Address: Sandringham Green, Moortown, Leeds, LS17 8DJ Telephone: 0113 2930155

# Highfield Newsletter



## Headteacher's Message

Quite the week. Thank you for all your support with Tuesday's early collection; I realise it is difficult for working families but your help was hugely appreciated. With only an hour's notice on Wednesday, staff successfully reorganised provision and relocated 180 children to ensure learning could continue. Our catering team, led by the wonderful Baldish, worked tirelessly to amend food orders at extremely short notice. As for Mrs Ullah, her organisation of the dinner time rota was a work of logistical genius.

Mrs Bowker and I have lost hours of sleep and aged 10 years from stress. The children on the other hand, thought it was amazing. Singing carols with other year groups, an early finish on Tuesday, packed lunches in classrooms and extra playtime were just some of the highlights children have been telling me about. It was nice to see such happy children revelling in the novelty of the last few days! Perspective eh.

There is also some great news to come from the situation. Following discussions with Leeds City Council, funding has now been secured for the installation of a brand-new fire alarm system for the school with work starting on Monday. A special thank you must go to our Business Manager, Mr Singh, whose persistence and remarkable negotiating skills secured this funding. He knows the art of the deal and I'm glad he's on our team.

But I would like to sincerely thank every member of staff. Their willingness to step in, adapt plans and support one another was nothing short of exceptional. Moments like these remind us just how fortunate we are to have such a dedicated team.

Enjoy your weekend and thank you for your support.

**Mr Feeley**

## News & Updates

### Celebration Assembly

**Congratulations** and a huge well done to the children in Key Stage 1 who were recognised for their fantastic effort and attitude last week by making it into the **celebration book**. We are all proud of you for setting such a high standard! The children who we are celebrating last week are:

3L – Maysa, Daniel, Maria, Oliver
3EF – Kellan, Emily, Elijah, Pragnitha
4H – Gurbani, Eva, Oscar, Myles
4D – Naisha, Goran, Aazra, Rose
5T – Lucy, Mia, Amrita, Archie
5M – Yamen, Maggie, Akaal, Florence
6G – Alex, Isabelle, Daya, Ada
6B – Yuvraj, Eesa, Ernie, Leo

## The winning run continues…



Our Under 11 team put up an impressive display against Swarcliffe Primary School today. This was a competitive game and the scoreline doesn't quite reflect how close it was. We won 7-2. Alex Sudol again proved that he was a strong and accurate finisher and came away with a hat-trick!

Shout out goes to Shreyans Gaikwad who offered to make up the numbers for the other team as they could only bring 7 players- he just wanted to play in a football match on our school field! Thank you to all the parents and carers who braved the cold to come and support and watch.

## Highfield Signposting

The Alwoodley, Roundhay and Moortown Cluster works with other services and agencies. We offer targeted support for children, young people, and families in these areas.

The team has experience in:

- Family support
- Behaviour support
- Helping improve school attendance
- Supporting emotional and developmental needs

https://www.leedslocaloffer.org.uk/advice-and-support/localised-cluster-support/advice-and-support/localised-cluster-support/clusters

## Odd socks

Thank you for all the terrific combinations of odd socks this week! It was a wonderful school wide initiative supporting this year's theme, Break the Silence, encouraging children to speak up about bullying and treat everyone with kindness and respect.





Safeguarding. For child protection concerns you can contact any of our Designated Child Protection Officers: Mr Feeley, Mrs Dalgliesh, Mr Brassil, Mrs Bowker and Mrs Calvert. There is some useful information on the LSCB website about online safety with some useful tips for parents: http://www.leedslscb.org.uk/Parents-Carers-Wider-Family/Keeping-children-safe-online. If you are worried that a child is at risk of harm please contact Leeds Children's Social Work Services on 0113 222 4403.

AGE RESTRICTION 18+

# What parents need to know about GRAND THEFT AUTO (GTA)

grand theft auto

Grand Theft Auto is an action-adventure video game series where players control criminals and wreak havoc in order to complete missions and progress through the game. During the early stages of the game, it solely focuses on completing missions to go up a level. However, as the game grew more popular the makers of GTA decided to introduce a narrative to each edition of the game. The aim of this was to increase user engagement, making gamers believe that they were not just playing as the character, but they became the character. Grand Theft Auto is accessible on a number of devices including: PlayStation and Xbox, desktop computers, PSP, Nintendo DS, and Mobile.



