



SOUTH WITHAM ACADEMY NEWS

Finally, the sun is out and we can use the school field! What a great site we have and it is great seeing the children utilising it all.

With the nicer weather comes the opportunity to bike or scooter to school. The children love this and it is a great form of exercise. Please can everyone remember that the children should not be riding bikes or scooters on the school playground at the end of each day - the last thing we want is for an injury to happen to anyone during a busy time out there.

Please also remember to provide children with water bottles, especially in the warmer weather. I hope you enjoy a lovely weekend,

Mr Atter



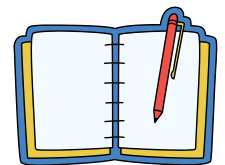
UPCOMING DIARY DATES

13th - 16th May - YR 6 SATs

17th May - Otter class trip to Gunby woods

23rd May - Sports for Schools Assembly

24th May - Go Cycling



As we are starting to see the sun a bit more, can we please remind you to apply sun screen to your child before school on hot days.

Please can we remind you all to wear either plain navy or school logo'd PE kits.

HOUSE POINT TOTALS



BURGHLEY

4108

BELTON

3257

WOOLSTHORPE

3657



Little Hedgehogs



This week in Little Hedgehogs we have been reading *Maisy's morning on the farm*. They have really enjoyed looking at the animals that *Maisy* feeds and we have been playing guess that farm animal noise.

The children have been painting with the tractors to see the tyre tracks and painting pig pictures with added shaving foam to the pink paint.

On Wednesday afternoon we went out for our woodlands walk on the field and looked at all the leaves growing on the trees and watched some butterfly's.



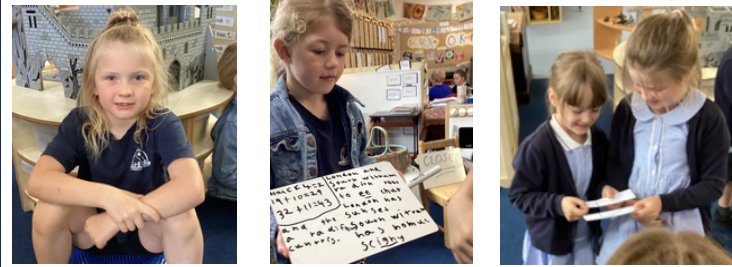
Woodlands



We hope you all had a lovely bank holiday we have had a very busy week of learning! We have started reading what the lady bird heard in literacy and the children have been loving it! Our focus is onomatopoeia so we have had lots of discussions on what a farm might sound like and how we can use this in our writing.

In history we have been learning about the monarchy and looking at the king and queens coronation, we watched the queens coronation and looked at similarities and differences to the kings!

We look forward to seeing you all next week for a full week of learning!



Badgers

The Year 6 children have continued to give a focused determination to their last week of learning before SATS. They have now have impressive skills to find percentages or find the whole amount from a given percentage. The Year 5 children have been working with decimals using tenths, hundredths and thousandths. All of the class have worked collectively to create a shared write of a war diary. These skills will feed into their own independent evacuee diary after SATS. In Science we have been dissecting tulips and lilies in order to find the male and female reproductive parts. Mr Milner has been continuing his work in Design Technology also to understanding gears and up-level vocabulary in order to describe how they work.



Otters

After a lovely long weekend, Otters have had another busy week. We have continued our maths learning about fractions and decimals, as well as writing biographies of famous people, this week including Mo Farah! Next week, we will be writing about those people closer to home, using the homework information. In History, we have been finding out a bit more about the landmarks of Ancient Egypt, and in Science, we had another close look at our root viewers - some of the roots have really grown over the last week! The children have also been working hard on the masks of Tutankhamun - hopefully the messiest bit is now over! We can't wait to see the finished items! Don't forget, next Friday is our trip to Gunby Woods to learn more about the plants around us!



PRIDE OF SOUTH WITHAM

Always Club

YAY!



Readers of the week!



Attendance Superstars

this week goes to **RABBITS & BADGERS** with 98%



Attendance is something we celebrate each week in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday. We are required to collate and update the attendance figures for the local authority each week. Going forward we will be monitoring attendance closely to ensure that we are hitting the targets given to the school by the DFE.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Jacob who celebrated his birthday this week.



ROUNDERS AT CHARLES READ ACADEMY



On Thursday we took a team to a local rounders tournament at Charles Reed Academy. The children were fantastic and showed true strength and aspiration to finish in 3rd position!

Well done team SWA!



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS



The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST



Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS



At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS



Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS



Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRcon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



CRA SPORTS CAMP MAY HALF TERM

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Corby Glen
Lincolnshire
NG33 4NT



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BOOK A PLACE



Phone: 01476 550 333 **or alternatively**
Email: gfulcher@charlesreadacademy.co.uk

Working together



National Trust



WOODLAND TRUST

Funded by



HERITAGE FUND

This is a **FREE** event*

Cycle to the Woods

Wyndham Park to Londonthorpe Woods

Saturday 25th May 10am–3pm

Leave the car at home and ride to your local woodland

Join us on this **FREE** event as we share our cycle track connecting Grantham to Londonthorpe Woods.

Guided Rides

Wyndham Park

Guided Rides from Wyndham Park to Londonthorpe Woods led by qualified Ride Leaders.

You'll follow NCN Route 15 weaving through Queen Elizabeth Park to Alma Woods rolling through the 'green lungs' of Grantham.

What's On

Lonthorpe Woods

- Free bike Maintenance
- Free bike register and marking
- Walking Routes
- Refreshments



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

**Last ride leaves Wyndham Park at 2pm!
Ride takes approximately 30 minutes from
Wyndham Park to Londonthorpe Woods.*