



Lanchester E.P. (Cont.) Primary School & Nursery

A Caring Community Where All Can Flourish



*'Through God's love, we are the rich soil
where roots grow and seeds flourish.'*

Luke 8:4-15



Friday 10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to have the children back in school this week as enthusiastic and happy as ever! We have had a great week with Captain Chemistry back in school, poppies selling out and a real buzz back in school again. Year 4 enjoyed a brilliant day at Jorvik Viking Centre on Wednesday too. Even though it involved a long journey there and back, it was well worth it and the staff said the children had a superb day, learning so much in the process too!

There are a lot of additional dates and events that have been added to the school calendar. We are updating the calendar on the school website as well weekly so please refer either to the list of diary dates on the weekly letter or the school website.

Our Y5&6 boys competed in a Tag Rugby Tournament this week and came runners up, just losing out to Consett Juniors in the final. However, it does mean that they are now through to the county tournament which will take place shortly. Well done boys!

Staff News

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Carley Clark, one of our Teaching Assistants, gave birth to a beautiful little girl called Lainey Dora Clark weighing a healthy 7lb 8oz just before half term. We are thrilled that she has arrived safely and look forward to meeting her soon.

Lanchester Methodist Church

We are currently trying to enhance our links with Lanchester Methodist Church which have lapsed slightly since Covid. I had a meeting with Revd Stuart Earle before half term and then met with Kathleen Jones, their Children and Youth Worker, this week. Kath was very keen and enthusiastic to try to forge these links again and we had a very useful meeting. I asked her to write something for the letter so you know exactly what is on offer from the Methodist Church for your children on an evening and weekend:

Hello my name is Kath Jones and I am the Methodist children, youth and families' worker. I would like to tell you about some of the things the Methodist church offers to children and young people in the area.

Kogs (Kids of God) on Mondays 5pm-7.30pm for all children and young people from Yr 4 upwards. We eat together, play games, have a cell group and have trips away. All are welcome. £3 per session.

Praise Party - this is a new venture coming from the very successful Summer Special, our annual holiday club. Praise Party is for children and their families to enjoy games, crafts, challenges, songs and food together. Our next one is Saturday 9th December at 4pm. Please see the attached flyer.

Boys Brigade - this group is for boys from Yr 1-13. Anchor boys meet on Thursdays from 6.10pm-7.10pm and is for Yr 1-3. The Junior section meet on Wednesdays from 6.15pm-7.30pm and is for Yr4-6 and the Company section meet on Wednesdays from 7.30pm-9pm and is for Yr7-13. For more info for BB please contact: LanchesterBB@hotmail.com For anything else please contact: kathfamiliesnwdc@gmail.com

All Saints Parish Church

This year, the Parish Church is planning something special for Christmas and they would love some help to make the magic happen! If you are able to donate (or loan) any items in the flyer attached, the Church will be open on Sunday 12th November from 2-4pm to accept donations and drop-offs.

Parent Phonic and Reading Workshops

We thought it would be useful for parents and carers to come into school to see phonics sessions in action across Reception and Key Stage 1. As Reading is also such a high priority across KS2, we are also inviting parents and carers to come into school and see a Reading lesson in action in each year group across Key Stage 2. The dates for these are below and also in the Diary Dates at the end of the letter.

Please note that these sessions will take place with a small number of children from each year group to make sure there is enough space in the classrooms. These sessions are not stay and play sessions or for parents to work with their child – the sessions are to allow you to see how your child is being taught on a daily basis. We hope they will help you to be able to support your child at home too.

Reception Phonics Parent Workshop:	Monday 20 th November at 9am
Year 1 Phonics Parent Workshop:	Tuesday 21 st November at 9am
Year 2 Phonics Parent Workshop:	Wednesday 22 nd November at 9am
Year 3 Reading Demo Lesson:	Monday 27 th November at 9am
Year 4 Reading Demo Lesson:	Tuesday 28 th November at 9am
Year 5 Reading Demo Lesson:	Wednesday 29 th November at 9am
Year 6 Reading Demo Lesson:	Thursday 30 th November at 9am

Nursery Phase 1 Phonics Parent Information Session at 9am on Monday 27th November

Miss Butler will be holding a Parent Information Session on Monday 27th November at 9am in Nursery when she will be talking to parents and carers about how phonics is introduced to children in Nursery. Please feel free to come along and find out more!

