



Bruche Primary School Academy

Seymour Drive, Padgate, Warrington, WA1 3TT

Tel: 01925 815772

Executive Headteacher: Mr C Jones

School: www.bruchepprimary.co.uk

Multi academy trust: wpat.warrington.sch.uk

Bruche.office@wpat.uk

[@Bruche_P_School](#)

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who has booked a parent meeting with your child's teacher. We are really looking forward to seeing you all!

Thank you also to the parents who came along to the Year 6 Robinwood meeting this week. I hope you found it informative and you feel it is something your child will really look forward to!

At Bruche we have a diverse, exciting and inclusive curriculum offer. If you follow this [link](#) you will find every topic taught across school for each subject. Our Manual of Instruction document can also be found [here](#). This document sets out what we teach in each subject and how we link the learning in each subject, to teach our children about the World of Employment! Our EYFS curriculum can be found [here](#).

I would really encourage you to have a look at these two documents to gain more of an insight into our curriculum offer at Bruche. If you have any questions about our curriculum and what is taught, please speak to your child's class teacher who will be happy to help.

Have a lovely weekend everyone!

Mr Jones

Communication Corner

Diary Dates

- 07.10.2024** Parent's evening (extra day slots available during this week, day TBC)
09.10.2024 Reception Class Photograph for Warrington Guardian
10.10.2024 PCSO Bonfire safety Assembly
15.10.2024 17.00-18.00 Halloween Silent Disco Years 5 and 6
17.10.2024 (During the nursery day morning and afternoon) Nursery Halloween Silent Disco
17.10.2024 16.15-17.15 Reception/Y1 Halloween Silent Disco
17.10.2024 17.30- 18.30 Y2, Y3, Y4 Halloween Silent Disco
16.10.2024 Bikability Level 1 Year 4
16.10.2024 16.00-17.00 Phonics meeting for Reception parents
17.10.2024 and 18.10.2024 Bikability Learn to Ride (KS2 non-riders)
17.10.2024 Uniform Pop up shop
18.10.2024 School Closes for half Term break

Multi- Sports Holiday Club

- 21.10.24- 25.10.24** 08.30-16.00
28.10.24-31.10.24 08.30- 16.00

- 04.11.2024** School re-opens
12.11.2024 Chester Zoo Trip Y4 and Y6
21.11.2024 Individual School photographs
22.11.2024 Year 6 Chemistry with Cabbage
28.11.2024 Flu Immunisations Nursery-Y6
07.12.2024 Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto
12.12.2024 14.00 EYFS Performance
13.12.2024 14.00 EYFS Performance
17.12.2024 09.30 and 15.30 KS1 performances
18.12.2024 09.30 and 15.30 KS2 performances
20.12.2024 Toy day/ party day/ Christmas Jumper day
20.12.2024 School Closes for Christmas

- 06.01.2025** School re-opens

Abcd = parents' attendance

Abcd = PTA events

Asda Cashpots for School- We need you!

Asda are working with Parentkind to offer support to school PTAs. It is incredibly simple to help and will cost you absolutely nothing! The school cash pot is linked to your Asda Rewards account so when you buy something from Asda, Asda will donate money to our school cashpot!

We currently have **£331** in our pot already and have **58 days left** to build up that total which will go towards our PTA events for our children!

Please see how to help below...



Special Mentions

Nursery- Jacob Clark for demonstrating such a lovely polite and kind manner towards others. Well Done Jacob!

Reception- My special mention is going to be awarded to **Lainey Doherty** this week. Lainey has really impressed me this week with her kindness to her peers. She is always polite and very supporting of her friends in class. Keep shining, Lainey!

Year 1- Max Howard for always putting 100% effort into everything that he does.

Year 2 - Alfie Hill for his fantastic effort and independence when learning and completing his work focused on adding 10

Year 3 - Jorgie Edmonds for working independently in maths this week

Year 4 - Harrison Kemp for his excellent attitude to learning.

Year 5 - Hailey Chow for always completing her work to an excellent standard!

Year 6 - Jorgie Starkey for a brilliant attitude to her studies

Early Years News

Nursery

Following on from last week we have all enjoyed reading the story “Pete the Cat and his Four Groovy Buttons.” The children have been sorting, counting and comparing buttons as well as designing and making their own.

We have created collages of Pete the Cat and his four groovy buttons as well as using shapes to print our own cats.

The children have been sequencing the story using images and have then enjoyed retelling it to one another, singing the repeating song throughout.

The children have also been using their detective skills to match up the correct cat to its shadow, including turning and flipping images until they matched up correctly.

You have all worked really well this week.

