



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



"Let your light shine"

News in school 7.6.24

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians,

As we move into the summer term, teachers are busy assessing and writing end of year reports for all our children. Within education, certain terminology is used to track progress, feedback progress to parents and assess any areas to focus on for further development.

The local authority and government place expectations on every school to achieve certain targets and we are given specific terminology to use in education. An example of this is in our reports: Working At Expected, Working Towards Expected and Working Above Expected. These terms are used nationally, and the government analyse them for their school tables of attainment.

Expected means that at the age that your child is at, the government expect that they should be able to meet a certain level of attainment. We then have to report on this.

Expected does not mean that we are being pushy, derogatory, blunt or rude if we are saying that your child is Working Towards Expected. What we are saying is that we have identified areas to work on with your child to ensure that they achieve all that they can, at their pace, with the correct support that they need.

As a school, we feel it is incredibly important to keep parents up to date with their child's progress so that where they wish to, they can support at home and to ensure that they have a clear overview of their child's education and next steps. Sometimes, we send letters to discuss, highlight progress or a need for further intervention. This is not a criticism but a way of trying to work as closely and efficiently together as possible in the best interests of every child. It is not our role and neither do we ever judge our children on their ability. Our job is to teach, inspire, support and hopefully instil a lifelong love of learning.

Attendance

Last term our attendance dipped lower than it has in three years. Although some of this was due to illness which we understand, the majority was due to families taking holidays during school time. I can only authorise holidays when there are exceptional circumstances. Up until now, families who have taken holidays in term time have been issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice Warning letter. Now, if families choose to take a holiday during term time, they will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice as advised by the local authority. The following is taken from the Lincolnshire County Council Website.

When a child can miss school

Children of school age must attend regularly and on time during term time.

Your child can only miss school if:

- they are too ill
- the school has authorised the absence

You must get permission from the headteacher if you are planning to take your child out of school during term time.

Your child may be allowed to miss school for:

- doctor, hospital or dental appointments
- a death in the family or funeral
- religious observation

Headteachers can only permit leave for a holiday in term time where there are exceptional circumstances.

How school fines are issued

We may issue parents or carers with a Fixed Penalty Notice if their child is absent from school without permission. This includes:

- any absence marked in the register as unauthorised
- arrival at school after the register has been taken
- a holiday in term-time, which has not been agreed by the headteacher

Fixed Penalty Notices are issued per parent, per child and are an alternative to prosecution.

The current penalty is:

£60, if paid within 21 days

£120, if paid between 21 and 28 days

After 28 days we may prosecute you.

I do sympathise with the cost of holidays during the school holidays, however children should be in school during term time and I will be following the advice from Lincolnshire's attendance team from now on so that our attendance does not continue to drop and your child has full access to education.

Term Dates 2024-25

Term 1: 4th Sept—18th Oct 2024

Term 2: 29th Oct—19th Dec 2024

Term 3: 6th Jan—14th Feb 2025

Term 4: 24th Feb—4th April 2025

Term 5: 23rd April— 23rd May 2025

Term 6: 2nd June—22nd July 2025



The winner of our Term 5 Attendance £10 All4One voucher is Molly S (Willow Class). A huge well done to Molly. Remember, you have to be in it to win it, so let's try and get 100% of our children in school every day.

Your child will be bringing home their Termly Attendance Summary letter today. This letter informs you of their termly and year to date attendance percentage, as well as the number of lates and unauthorised lates received termly and year to date.



Dance workshop

Thank you to everyone who took part in our dance workshop on Wednesday. The children had a wonderful time dancing and celebrating Holi with a spectacular colour show. We hope to have KZ Dance back again in November to celebrate Diwali.



I wish you a very happy and fun-filled weekend.

Take care
Miss Ingle

School worship

Dear Jesus, help us to be kind every day and happy in class, help us to be caring, share and take our turns. Help us to listen carefully and try to do our best, each day. Bless us through the day.
Amen

Bible verse of the week

Psalm 25:5

Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long.

Celebrated this week in Collective Worship

w/e 7.6.2024	Fantastic award	Excellence award
Apple Class	Ella R	Ronnie-Rai
Palm Class	David	Charlie M
Oak Class	Ruby	Pippa
Willow Class	Daisy C	Kiera Lee

Attendance winner of the week

Palm Class are the attendance winners of the week and have won a trip to the park with Gerald during playtime one day next week.

