subject your child to advertising, sponsored content and product placement.

What parents can do

Getting involved in your child's use of Twitch is the best way to keep an eye on the sort of content they are consuming and intervene if anything inappropriate crops up. As part of your conversations with your child about what is appropriate to share online, try to educate them about careful use of their own webcam if they choose to stream their own gaming. As well as ensuring they are not encouraged into doing anything inappropriate on camera, it is also important to check that anything that can be used to identify them is not included in shot.

THE RISK - POTENTIAL COSTS

By default, Twitch is ad-supported, but there is a monthly subscription option – called Twitch Turbo – that offers an ad-free experience. On top of this, it is possible to subscribe to individual channels, and each one is chargeable individually. There's also Twitch Prime, a premium experience included with the Amazon Prime and Prime Video subscription memberships, which offers bonus games and exclusive in-game content and Twitch Merch – an online store offering merchandise, such as T-shirts and hoodies. Twitch Bits is a virtual currency that gives your child the power to encourage and show support for streamers – through 'Cheers' – and get attention in chat through animated emoticons. Bits cost real money and there's one option to buy 25,000 Bits for £288. It's easy to see how costs could very quickly mount up the more involved your child gets into Twitch.

What parents can do

Take steps to restrict access to your credit/debit card, as well as your PayPal account, to avoid getting hit by a large bill. If you are able to access your child's Twitch account, it is possible to check their purchase history, so you can see if they are spending too much money on subscriptions or donations. Explain to your child that subscribing to channels and purchasing Bits for cheers is optional, and that they can watch and enjoy a stream without doing either.

THE RISK - TWITCH EMOTES

Twitch's interactive chat feature is littered with emoticons or 'emotes', which for first time users will be completely bewildering. They typically feature faces of notable streamers, Twitch employees or fictional characters, such as a grey-scale photograph of a game developer known as Kappa, which is often used in Twitch chat as a symbol of sarcasm or mockery. Your child may be upset or sensitive if they are the target of negative emotes while chatting with other gamers, or they may find some emotes offensive.

What parents can do

Chat to your child about how they use Twitch and show an interest in understanding how it works. There are lots of online guides to Twitch emotes if you really want to get clued up on what your child is talking about in chats. Twitch's terms of service dictate that emotes must not be used for harassment – defined by targeted insults, defamation, intimidation, and threats of any nature. If your child finds an emote that violates guidelines, they can report it via the 'User Report' tool. Channel owners can also add specific emotes to their 'Channel Banned Words' list.

SOURCES:
<https://www.twitch.tv/>



National Online Safety

A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061



Upcoming Dates for your Diary

03.05.2019	Fri	Crazy Hair Day
06.05.2019	Mon	Bank Holiday – school closed
08.05.2019	Wed	Full Governing Body meeting
13.05.2019	Mon – Thur	KS2 SATS Week
13.05.2019	Mon – Fri	Y4 to IOW
23.05.2019	Thur	Y4 Class Assembly
24.05.2019	Fri	Spots enrichment day – details to follow
27.05.2019	Mon	Half Term
03.06.2019	Mon	Drama workshop Nursery to Y2
04.06.2019	Tue	Class Photos
05.06.2019	Wed	Full Governing Body meeting
07.06.2019	Fri	Quiz Night
10.06.2019	Mon	Confident Kids workshop for parents
13.06.2019	Thur	Y1 assembly
14.06.2019	Fri	Provisional date for Race for Life (1pm onwards)
20.06.2019	Thur	Y5&6 football tournament
20.06.2019	Thur	Mufti Day for Summer Fair
21.06.2019	Fri	Sports Day
25.06.2019	Tue	Year 5 class visit
27.06.2019	Thur	Reception Class Assembly
28.06.2019	Fri	Summer Fair
03.07.2019	Wed	Full Governing Body meeting
04.07.2019	Thur	Athletics Track Events at Monksmead
04.07.2019	Thur	Display evening 4pm – 6pm
11.07.2019	Thur	Y5&6 athletic field events at Cowley Hill
12.07.2019	Fri	Y5/6 dress rehearsal to pupils
15.07.2019	Mon	Y5/6 production 6pm
16.07.2019	Tue	Y2 last swimming
16.07.2019	Tue	Y5/6 production 6pm
17.07.2019	Wed	Y1 last swimming
18.07.2019	Thur	Y6 celebration evening 6pm
19.07.2019	Fri	Last day of term for children (1.30pm finish)

If you require this information in a different font size or language, please contact the school office