Well Done Nursery.

Mrs. Wallace

Reception

This week we have been looking at Colour Monster by Anna Llenas. We have been exploring colour mixing, taking part in a range of craft activities. The children have enjoyed using prime colours to explore the different colours they can make by mixing the colours.

The children have been carrying on with their phonics lessons this week. I am so happy with how well they have been retaining their new sounds in our lessons. We are also enjoying learning how to use 'Fred Talk' to blend sounds into words.

In Maths, the children have been using their number knowledge to match spots to numbers by making cup towers. The children subitising skills are improving every day!

Have a wonderful weekend everyone!

Miss Bostock

Key Stage 1 News

Year 1

Year 1 have been superstars this week!

When we arrived at school on Monday there was a very exciting present in our classroom! We wrote down our predictions and guessed what we thought was inside. We opened it and discovered it was a toy bus. After observing the bus this week, we have decided it is a very cheeky bus. We have been working hard all week to check he hasn't been doing anything sneaky in our classroom and we were shocked to discover he was swinging from our ceiling! We have completed some fabulous writing about the bus using our capital letters full stops and finger spaces. Later on in the week we discussed our five senses and wrote down our own ideas of things we can taste, see, hear, smell and touch.

In Math's this week we have looked at finding 1 more and 1 less than a given number. The children have amazed me with their understanding of numbers this week and I am excited to continue with this next week.

In RE we discussed why God is important to Christians and how Christians can communicate with god. We drew some pictures to show our understanding of how we can communicate with God if we wanted to.

In Computing we looked at what a computer looks like and began to label one and discuss what each part is used for.

In Geography we talked about what an aerial map is and what a bird's eye view is. We used pictures to create our own birds eye view of our classroom and we enjoyed working together to make it.

Well done Year 1 I am so proud of how well you are adapting to the curriculum!

Homework this week:

Writing: Can you write down 3 sounds with my sound in and write 3 sentences?

Maths: Can you complete my challenge and find 1 more and 1 less?

Spellings: Can you learn the spellings ready for a test next week? I wonder who will get 5 out of 5!

Miss Kerrigan

Year 2

We have been working hard this week in Year 2!

In maths this week we have been looking at number patterns, including adding 10. We spotted that when we add ten the tens digit changes but the ones digit stays the same. We've also begun to look at number lines and how to place numbers accurately on a number line by using our understanding of place value.

In our writing and history lessons we have continued to learn about Queen Elizabeth II. This week we have learnt about the Queen's coronation. We looked at photographs and watched some videos taken at the event and thought about what it must have been like to be the Queen in this moment. We then did some writing using our 5 senses, thinking about what she would have been able to see, hear and touch and how she would have felt.

In RE, we have continued learning about stewardship by learning about the work some Christian charities carry out to protect the environment. We created our own posters for the charities that would persuade people to look after the world. In Science, we went on a material hunt around school. We tried to spot as many different materials as possible and discussed why materials are used in different ways. For geography, we continued learning about different types of maps. We looked at the 4 compass points and learnt a useful saying to remember them – Naughty Elephants Squirt Water! We then drew a map of our classroom thinking carefully about the scale of the different objects and their location in the classroom.

Homework

Our spelling homework this week looks at spellings that we have been practicing in our phonics lessons. They contain the same sound but use different graphemes. For English, we are focusing on using our 5 senses when writing, while our maths homework recaps some of our learning on number lines.

Have a lovely weekend!

Miss Johnson

Key Stage 2 News

Year 3

In English this week, we have spent some time writing out description of a stormy mountain. The children worked well at using all the work they have done over the last couple of weeks and put it all together to make their description amazing. They used lots of spooky similes and used fantastic adjectives. We have also completed a lesson on knowing the difference between simple past tense and present perfect tense. The children learned that present perfect tense refers to an activity that started in the past, but still has an effect or is still happening in the present.

In Maths, we have worked to consolidate the understanding of each digit in a 3-digit number. We focused on the value of the '0' in a 3-digit number and the importance of it. We explored how it might be tricky to represent a number such as 402 with dienes as there are no tens in the 10's column. We have also been working to know how to add or subtract, 1, 10 or 100 from a 3-digit number.

In History we looked at some features of the Stone Age that might be a threat or an asset to their survival. Some of the features could have been in both columns so the children had to explain how it could be an asset to their survival and how it could be a threat.

In Geography we used the iPads to research what non-renewable and renewable resources are. They understand that non-renewable resources are something that 'cannot be replenished in our lifetime' such as gas, oil and coal.