Church News

Thirsty on a Thursday: The Church is open every Thursday between 9.30—11am for you to drop in any time for tea/coffee and a chat.

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event
11 th June		Non Uniform Day for Term 5 Team Point Champions (Falcons)
17 th June	3pm	Year 6 Residential Parents Meeting
20 th June		Apple Class trip to Skegness
21 st June	time tbc	PTFA Summer Fayre (time tbc)
21 st June		Order deadline for uniform orders for Sept '24
24 th June	time tbc	Sports Day
1-3 rd July		Year 6 Residential - Castleton
3 rd July	1-3pm	New Intake Meet & Greet afternoon
10 th & 11 th July	6pm	Willow and Oak Performance
10 th July	time tbc	New Intake Taster Afternoon
12 th July	time tbc	End of Year Awards Assembly
15 th July	1.15-2.30pm	Whole School Transition Afternoon
16 th July	9-4.30pm	Whole School Trip to Lincoln Cathedral
17 th July	time tbc	PTFA Year 6 Leavers' BBQ/Whole School Disco
19 th July	9.15am	Leavers' Assembly
19 th July		End of Term 6
Please be aware that Lincolnshire County Council have amended the term dates for 2024-25. Tuesday 22 nd April 2025 is now an Inset Day and Monday 2 nd June 2025 is now a normal school day. Please see our school website for all term dates.		
All calendar dates/events can be found on our school website by clicking on the 'calendar' tab. If you wish to add an event to your own calendar, you can do so by clicking on the link and pressing the 'add to calendar' button.		

Any Other Information/Reminders

PE Timetable Term 6:

	Outdoor PE	Swimming
Apple	Wednesday	Monday
Palm	Tuesday	Friday
Oak	Monday	Thursday
Willow	Friday	Tuesday

Attendance

All schools are expected to keep their attendance over 96%. Our Year to Date attendance has dropped to 94.9%. If you need any help with attendance, please come and speak to us as we will help in any way that we can. Dr Chris Whitty released this statement via the DfE: *"It is usually appropriate for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above."*

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Book Wish List

We are constantly trying to update our school Library so the child have the opportunity to read new and exciting books. With this in mind, Mrs S has sourced a 'Book Wish List'. It has been created by our local book shop 'Bookmark' in Spalding. They have been extremely kind and made an area on their website where you can click on a book and purchase it online and have also offered us a discount. We felt it was not only important to purchase new books for our children but also support a local small business. When a few books have been purchased they will then contact Mrs S to go and collect them. If you feel like you would like to purchase a book for our Library, or know someone that would like to, then please follow this link:



<https://uk.bookshop.org/lists/st-bartholomew-s-ce-primary-school-wishlist?>

Bookmark have informed us that if you select a book from our list on their website and buy via the website then a delivery cost will be added. If you see a book you would like to purchase please email them directly or call the shop. They will then have the books delivered to the shop for free and I will collect them.

Working Party Due to the current economic climate, we are looking for ways to cut down on costs over the year. We currently spend a reasonable amount of money each month for the upkeep of the school playing fields and hedges. We are looking to source our own ride on lawn mower for our wonderful caretaker to use for the grassed areas. In addition, we wondered if anyone would be prepared to join a working party 3 times a year to cut the hedges. If you think that you could help with this, please email the office and let them know. Every little helps! Thank you!

School Mobile Phone

We now have a school mobile for afterschool care. The number is: **07396725986** It will be turned off during the school day. It will only be available for parents who have children attending afterschool care during afterschool care hours. **PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE FIRST IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

After School Kids Club

Please be aware that if parents/carers/guardians are more than 10 minutes late collecting from after school clubs at 4pm there will be a charge of a full hour, per child, childcare cost.

Pencil Cases

Please remember to ask your child regularly if they require anything replenishing.

Severe Weather/Snow Closure

In the event of severe weather, we will always strive to ensure that the school remains open, but in the event that extreme weather conditions necessitate the closure of the school we will advise you of this in a number of ways. We will notify parents via email via Parentmail, update the school website and advise Lincs FM and BBC Lincolnshire radio stations so listen out to their broadcasts or log onto their websites. We will also post a message on the school's Facebook and 'X' pages.