Open the Book Afterschool Club

Kath Jones, who leads our wonderful Open the Book assemblies every Thursday, along with one of her colleagues, is going to hold an Open the Book Club where the Bible story shared in assembly can be discussed in greater detail with activities based around it. This will be for a small number of children in KS2 and will run from next Thursday for 3 weeks. You will be able to sign your child up for the club on Arbor by logging onto your account and going onto their profile, and clicking into 'clubs'. Once you click on here you will be able to see what clubs your child is eligible to be signed up for, and register them for the club. Club sign up will be open until 12 noon on Monday 13th November. Please note, if a club is oversubscribed, some children will be removed from the club following the allocation criteria for afterschool clubs, so please check the day before the club starts to see if your child is still registered for the club – if so, they have a place. Thank you.

Parent's Evenings for Nursery and Mrs Grayson's Class

These will take place on Monday 27th November and Tuesday 28th November. The organisation for appointments for Nursery parents will be sent out next week. Appointments for Mrs Grayson will remain the same as they were originally.

Meetings for Trips

We have organised meetings for the forthcoming residentials to India, Dubai and Skiing. Please make a note of the dates and times. More information will be shared at all the meetings as well as the itineraries for each of the visits:

India Residential:	6pm on Thursday 16 th November 2023
Ski Residential:	6pm on Tuesday 21 st November 2023
Dubai Residential:	6pm on Tuesday 28 th November 2023

Apologies for the relatively short notice for the India meeting but there are a few things we need to get organised as soon as possible!

Friends of the School

The Friends of the School met last night to discuss this year's events. Sadly, only 3 parents turned up for the meeting. This is quite disappointing considering we have a school with over 450 children. We are keen to try to encourage more parents to be involved and wonder whether perhaps the time of 5.30pm was just not

convenient. Please complete this [online form](#) (which will take less than 2 minutes) which will help to give us a better idea of how we can improve the attendance at these meetings. Thank you.

Nursery Photographs

If your child in Nursery was in school on Wednesday, you should have received their photograph proofs yesterday, which include a code to purchase the photos online. Orders need to be placed online by Wednesday 22nd November, in order to take advantage of free delivery into school. Orders can be placed after this deadline but you will be charged for delivery.

Christmas Fundraising

If your child has completed a Christmas Fundraising design in school, they should have brought it home with them this week. If you would like to order any items, please follow the instructions on the postcard. The deadline for placing orders is Friday 17th November. Items cannot be ordered after this time. Items will be delivered to school at the beginning of December. All money raised, goes directly back into school to help provide those 'little extras'. Thanks for your support.

Attendance

Reception	93.9%
Year 1	98%
Year 2	98.4%
Year 3	98%
Year 4	97.4%
Year 5	98.3%
Year 6	98%

Safeguarding

Keeping children safe from harm is our number one priority. We will always act upon any concerns individuals have, or any disclosures from children. However, if you have any concerns outside of school, or if you have a concern about a child or young person's welfare, it is essential that you call First Contact on: 03000 267979.

Online Safety

This weeks' online safety focus from the National College is "In-Game Micro transactions". Please see the attached information leaflet below for more information.

Diary Dates for Next Week

Worship Theme

Our theme for Worship next week is Hope for a Better World: Anti-Bullying Week and Children in Need. We will be doing some work across school on this, including activities on Friendships – what makes a good friend and how to get on peacefully with others.

Monday 13th November - Individual & Sibling Photographs

Individual and sibling photographs will be taken in school on Monday 13th November. If your child usually comes into school in PE kit on Mondays (Year 1, 4 & 5), please send them in in school uniform, with their PE kit in a bag to change into. If your child has a sibling who does not attend our school, or in the case of Nursery does not attend school on a Monday, the photographers will be set up in the Infant Hall from 8.15am to take these photos; other sibling photographs will be taken throughout the day.

Monday 13th November – Year 3 Graffiti Workshop

Unfortunately, the company have been in touch with us this week to say they regretfully are having to postpone our Graffiti Workshop Day for Year 3 which was planned for Monday. However, we have managed to rearrange this for Thursday 23rd November instead.

Thursday 16th November – India Meeting

We are having a meeting on Thursday 16th November at 6pm in school for all families of children going to India in February. Please make every effort to attend this as more information about the visit will be shared as well as information regarding visas and vaccinations. Thank you.

Friday 17th November – Children in Need Day

We are supporting Children in Need Day on Friday 17th November by asking children to come to school in non-uniform for the day in exchange for a donation towards Children in Need. I am sure the children will thoroughly enjoy wearing their own clothes for the day! I think we may be seeing rather a lot of spots....