## Top Tips for Parents

### THE RISK - PLAYING WITH STRANGERS

When buying GTA V you automatically have access to Grand Theft Auto Online, a version of the game that allows players to play online. They can play alone, invite players to a game, or be involved in public 'sessions' where people will be picked at random to play. When you first load into a game you are automatically placed into an open lobby, meaning you play with random people. The 'social club' is GTA's very own social platform where users can bet money, share in-game photographs (which users can like and comment on), and even message other users directly.

#### What parents can do

To prevent your child playing with strangers on the game, you can change the settings to ensure they only play with their approved friends list. Upon signing up to the 'social club', it automatically sets a player's visibility settings to 'everyone', meaning their name and profile information is made public. Parents can alter this by changing the visibility settings to 'only me'.

### WARNING!

Due to the nature of the game and the age restrictions, GTA includes content that is inappropriate for anyone under the age of 18, including sex, nudity, violence, profane language, and substance abuse. These are the main components that make up the game - you have to do certain things and witness certain things in order to move on in the game. Exposing your child to this type of content could affect their morals and understanding of right and wrong. Additionally, your child could become desensitised to similar situations, reinforcing the fact they they would find it hard to differentiate between right/wrong and good/bad.

### THE RISK - ONLINE HACKERS

Hackers can make money by helping users cheat in the game. They can do a number of inappropriate things, including killing people, stealing weapons, spawning money into the game, and even raping other characters. Spawning money tends to be a gamer's most popular choice, being able to buy $100,000,000,000 (of in-game currency) for as little as five US dollars.

#### What parents can do

Actively monitor your child's online activity. These websites are very easy to find, meaning children and young people can easily navigate their way to these wesbites and pay for hackers. Not only is this an illegal activity, but you have the risk of giving your personal information to someone who may misuse it.

### THE RISK - ADDICTION

Addiction is a risk with any game. Game developers use persuasive design techniques to force users to invest their time, and often money, in a game. Within GTA, your character is able to progress through the game for completing missions within a certain time frame, encouraging children to keep returning to the game. Gaming addiction is now a recognised health condition and the side effects are concerning, including sleep deprevation, decreased attention span and erratic emotional behaviour.

#### What parents can do

There are a number of things you can do if you are concerned about your child's screen time, including setting time limits within the home, especially during meal times and before bedtime. Talk to your child and ask why they are spending so much time on the game, and enourage healthy alternatives such as outdoor activities and spending quality time with friends and family.

### THE RISK - LIVE CHAT

When playing GTA online, players have the option to use a microphone to broadcast their voice live to other players involved in the 'session'. These live voice chats are not moderated, meaning anything could be said, including inappropriate language, as well as verbal forms of bullying.

#### What parents can do

Talk openly with your child about not giving away personal information. Also remind them that conversations can be recorded, which could damage their online reputation. Depending on the device/platform, there will be ways to mute conversations. Make yourself aware of the device's/platform's individual settings and ensure that your child knows how to block and report.

### THE RISK - MICROTRANSACTIONS

By completing missions and partaking in certain activities you earn in-game currency. This allows you to buy things such as prostitutes, vehicles, weapons, ammo, new outfits, cars, apartments and more. However, the items that are available to buy often have a high price that require a lot of game time, meaning the items are pretty unrealistic to buy.

#### What parents can do

If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to limit spending, we suggest purchasing a pre-paid gift card for your child. These can be purchased in specific amounts which will allow you to limit how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit or debit card to be used with their account.

SOURCES:
https://www.imdb.com/title/tt2103188/parentalguide
https://www.telegraph.co.uk/gaming/news/grand-theft-auto-v-has-made-money-film-history/
http://www.techaddiction.ca/addiction-to-video-games.html

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




ART CAMP UK

# Christmas Art Camp

## 21–23 December 2026

St Paul's Catholic Primary School
Alwoodley, Leeds

**Ages 5–12 • 8.30am–3.45pm**

Christmas crafts, filmmaking
and a Father Christmas grotto

**artcampuk.com**