School Opening

Our school office is open from 8.30am to 3.15pm, Monday to Friday. If you wish to contact the school out of these hours, please call 01775 640357 and leave a message on our answerphone or alternatively email enquiries@stbartholomews.lincs.sch.uk.

PTFA Easy Fundraising is a great source of funds for the school which could raise £££s for the PTFA. A range of retailers, holiday companies, Ebay, Tesco and many more donate a percentage of money spent when parents / carers / guardians spend money. It costs the consumer absolutely nothing at all. Parents/carers/guardians need to click on the easy fundraising link:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/panel/>

- Register an email and password
- Nominate your cause
- Download a reminder tool to browser so when purchases are made through a partner a reminder is sent.

Make the purchase and a percentage goes to St Barts!

£74.28 raised in the last quarter

Lunch Menu w/c 10th June 2024				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Meatballs in a Bolognese Tomato Sauce with Rice, Green Beans & Peas	Gravies Potatoes Salad with Cucumber Slices & Crusty Bread	Traditional Lasagne & Breadcrumbs	Roast Turkey Potatoes, Mashed Vegetables & GF Gravy	Hot Nuggies with Potato Puffs & Beans
Vegetarian Meatballs in a Bolognese Tomato Sauce with Rice, Green Beans & Peas	Wholegrain Potatoes with Cucumber Slices & Crusty Bread	Vegetables & Lentil Lasagne & Breadcrumbs	Beef Lasagne, Potatoes, Mashed Vegetables & GF Gravy	Vegetables Fingers with Potato Puffs & Beans
Cheese Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Yes Valley Yoghurt & an Apple	Cheese Sandwich, Crunchy Vegetable Sticks, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Beef Sandwich, Crunchy Vegetable Sticks, Muffins & Fruit	Chicken Sandwich, Cucumber Slices, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Vegetarian Wrap, Cucumber Slices, Yes Valley Yoghurt & Fruit
Jacket Potatoes with Beans & Onion & Mince Lasagne	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese	Jacket Potatoes with Peas	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese & Beans	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese & Beans
Fruity Jelly or Fruit	Yes Valley Yoghurt or Fruit	Ask Ruby Play & Eat or Fruit	Chocolate Cake & Cheesecake Butter Dream or Fruit	Fruit Salad or Fruit

Lunch Menu w/c 17th June 2024				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese Topped Chicken & Sweetcorn Pasta Bake, Vegetables & Crusty Bread	Cheese & Tomato Pizza and Carrot Sticks	Lasagne with Potatoes, Mashed Vegetables & GF Gravy	Mixed Beef & Pork in a Soft Taco with Rice & Cucumber Slices	Fish Cakes, Potato Puffs & Beans
Cauliflower Cheese, Vegetables & Crusty Bread	Vegetable Pizza and Carrot Sticks	Beef & Cheese Filled with Potatoes, Mashed Vegetables & GF Gravy	Beef Mince in a Soft Taco with Rice & Cucumber Slices	Vegetables Fingers, Potato Puffs & Baked Beans
Beef Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Egg Roll, Crunchy Vegetable Sticks, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Pasta Salad Pot, Cherry Tomatoes & Fruit Jelly	Cheese Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Yes Valley Yoghurt & Gingerbread Man	Chicken Sandwich, Cucumber Slices, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit
Jacket Potatoes with Beans	Jacket Potatoes with Traditional Bolognese	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese & Beans	Jacket Potatoes with Vegetables & Lentils in a Tomato Sauce	Jacket Potatoes with Tuna, Sweetcorn & Merguez
Summer Fruit Crumble & Cream or Fruit	Yes Valley Yoghurt or Fruit	Jelly or Fruit	Mince or Fruit	Tray Bake or Fruit