SEND News

On Wednesday next week, we will be holding a drop-in with class teachers to discuss SEN support. If your child has an EHCP or an SEN Support Plan, their class teacher will be available for 10-minute slots after school to talk about the support currently in place for your child and the progress that they are making. If you would like to meet with your child's teacher, please email them directly before 4pm on Monday. They will then reply with a slot for you to come along to meet them in school.

Early Years News

Next week, the children in Nursery will be taking part in World Nursery Rhyme Week. The initiative, launched in 2013, promotes the importance of nursery rhymes in early childhood development and education with a particular focus on how nursery rhymes boost early language and literacy skills. Singing nursery rhymes is a wonderful activity you can also enjoy doing together at home. You can access all of the free resources at home by registering at www.nurseryrhymeweek.com We cannot wait to celebrate a wonderful week of rhyming with your children!

Now that the Nursery children are settled in to their morning routine, we would like to encourage you to begin to let them come into Nursery independently and hang up their own coats and bags, with the exception of Wednesdays (see next paragraph). We are always pleased to see parents and carers in Nursery and will continue to welcome you in at the end of the session to collect your child, but we are aware that it can get very congested in the entrance in the mornings and sometimes this makes it harder for the children to settle. Of course, we are flexible about this and understand that there are times when your child needs you to come in with them. Please remember, however, that the session starts at **9am** promptly and we will be locking the outdoor gate at that time. If you arrive later than this, please bring your child to the main office. Just to remind you, the afternoon session ends at 3:15pm and all parents need to have collected their child by this time. If you are going to be late and need to book your child into after school club, please contact the office.

Starting next Wednesday, we will be opening our Nursery library sessions in the Rainbow Room. You are welcome to come in and choose a book for your child to borrow either at 8:45am or 3pm. Books should be returned the following week, or left in the returns box in the entrance to Nursery. Please let a member of staff know if you are unable to come in but would still like your child to choose a book. Please encourage your child to treat any borrowed books with care. We will check books for damage as they are returned, but if you take a book home that is in poor condition, please do let us know and we will remove it from the selection on offer. If you would like to let us know about a book that your child has especially enjoyed, please post a review on Evidence Me.

If you are clearing out ahead of Christmas, we are always pleased to receive donations of unwanted Christmas decorations. We are also on the lookout for household items to update our Home Corner provision across EYFS, so if you have anything you would like to donate, we can make use of it! Ladles, spoons (all shapes and sizes!), measuring cups, paintbrushes/rollers, pegs, pots and pans, muffin tins, costume jewellery and chiffon scarves are all items we are keen to collect to enhance our play. Thanks for your help in this.

Reading Plus

I wanted to let you know about a programme we are using at school to help improve reading.

Reading Plus is a personalised online program that helps pupils develop skills they need to be confident, capable readers and lifelong learners. By using Reading Plus, your child will be able to read at a fluent rate with good comprehension.

We will provide all parents and carers with a Reading Plus letter that includes your child's site code, username, and password next week. Your child can use this information to log in at: login.readingplus.com. Your child can complete Reading Plus assignments outside of school on a computer or tablet with Internet access. Assignments in each component can be completed in any order, but please remind your child that Reading lessons are the most important assignments. Assignments take between 20-30 minutes to complete. The program will keep track of assignments completed each week as well as your child's progress toward the overall lesson goals.

Support Your Child's Work

Review the Student Dashboard with your child at least *twice* per week to ensure that all assigned lessons are completed.

Click the *Lessons* tab to access the Lessons page of the Student Dashboard.



Blank checkboxes represent **assigned** lessons and colored checkboxes represent **completed** lessons.

Colored checkboxes for Reading show the comprehension score earned on each completed Reading lesson.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Assigned
<input type="checkbox"/>	<70%
<input type="checkbox"/>	70% – 79%
<input type="checkbox"/>	≥ 80%

To access detailed lesson-by-lesson data, click on the green SR bar in the *Total Assignment Completion* section.

What to Look for:

- ✓ **Ensure that Reading lessons are completed first.** Reading lessons supply almost all Reading Plus data and are the **highest** priority.
- ✓ **Celebrate success!** For example, congratulate your child on every Reading lesson completed with 80% or higher comprehension.
- ✓ **Look for Combos.** Your child will earn a Combo when he or she completes two Reading lessons in a row at 80% or higher comprehension. Combos will help your child to move up a Reading level, so celebrate them!
- ✓ **Remind students about ReReads.** When answering questions in Reading lessons, students can look back at what they read to ReRead it. This helps them pick the right answer. Check to make sure your child is using ReReads.
- ✓ **Ensure assignments are done by the end of the weekend.** For most schools, assignments reset every Sunday night at midnight.

