

SUNNYDOWN SCHOOL

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Friday 3rd December 2021

Dear all who are associated with Sunnydown,

Please take the time to read the review of Minecraft Java Edition by Dominic Hanley further along the newsletter. Our budding journalist developed his very own newsletter this week, and I felt compelled to share some of it here. I am so proud that our young men have a voice and feel comfortable expressing it here at Sunnydown.

Covid remains a topic on the minds of all. Please continue to test regularly, remembering to follow the specific instructions on the test kit provided. While at school, all staff and students (unless exempt) are asked to wear a face mask in communal areas and there are plenty of spares at school should they be needed. Students are also encouraged to wear face masks when travelling to school in their taxi, and of course use sanitiser on arriving at and leaving from school.

Our student attendance for the last two weeks is below. When considered during the height of Covid concern, this is exceptional. Thank you for your collective vigilance in protecting one another.

Mon 22.11.21 - 89.47%
Tues 23.11.21 - 89.71%
Wed 24.11.21 - 88.00%
Thurs 25.11.21 - 90.38%
Fri 26.11.21 - 91.03%

Mon 29.11.21 - 91.25%
Tues 30.11.21 - 93.83%
Wed 01.12.21 - 93.90%
Thurs 02.12.21 - 88.89%

Having met with Secondary Head Teachers and Heads of Special Schools recently, I can confirm that no school is unaffected and all face daily struggles with staffing. We have continued to deliver a full learning experience even when our regular teachers have been absent. This is a credit to the dedicated staff across our school, but also of the resilience of our young men.

Following our Ofsted inspection, to the families that have emailed your support of the educational opportunities we offer, thank you. I have not yet responded to each individual, however the messages are being passed onto my staff team who deserve the recognition for what they have delivered not only during Covid, but always. We are aspirational for all students and have high expectations for their academic progress, managed thoughtfully while enhancing their resilience, independence and cooperation. As a CoIN school, we can only maintain the exceptional

levels of individual academic progress, which often exceeds expectations if we maintain focus on developing social communication and wellbeing, reducing anxieties and ensuring the students are ready to learn.

I made the opportunity this week to spend some time in the forest with different groups and even to light a fire at the fire pit. In doing so, I was reminded why I came into education as a career and a profession. These short encounters with my students reminded me that we, as parents and educators, are shaping the lives of future adults, but that they too have a profound effect on us. Selfishly, the energy I received from fire lighting and den building with the boys rejuvenated me for the afternoon of office based tasks. To every young man at Sunnydown, thank you for your boundless energy and for helping shape Sunnydown.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Paul Jensen

Friends of Sunnydown

Staff Christmas fund: Thank you to all who have donated to the staff Christmas fund. If you would like to contribute, please click on the link below to do so online and leave your message of thanks:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/sunnydownevents/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=38158#.YO6y60zTXIU>

Alternatively, cash can be sent into the school office marked 'Staff Fund' or you can also transfer funds via online transfer using the following details:

Friends of Sunnydown,
Santander, Account Number: 89549767
Sort Code: 09-01-28
Reference: Staff Fund

Christmas raffle: We are holding our usual Christmas raffle with some very exciting prizes up for grabs, including cinema tickets, wine, games and much more! Raffle tickets were sent home with the boys this week and will (hopefully!) have found their way to you. If you require further booklets, please contact office@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk

Amazon Smile: A quick reminder to consider using Amazon Smile for your online Christmas shopping purchases. A perfect opportunity to help the school - just select Sunnydown as your chosen charity and with every purchase you can raise funds - at no cost to you!

Christmas shopping day for boys: This popular event will be held for the boys in school on *Friday 17th December*, when they will be able to choose gifts for their family and friends. The boys are each presented with a 'Sunnydown Pound' card - a free 'virtual credit card' which they can use, so no cash is required. A selection of festive games will also be held.



Thank you for your donations for this event at today's mufti day. There will be an additional mufti day next Friday (10th December) where we would be very grateful for donations of chocolate or the regular £1 contribution. Thank you.

Friends of Sunnydown

National Online Safety

Please see the flier at the end of this newsletter regarding what parents and carers need to know about age inappropriate content.

Mr Cassim

Minecraft Java Edition - Pegi 7 (E10+)

The Game: Minecraft is a survival open-world game made by Mojang and, for the console port, 4JStudios. It follows the adventure of Steve (or Alex) gathering materials to defeat the Ender Dragon. The game has been around since 2009 and was made by Markus 'Notch' Pearson, who originally worked at King, the company behind the Candy Crush series. I give the Game an overall 8/10, mostly excluding 1.9.

This game wins the such following rewards:

- Childrens game of the year
- Creative solutions for 8-13
- The Comeback Award

Read more on the official Minecraft website.

Dominic Hanley

Chef of the Week

The recipient of Chef of the Week, awarded by Mrs Hull is:

**George Smith
(10P)**

Thought for this week
(W/C: 29th November)

Racism- Respecting differences

Thought for next week
(W/C: 6th December)

Role Models -
How do others see us?
How do we want to be seen?

House Points	
Daniel Diaz-Lester	550 House Points
Andrew Hendry Smith	300 House Points
Hamish Scott	250 House Points
Callum Annis	50 House Points
Ollie Taylor	50 House Points

Friday Curriculum: 10/12/21

A timetable of events will be sent out next week.



All National Online Safety, go to www.nos.org.za for more information. This guide focuses on the issue of young children being exposed to inappropriate content. Please visit www.nos.org.za for further guidance, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways - from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence. Unfortunately, these streaming platforms don't always determine that it's not an adult who's watching.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history, so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

18 Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake - but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Cathy Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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