



North Crescent Primary School

Guiding Explorers of the Future



We have been very fortunate this week and had Dr Faris (the Trust's CEO) visit us. He has been really impressed with the children and given lots of tokens out for showing Schools For Every Child's values: altruistic, pioneering and ethical.

We are so proud of the children and how they show these values. Well done.

Diary Dates

Thursday 10th October -
Year 6 Sharing Assembly 2:50pm

Monday 14th October -
School Picture Day

Thursday 17th October -
Year 4 Sharing Assembly 2:50pm

Tuesday 22nd October -
Halloween Disco
Years 1, 2 and 3 - 3:20pm - 4:20pm
Years 4, 5 and 6 - 4:30pm - 5:30pm

28th October - 1st November -
Half Term

Reminders

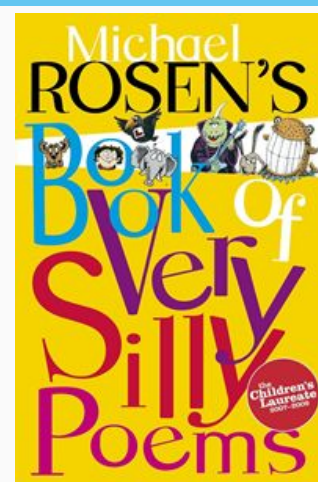
- The school gates are open between 8:35 to 8:45. If your child arrives later than 8:45, please bring them to the school office and sign them in. This is important as it ensures that children are marked as present on the register.
- The school car park is for staff and visitor use only. Unless permission is given by the Head Teacher, please do not park in or walk through the car park.
- The grey gate in the car park is for staff and visitor use only. If you wish to access the school office, please use the pedestrian gate and walk down the path.

The pupils had a fantastic assembly watching Michael Rosen share his wonderful poems for National Poetry day on Monday. This week's book of the week is 'Book of Very Silly Poems' by Michael Rosen.

Let your imagination run riot and laughter fill your belly as you explore traditional poems, rhymes with a twist, and subversive playground favourites in this playful treasure chest of verse.

Michael Rosen is one of the best-known figures in the children's book world. He is renowned for his work as a poet, performer, broadcaster and scriptwriter.

Book of the Week



Book of Very Silly Poems
by Michael Rosen

Huge congratulations to the following children who have been chosen as the Lead Learners.

Pathfinders 1	Alejandro	Pathfinders 2	Teigan
Adventurers 3	Yasemin	Adventurers 4	Keira-Rose
Navigators 5	Paul	Navigators 6	Violet

Each week we celebrate the class that have shown respect for their classroom. The children really love our gold, diamante dustpan and brush award! Why don't you ask them about it?

Advice - Parental Software Controls

To help keep children safe online, parental control software is typically available as part of an anti-virus suite. The software has to be installed on a child's device, with most supporting all operating systems. Control is typically via the web, letting you set the types of websites that a child can visit, and how long they're allowed to use devices for. Parental control software has two main advantages - to monitor and restrict app usage, and to do so regardless of the location of the child so they can't bypass protection by, for example, connecting to a different wireless network.

Instagram: @northcrescentprimary
FB: North Crescent Primary School
Twitter/X: <https://x.com/NorthCrescentP>



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in the future. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.



ESSEX FIRE MUSEUM

HALLOWEEN

OPEN DAY

ADDRESS:

ESSEX FIRE MUSEUM, GRAYS FIRE STATION,
HOGG LANE, GRAYS, RM17 5QS

VISITS MUST BE PRE-BOOKED VIA:

MUSEUM@ESSEX-FIRE.GOV.UK

10.30AM TO 4.00PM

(LAST SUGGESTED ENTRY TIME: 2.30PM)

DATES AVAILABLE FOR 2024

SUNDAY 27TH OCT

TUESDAY 29TH OCT