We hope you will join us in supporting your child's reading by using Reading Plus at home. We believe it will have a big impact on their reading confidence and understanding.

Mr Innes

Key Stage Two News

Year 4 Trip to York

Year 4 visited the Jorvik Viking centre as part of their traders and raiders topic. The children were able to experience what the life of a Viking was like in England during that era. Additionally, they also looked at some of the many items that were discovered during the various archaeological digs in York such as an old Viking sock, some Viking jewellery and some Viking money. One of the workshops they completed allowed the children to experience being an archaeologist and discover long lost items for themselves.



Multiplication Tables

In Key Stage 2, we are continuing our push on supporting the children to learn their multiplication tables. Knowing the times tables (and their associated division facts) supports mathematical learning and

understanding and those children who have a strong grasp of them tend to be more self-assured when learning new concepts.

Knowing times tables facts is crucially important to your child's progression in their mathematics education.

- Without a deep understanding of multiplication and division facts, children frequently get 'lost' when it comes to do anything with fractions and any multiplication or division with larger numbers.
- Many mental maths activities and tests require a quick recall of multiplication and division facts.
- Children who are secure in their times tables knowledge are able to get to grips with trickier tasks straight away and are far more successful.
- 'Knowing' times tables means a child who will be able to recall any of the multiples of a times table out of order within 3 seconds, as well as knowing the matching division facts i.e. $4 \times 6 = 24$ as well as $24 \div 6 = 4$.
- Learning multiplication facts and tables are most effective when there is collaboration with school, parents and children. In school we regularly spend time learning times tables, but a child will be much more successful if they practise outside school independently and alongside parents.

As part of the National Curriculum, every child is expected to know their multiplication tables up to 12×12 . This is broken down across Key Stage 2 as follows:

By the end of Y3	By the end of Y4	By the end of Y5	By the end of Y6
2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10 including division facts.	All times tables up to 12×12 with division facts.	As Year 4 and related questions e.g. $1/9$ of 63 is 7. Knowledge of prime numbers to 19.	As Year 5 and a knowledge of prime numbers below 100. Identify common factors and multiples.

Times Tables Rockstars



When it comes to times tables, speed AND accuracy are important – the more facts your child remembers, the easier it is for them to do harder calculations.

Times Table Rock Stars is a fun and challenging programme designed to help students master the times tables! To be a Times Table Rock Star you need to answer any multiplication fact up to 12×12 in less than 3 seconds!

It's essential that your child does a little bit of times table practice every night. Short bursts of daily practise are more effective than spending hours once a week.

Why not ask your child to show you Times Tables Rock Stars at home? With your praise and reminders, they will be more motivated to learn their tables and improve their maths!

How to Help at Home

Regular revision The Key to learning times tables is frequent repetition, regular revision. 5 to 10 minutes every day is better than an hour a week. Here are some ideas to help your child memorise their multiplication and division facts:

- 1) Chanting – Have your child chant out loud the times tables. This could be the whole number sentence '2 times 3 equals 6, 2 times 4 equals 8...' or it could be just the number sequence '2, 4, 6, 8 ...'. Have fun with it! See if they can do it in different voices like the robot, like a parrot or a silly voice. Can they shout it out loud, can they whisper it?
- 2) Flash cards - create flash cards to help your child. You could select certain facts they keep getting stuck on rather than the whole set.
- 3) Timed – Time your child and make it into a competition. Can they beat their last score? Put the timer on for 30 seconds and see how many they can answer. <https://www.online-stopwatch.com/> Purple Mash also has an interactive version of this (and a whole Maths section full of fab games).
- 4) Bingo- Write the multiplication questions on separate pieces of paper and place in a bowl. Make a 4 by 3 square bingo card each and write 9 of the answer numbers onto it. Take it in turns to draw a question out – if the answer is on your card, cross it off. The winner is the first to cross off all their answers.

Online Resources

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

<https://tablestest.com/>

[https://www.transum.org/Tables/Times Tables.asp](https://www.transum.org/Tables/Times_Tables.asp)

<https://www.coolmathgames.com/1-number-games>

If you have any questions about Maths in school or at home, please contact your child's class teacher.

Positive Thinking

Six year olds laugh an average of 300 times a day.

Adults only laugh 15 – 100 times a day.

Be six again!