We said our tearful goodbye to Mrs Kerrigan on Monday afternoon with a whole class assembly. We had worked hard at learning Mrs Kerrigan's favourite song 'Reach for The Stars' and the children sang it so lovely to her!

Homework to be completed by Wednesday 2nd October:

Learning by Questions: English and Maths

Reading Plus: 2 stories or 2 available tasks at 80% or above.

If your child is on reading eggs the homework is as follows:

Learning by Questions: English and Maths

Reading Eggspress assignment.

Have a good weekend!

Mrs Hogan

Year 4

In English this week, we have been spending lots of time on the use of capital letters on common and proper nouns. We have then started our new write. We have been looking at fables in preparation for writing our own version of the 'Hare and the Tortoise'. We have looked at a wagoll to identify the features that are used in a telling of a fable such as paragraphs, direct speech, vocabulary and the use of pronouns to avoid repetition.

In Maths, we have been really impressing Mrs Shone with our place value knowledge. We have been looking at how we compare numbers by looking at the place value of each digit and comparing it with another number before moving on to ordering numbers using these skills. We have been investigating what the question is asking us and using our vocabulary knowledge to order them in the way the question asks. We have then been looking at counting in 50s and 500s and 25s and 250s in preparation for moving onto number lines next week.

In Geography, we have been looking at the climate zones of Europe. We discussed what climate is and what is the difference between weather and climate. We looked at the broad climate zones of the world before looking more closely at the different climate areas of Europe in preparation for looking at biomes next week.

In Music, we have been to learn to play the ukulele. We began by learning what all the different parts are and then how to hold them. We then looked at the first 3 chords and how we could use these to play 'Blackbird' by Oasis and 'Golden' by Harry Styles. We are going to be practising hard over the next few weeks so that we can begin to play in assembly.

Homework

2 x Reading Plus

3 x Reads in diary

5 minutes TT Rockstars
Maths - LBQ counting in 25s
Mrs Shone

Year 5

This week in Year 5 we have been using negative numbers. We have compared and ordered them (including with positive numbers) and found the difference between two numbers. We also interpreted temperature and read thermometers.

In writing, we began looking at an informative text. We found relative clauses and pronouns, modal verbs and ambitious vocabulary. We researched the definition of certain vocabulary that we would like to use within our writing.

Our History topic had us looking at the homelands of the Anglo-Saxons (Scandinavia) and why they chose to come to Britain. We looked at the chronology of the time before and after the Anglo-Saxons came to Britain.

In Geography we labelled the main map lines on a world map, including: the longitude and latitude lines, the Northern and Southern Hemisphere, the equator and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

For our Music topic, we began to learn how to play the ukelele! We had a go at learning the c minor chord and counted the frets on the ukelele. We played along to the song Golden by Harry Styles!

HOMEWORK: This week the children will be expected to complete the two Learning By Questions Tasks (one English, one Maths) and 2 Reading Plus lessons over 80%.

Mrs Ratcliffe

Year 6

Year 6 have been completed their biographies of Charles Darwin in English this week.

In Maths, the children found fractions of numbers, revised the 4 operations of fractions and investigated the relationships between fractions, decimals and percentages.

In PSHE, the children continued to look at how to react positively to transition and change and how to turn challenging situations into positive ones.


IN WCSR, the children looked at summarising information.

On Friday, the children had a magnificent day of Art with Mrs Jones.

Thank you so much for your support when attending the Robinwood meeting on Wednesday evening - it was great to see you all. If you were unable to attend, please could you take a look at the website to see what the Robinwood experience will involve? Your child should have brought a pack home with them if you were unable to attend and Mr Dixon will be emailing the ppt that was used to pass on all the important information.

<https://www.robinwood.co.uk/>

I hope to see you all again next week for Parents' Evening and thank you in advance for all your amazing support already given this year.



[A Really Positive Difference - Robinwood](https://www.robinwood.co.uk/)
Robinwood offers 3-day school residential trips for KS2. We make a Really Positive Difference Developing Children through 15 adventurous & themed activities.
www.robinwood.co.uk

This week's homework will be:

2 RPS
3 Maths LBQs and 1 Grammar LBQ.

Mr Gould

PE

In PE this week, we embraced autonomy by selecting how to play games both fairly and respectfully. We encouraged them to make decisions as a group, fostering a sense of ownership and mutual respect. Each of us contributed ideas, negotiated rules, and agreed upon fair play guidelines, which promoted a cooperative and inclusive environment. This approach empowered us, enhancing our critical thinking and problem-solving skills while ensuring that every participant felt valued and heard. By practicing autonomy, we learned to balance our personal interests with the group's needs, leading to a more harmonious and enjoyable experience. This week's activities highlighted the importance of fairness, respect, and collaboration, demonstrating that when given the opportunity to lead, we can create a positive and supportive atmosphere in our games.