Lunch Menu w/c 24th June '24				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Gravy Mashed Potatoes & Salad	Traditional Meatballs with Rice & Peas	Shrimp & Curry, Gravy Mashed Potatoes, Mashed Vegetables & GF Gravy	Gravy Chicken Topped Tomato Pasta, Sweetcorn & Mince Bread	Hot Nuggies with Rice, Potatoes & Beans
Vegetarian Pizza, Gravy Mashed Potatoes & Salad	Vegetarian Meatballs with Rice & Peas	Vegetables & Lentil Potatoes, Gravy Mashed Potatoes, Mashed Vegetables & GF Gravy	Cheese Topped Potato Bake, Sweetcorn & Mince Bread	Vegetarian Burgers with Rice, Potatoes & Beans
Tuna Mayonnaise Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Cheese Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Beef Sandwich, Cucumber Slices, Muffins & Fruit	Chicken Sandwich, Crunchy Vegetable Sticks, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Egg Mayonnaise Sandwich, Cucumber Slices, Yes Valley Yoghurt & Fruit
Jacket Potatoes with Beans	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese	Jacket Potatoes with Tuna, Sweetcorn & Merguez	Jacket Potatoes with Baked Beans & Mashed Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese & Truffle Light Cream
Yes Valley Yoghurt or Fruit	Chocolate Cake & Butter Dream Topping or Fruit	Mince Pudding & Strawberry Ice or Fruit	Chocolate Mousse or Fruit	Fruit Salad or Fruit

Lunch Menu w/c 1st July '24				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Lasagne with Potatoes, Gravy Mashed Potatoes & Beans	Lasagne with Potatoes, Gravy Mashed Potatoes & Beans	Beef & Cheese Filled with Potatoes, Mashed Vegetables & GF Gravy	Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Potato Wedges & Summer Salad	Hot Nuggies with Rice, Potatoes & Beans
Vegetarian Lasagne, Gravy Mashed Potatoes & Beans	Cheese Topped Potato Bake, Sweetcorn & Mince Bread	Beef & Cheese Filled with Potatoes, Mashed Vegetables & GF Gravy	Vegetarian Pizza, Potato Wedges & Summer Salad	Hot Nuggies with Rice, Potatoes & Beans
Cheese Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Beef Sandwich, Cucumber Slices, Muffins & Fruit	Chicken Sandwich, Crunchy Vegetable Sticks, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Chicken Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Yes Valley Yoghurt & Fruit	Beef Sandwich, Cucumber Slices, Muffins & Fruit
Jacket Potatoes with Beans	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese	Jacket Potatoes with Baked Beans & Mashed Potatoes	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese, Sweetcorn & Merguez	Jacket Potatoes with Beans
Gravy Chicken Topped Tomato Pasta, Sweetcorn & Mince Bread	Mince Pudding & Strawberry Ice or Fruit	Fruit Salad or Fruit	Baked Beans & Strawberry Ice or Fruit	Beef Sandwich, Cucumber Slices, Muffins & Fruit

Lunch Menu w/c 8th July '24				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FOOTBALL FRIDAY
Cooking Chicken, Rice, Peas, Carrots & Sweetcorn	Beef Potatoes Salad with Cucumber Slices & Crusty Bread	Beef Potatoes with Steamed Potatoes, Carrots, Green Beans & GF Gravy	Fish Cakes, Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Ketchup	Beef & Burger, Beef Burger, Beef Burger & Summer Salad in a Beef Mince Bolognese
Cooking Quorn, Rice, Peas, Carrots & Sweetcorn	Wholegrain Potatoes Salad with Cucumber Slices & Crusty Bread	Cheese Vegetables & Potato Pie with Carrots, Green Beans & GF Gravy	Vegetable Fingers, Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Ketchup	Beef & Burger, Beef Burger, Beef Burger & Summer Salad in a Beef Mince Bolognese
Cheese Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Yes Valley Yoghurt & Flapjack	Beef Sandwich, Crunchy Vegetable Sticks, Yes Valley Yoghurt & Fruit	Egg Mayonnaise Baguette, Vegetable Sticks, Muffins & Fruit	Tuna Mayonnaise Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Baked Beans, Muffins & Fruit	Jacket Potatoes with Tuna Mayonnaise
Jacket Potatoes with Beans	Jacket Potatoes with Chicken Curry	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese	Jacket Potatoes with Traditional Bolognese	Jacket Potatoes with Tuna Mayonnaise
Fruity Jelly or Fruit	Banana Trifle or Fruit	Yes Valley Yoghurt or Fruit	Mince Leaf or Fruit	Banana Trifle or Fruit