As always, if there is anything at all you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best Wishes,

Jane Davis

Mrs Jane Davis
(Head Teacher)



Lanchester Endowed Parochial Primary School



Academic Year 2023 - 2024

Autumn Term 2

DIARY DATES

Monday 13 th November 2023	All Day	Individual Photographs and Sibling Photographs
Thursday 16 th November 2023	6pm	Parent Meeting for India Residential
Friday 17 th November 2023	All Day	Children in Need Day
Monday 20 th November 2023	9am	Reception Phonics Parental Workshop
Tuesday 21 st November 2023	9am	Year 1 Phonics Parental Workshop
Tuesday 21 st November 2023	6pm	Ski Residential Meeting for Parents and Carers
Wednesday 22 nd November 2023	9am	Year 2 Phonics Parental Workshop
Thursday 23 rd November 2023	All Day	Year 3 Graffiti Workshop
Thursday 23 rd November 2023	3.15pm	Book Fair Open
Friday 24 th November 2023	2.15pm	Coffee Afternoon and Book Fair
Saturday 25 th November 2023	5.30pm	Christmas Lights Switch on – Village Green
Monday 27 th November 2023	All Day	Reception Vision Tests
Monday 27 th November 2023	9am	Parental Workshop for Year 3 Reading
Monday 27 th November 2023	9am	Phase 1 Phonics Parental Workshop
Monday 27 th November 2023	3.30pm-6pm	Parents' Evenings for Nursery Parents
Monday 27 th November 2023	3.30pm-6pm	Parents' Evenings for Mrs Grayson
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	9am	Parental Reading Workshop for Year 4
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	6pm	Parent Meeting for Dubai Residential
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	3.30pm-6pm	Parents' Evenings for Mrs Grayson
Tuesday 28 th November 2023	3.30pm-6pm	Parents' Evenings for Nursery Parents
Wednesday 29 th November 2023	9am	Parental Reading Workshop for Year 5 Reading
Thursday 30 th November 2023	9am	Parental Reading Workshop for Year 6 Reading
Friday 1 st December 2023	9 – 10am	Reception Stay and Play Session
Friday 1 st December 2023	2pm – 3pm	Reception Stay and Play Session
Wk: Monday 4 th December 2023	All Week	Enterprise Week
Monday 4 th December 2023	All Week	Friends of the School Christmas Shop
Tuesday 5 th December 2023	9am – 10am	Year 2 Stay and Play Session
Tuesday 5 th December 2023	2pm – 3pm	Year 2 Stay and Play Session
Wednesday 6 th December 2023	10.30 – 11.30	Nursery Stay and Play Session
Wednesday 6 th December 2023	1.45pm-2.45pm	Nursery Stay and Play Session
Thursday 7 th December 2023	9am	Parents of Year 1 - Poetry in the Forest Session
Thursday 7 th December 2023	3.30pm-5pm	Christmas Fair and Social Event
Monday 11 th December 2023	10am	Reception Nativity
Monday 11 th December 2023	2pm	Reception Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	10am	Key Stage One Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	2pm	Key Stage One Nativity
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	1pm	Choir singing at Lynnwood House Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	Afternoon	Nursery Christmas Story Session with Parents
Tuesday 12 th December 2023	All Day	Year 6 at Newcastle for Pantomime and Meal
Wednesday 13 th December 2023	All Day	Nursery and Reception Party Day

Wednesday 13 th December 2023	Morning	The Littlest Christmas Elf for EYFS and Year 1
Thursday 14 th December 2023	9am	Woodwind Christmas Concert
Thursday 14 th December 2023	Morning	Nursery Christmas Story Session with Parents
Thursday 14 th December 2023	2pm	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Nativity
Thursday 14 th December 2023	6pm	Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Nativity
Friday 15 th December 2023	10am	Year 3 & Y4 Christingle and Carol Service in All Saints' Church
Friday 15 th December 2023	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner Day
Monday 18 th December 2023	Morning	Year 3 and Year 1 Christmas Parties
Monday 18 th December 2023	Afternoon	Year 4 and Year 2 Christmas Parties
Monday 18 th December 2023	3.30pm	Christmas Carols and Hot Chocolate around the Tree
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Morning	Year 5 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	Afternoon	Year 6 Christmas Party
Tuesday 19 th December 2023	5.15pm	School Closes for Christmas Holiday

Holiday Club: Wednesday 20th to Friday 22nd December 2023

Email: ljgsportscoaching@gmail.com

KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests - Week Beginning Monday 13th May 2024

Year 4 Multiplication Check - Week Beginning Tuesday 3rd June 2024

Year 1 & Year 2 Phonics Screening Check - Week Beginning Monday 10th June 2024

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money, as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many apps and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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