Mr Cooney

Lunch Menu w/c 07.10.24

Week 3

SCHOOL MEALS

Available daily as an alternative: - Filled jacket potatoes served with vegetables, a dessert and drink. An alternative dessert from a selection of seasonal fresh fruit, yoghurt, soren and cheese & biscuits
Available daily - Unlimited fresh salad and wholemeal bread, drinking water or fresh milk.

Week One	Week Two	Week Three
<p style="text-align: center;">Meat Free Monday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vegetarian Sausage Roll Herby Diced Potatoes and Baked Beans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vanilla Ice Cream</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Pork Sausage with Yorkshire Pudding Creamed Potatoes, served with Carrots and Peas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fresh Fruit Segments or Yoghurt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Beef Burger in a Bun served with Herby Diced Potato and Fresh Side Salad</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vegetables Fajitas served with Savoury Rice and Sweetcorn.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Orange Jelly and Fruit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V BBQ Chicken served with Baked Wedged Potatoes, and Sweetcorn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Homemade Blueberry Cake/Muffin</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Crumb Coated Chicken served with Chunky Chipped Potatoes, Garden Peas, or Baked Beans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oven Baked Fish Fingers Served with Chunky Chipped Potatoes, Peas, or Baked Beans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Homemade Cooks Choice Biscuit</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meat Free Monday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Margarita Pizza Rounds Served with Baked Jacket Wedges and Sweetcorn</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Doughnut</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Roast Turkey with Creamed Potato, Roast Potato, Carrot and Broccoli</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fresh Fruit Salad or Yoghurt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Spaghetti Bolognaise Served with Garden Peas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Garlic and Herb Chicken Pitta served with Vegetable Rice and Broccoli.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Arctic or Chocolate Ice Cream</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Brunch Lunch (Sausage, Beans, Hash Brown, Omelette)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Raspberry Jelly and Fruit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Crumb Coated Chicken Served with Chunky Chipped Potatoes, Peas or Baked Beans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oven baked Battered Salmon served with Chunky Chipped Potatoes, Peas or Baked Beans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Homemade Cooks Choice Biscuit</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Meat Free Monday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tomato and Mascarpone Pasta Bake Served with Seasonal Vegetables</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Strawberry Ice Cream</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Tuesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Chicken Katsu Curry served with Rice</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fresh Fruit Segments or Yoghurt</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wednesday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Selection of Pizza (pepperoni/cheese) Served with Jacket Wedges, Salad</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sweet and Sour Chicken/Quorn Served with Rice/Noodle</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Jelly and Fruit</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thursday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">V Pork Meatballs in Tomato and Basil Sauce Served with Pasta and Garden Peas</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Vanilla and Chocolate Marble Cake</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Friday</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oven Baked Chicken Poppers Served with Chunky Chipped Potatoes, Garden Peas or Baked Beans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oven Baked Fish Stars Served with Chunky Chipped Potatoes, Garden Peas, or Baked Beans</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Homemade Cooks Choice Biscuit</p>

Menu Cycle Week One: 17th June, 8th July, 2nd Sept, 23rd Sept, 14th Oct, 4th Nov, 25th Nov

Menu Cycle Week Two: 24th June, 15th July, 9th Sept, 30th Sept, 21st Oct, 11th Nov, 2nd Dec,

Menu Cycle Week Three: 1st July, 22nd July, 16th Sept, 7th Oct, 28th Oct, 18th Nov, 9th Dec,

Menu: 2024

✔ = Vegetarian V = Vegetarian substitute available
 Lunch will be served with fresh milk or drinking water.
 All homemade dishes contain additional vegetables.

For allergen and dietary help please contact school meals helpdesk on 01925 443082 or visit our website www.warrington.gov.uk/schoolmeals



WARRINGTON
Borough Council



BRUCHE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term Dates 2024-2025

	Closing Date	Opening Date
Autumn 2024		04.09.24
Autumn Half Term	18.10.24	04.11.24
Christmas 2023	20.12.24	06.01.25
Spring Half Term 2024	14.02.25	24.02.25
Easter	11.04.25	22.04.25
Bank Holidays (Good Friday and Easter Monday)	18.04.25 and 21.04.25	
Bank Holiday (May Day)	05.05.25	
Summer Half Term	23.05.25	02.06.2025
Summer 2024	18.07.25	03.09.25

INSET (Training days for staff – children not in school)