Lunch Menu w/c 15th July '24				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Cooking Chicken, Rice, Peas, Carrots & Sweetcorn	Beef Potatoes Salad with Cucumber Slices & Crusty Bread	Beef Potatoes with Steamed Potatoes, Carrots, Green Beans & GF Gravy	Chicken Nuggets, Crispy Potato Potatoes, Sweetcorn & Ketchup	Fish Cakes, Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Ketchup
Cooking Quorn, Rice, Peas, Carrots & Sweetcorn	Wholegrain Potatoes Salad with Cucumber Slices & Crusty Bread	Cheese Vegetables & Potato Pie with Carrots, Green Beans & GF Gravy	Cheese Topped Potato Bake, Sweetcorn & Mince Bread	Vegetable Fingers, Creamy Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Ketchup
Cheese Sandwich, Cherry Tomatoes, Yes Valley Yoghurt & Flapjack	Beef Sandwich, Crunchy Vegetable Sticks, Yes Valley Yoghurt & Fruit	Egg Mayonnaise Baguette, Vegetable Sticks, Muffins & Fruit	Beef Sandwich, Cucumber Slices, Muffins & Fruit	Jacket Potatoes with Tuna Mayonnaise
Jacket Potatoes with Beans	Jacket Potatoes with Chicken Curry	Jacket Potatoes with Cheese	Jacket Potatoes with Tuna Mayonnaise	Jacket Potatoes with Traditional Bolognese
Fruity Jelly or Fruit	Banana Trifle or Fruit	Yes Valley Yoghurt or Fruit	Mince Leaf or Fruit	Banana Trifle or Fruit

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

POP-UP ADS

WARNI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Pop-up advertisements have been a staple of the internet since they were first introduced in the late 1990s. This form of advertising causes a small window or banner to appear in the foreground while someone is browsing a website. Although these adverts are merely irritating for most people, pop-ups can present more severe risks to younger users.

DECEPTIVE TACTICS

Children sometimes don't understand that adverts (including pop-ups) are designed to sell a product – and can't distinguish between a legitimate feature of a site and an advertisement. Video games, for example, can be full of pop-up ads that tempt users into spending money, yet they might take the form of a mini-game or extra level.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While some adverts are targeted based on a user's interests and activity online, that isn't always the case. This means that children may unfortunately be exposed to ads for age-inappropriate goods or services such as tobacco products, alcohol and gambling sites.

MALWARE RISK

Most pop-ups from reputable advertisers are safe. However, in some cases, pop-ups can trick you into downloading malware – whereby cybercriminals install software on your device, allowing them to access your sensitive data. It can be difficult to know if malware has been installed on your device, so your best option is to avoid engaging with these pop-ups altogether. Be wary of sites that suddenly bombard you with ads or try to prevent you from leaving.

PRIVACY RISK

Many app and game developers will collect their users' personal data, such as their name, address, email address, geolocation information, unique numerical identifiers, photos and payment information. If a child clicks on an illegitimate pop-up laced with malware, all this information could be put at risk.

RACKING UP BILLS

If a child has access to a payment card on their device – be it a smartphone, laptop, or tablet – they could very quickly rack up a massive bill by interacting with pop-up adverts and buying products shown to them. Try to keep a close eye on their spending.

BEHAVIOURAL IMPACT

Research has found that pop-up ads can even have an impact on children's behaviour. Some of these adverts use manipulative tactics that take advantage of children's developmental vulnerabilities, intentionally or otherwise. This approach may cause a child's mood to shift: becoming more stubborn, for example, if they begin wanting their parents to buy a specific product for them.

Advice for Parents & Educators

START A CONVERSATION

It's important to have regular conversations with children about online advertising so that they understand the risks of interacting with pop-ups. For example, if a child asks for a product which has been advertised to them online, ask them why they want it and how they found it: this will present an opportunity to talk youngsters through the tactics used in online marketing.

SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child may be following pop-up ads to make online purchases or viewing content that could be harmful, it's important to be able to spot the signs. Due to the often-manipulative nature of these adverts, children who interact with them regularly may show signs of distraction, stubbornness and an increasingly materialistic worldview.

MONITOR CONTENT

It can often be difficult to spot when a pop-up advert is malicious – even more so for impressionable younger users. It's important to monitor the content they're consuming to prevent them from clicking on something dangerous. If a pop-up ad seems too good to be true – promising a free iPad, for example – it probably is.