INSET 1	02.09.24
INSET 2	03.09.24
INSET 3	27.06.25
INSET 4	21.07.25
INSET 5	22.07.25

Holiday Dates	
October Half Term	18.10.24 – 03.11.24
Christmas Holiday	20.12.24 – 05.01.25
February Half Term	14.02.25 – 23.02.25
Easter Holiday	11.04.25 – 21.04.25
May Half Term (Whit)	23.05.25 – 01.06.25
Summer Holiday	18.07.25- 03.09.25



BRUCHE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Term Dates 2025-2026

	Closing Date	Opening Date
Autumn 2024		03.09.25
Autumn Half Term	17.10.25	03.11.25
Christmas 2024	19.12.25	05.01.26
Spring Half Term 2024	13.02.26	23.02.26
Easter	02.04.26	13.04.26
Bank Holidays (Good Friday and Easter Monday)	03.04.26 and 06.04.26	
Bank Holiday (May Day)	04.05.26	
Summer Half Term	22.05.26	01.06.26
Summer 2025	17.06.26	(TBC)

INSET (Training days for staff – children not in school)

INSET 1	01.09.24
INSET 2	02.09.25
INSET 3	03.07.26
INSET 4	20.07.26
INSET 5	21.07.26

Holiday Dates	
October Half Term	20.10.25 - 31.10.25
Christmas Holiday	22.12.25 – 02.01.26
February Half Term	16.02.26 – 20.02.26
Easter Holiday	03.04.26 – 10.04.26
May Half Term (Whit)	25.05.26 – 29.05.26
Summer Holiday	20.07.26 - TBC



Music is a compulsory and important part of the National Curriculum. The national curriculum for music aims to ensure that all pupils: perform, listen to, review and evaluate music.

From September 2022 Early Notes Music Education will be able to offer support to students with small group and one to one instrumental tuition for the following...

Ukulele For KS1 & KS2 students

Guitar For KS2 students

Keyboard For KS1 & KS2 students **(all students will learn to read notation)**

Flute For KS2 students **(all students will learn to read notation)**

Recorder (all ranges) For KS2 students **(all students will learn to read notation)**

Violin For KS2 students **(all students will learn to read notation)**

Drum Kit For KS1 & KS2 students

Tuition prices start from £65 for 12 sessions, all lessons are held within school during lesson time. The 12 sessions will usually fit into a school term and lessons will be carried over should a term be less than 12 weeks.

For further information about Early Notes Music, details about specific instrumental lessons or to enroll for September, you can do this direct via our website www.earlynotesmusic.education



HALLOWEEN DISCO

15TH OCTOBER | 5PM-6PM YEAR 5-6
17TH OCTOBER NURSEY-DURING THE DAY
17TH OCTOBER 4.15-5.15 REC/YEAR 1
17TH OCTOBER 5.30-6.30 YEAR 2/3/4

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS



Silent disco with headsets

£3.50 each
£6 for siblings
£2 for nursery

hot dog and drink included

bruchepriamarypta@gmail.com



JOIN US FOR A

RECEPTION OPEN DAY



FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN STARTING RECEPTION IN
SEPTEMBER 2025

Wednesday 20th November 2024
17:00 – 18:00

MORE INFO

please phone 01925 815 772 or
email bruche.office@wpat.uk



Halloween LAKESIDE TRAIL

Warrington's family Halloween event entailing spooky enchantment,
bewitching displays and mouthwatering themed food & drinks

OCTOBER 2024
Partridge Lakes, Culcheth,
Warrington, WA3 4AQ

FIND OUT MORE
Scan to book
@Halloweenlakesidetrail
Halloweenlakesidetrail.co.uk



TOILET ↑



Penketh High School

High expectations, outstanding young people

DESIGNATED PROVISION OPEN DAY

*November 18th 2024, March 10th 2025
and May 12th 2025*

**only for pupils with an EHCP*

Register your interest by emailing jlowe@penkethhigh.org



SPOOKTACULAR!

TECH ~~O~~CTOBER HALF TERM CLUB

**Computer
Xplorers**

Leading the way in providing tech-based activities that are both inspirational and educational!

WARRINGTON



Culcheth High School

Warrington Road, WA3 5HH



22nd-24th October 2024
Tuesday to Thursday



9am-3pm
half days available



Providing fun, educational activities-

Tuesday- Lego Robotics & Minecraft

Wednesday- Digital Game Design & Minecraft

Thursday- Digital Animation & Minecraft

BOOK! Visit the link or scan the code-
bolton.computerexplorers.co.uk



@CompXBolton

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

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.

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.

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.



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The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

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