PRIVACY SETTINGS

Most modern devices have privacy settings that let you limit the amount of advertising a child is subjected to while using apps or browsing the internet. You may also want to speak to teachers about avoiding sites and apps with advertising, as well as adjusting digital privacy settings on any education technology they use.

LIMIT SPENDING

Try to stay aware of what children are spending and ensure that payment details aren't linked to or saved on the gaming platform that they use. Most video games and internet-enabled devices have settings that can help you manage what children can or cannot purchase online.

CUT DOWN ON SCREEN TIME

Given the prevalence of pop-up ads (which can appear on everything from smartphones and tablets to internet-connected toys and games), it might be beneficial to limit the time children spend on digital devices to curb their exposure to digital advertising.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology writer with more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, she is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant who writes for *Forbes*, *TechRadar* and *Wired*, among others.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/pop-ups>

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about PALWORLD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MATURE CONTENT

18
CENSORED

While Palworld may look cute and cuddly, the game does have its more mature moments. For example, if you try to catch a Pal and don't succeed, the game displays a mild swear word. There are also minor references to inhumane acts like slavery when getting your Pals to perform certain tasks for you. While the presentation is intended to be humorous, this could still be seen as being in poor taste.

VIOLENCE

Palworld has been referred to as "Pokémon with guns" and with good reason. As the game progresses, Pals can be given firearms, explosives and other weapons, allowing them to fight by the player's side. There are several moments where cute animals use these guns to kill other Pals or fight against bosses. The violence is cartoonish and bloodless, but it's present.

SUGGESTIVE WRITING

Some of the Pals' descriptions – found in the game menu – can be very suggestive and adult in nature. The game makes a joke of balancing on the line between age-appropriate and mature content: playing on the contrast between the two while never being outright explicit. While it's possible that younger players won't notice this content, it's just as conceivable that they will.

In Palworld, players head out into an environment where they must craft items and survive alongside creatures called 'Pals'. In this sense, it's similar to Minecraft: fight monsters while maintaining a base. Palworld has sold more than six million copies and often has over two million people playing online simultaneously.

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

ONLINE PLAY

Palworld can be played with other people online. On Xbox, players can only play with people on their friends list. On PC, however, up to 32 players can share in the same game, playing in a large online world, and these players may not necessarily be known to the host beforehand. It can be quite complicated to set up these servers. However, it can be quite complicated to set up these servers (online worlds) and they cost money to keep active.

DIFFICULTY

Despite its endearing visuals, Palworld is actually an extremely difficult game in places: defeating bosses, catching Pals and exploring the environment can all be very tricky. It takes a lot of skill – or working together with a friend – to be successful, which could be off-putting or even aggravating to a player expecting something more like Minecraft or Pokémon.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH GAMEPLAY

Watching gameplay and reviews for Palworld on sites like YouTube is the best available means of gathering information on it, second only to playing it for yourself. Currently, there are plenty of videos showing this game off to the internet at large, along with detailed breakdowns of what can be found or done within it.

LEND A HAND

By learning the basics of the game – Pal catching, battling, crafting items and building up a base – you can help to lower the difficulty for younger players. This, in turn, decreases the likelihood that such players will need to look online for tips and tricks, where they could quite easily stumble across more violent and mature content associated with the game.

SET CONTENT LIMITS

UNDER
12

As Palworld is available on Xbox Game Pass, it's easy for players to access it. Any player subscribed to this service can simply find the title on Game Pass and hit the download button. If a child or young person isn't allowed to play Palworld, the best way to prevent them downloading it regardless is to enable age limits on their account. Setting the limit below 12 will not allow users to install Palworld.

PLAY TOGETHER

By playing Palworld yourself, you'll have the best chance of catching any content that you don't think is suitable for children, as well as getting an idea of how violence is presented in the game. The conflict is cartoonish in nature – until players and Pals unlock the ability to use guns, at which point it can become more intense. It's likely best for you to give it a look and form your own opinion.

PLACE BOUNDARIES

Limit options when it comes to online play. For players on PC, they'll still be able to cooperate with friends through the game's multiplayer option, much like Xbox users. Just because they have the option to run a dedicated server that's open to anyone doesn't mean they need to take it. The risks of interacting with strangers can be significantly lowered or even eliminated entirely by playing on servers which are restricted to friends only.

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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