

BETHS VIP

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers,

REMEMBRANCE DAY
Left We Forget

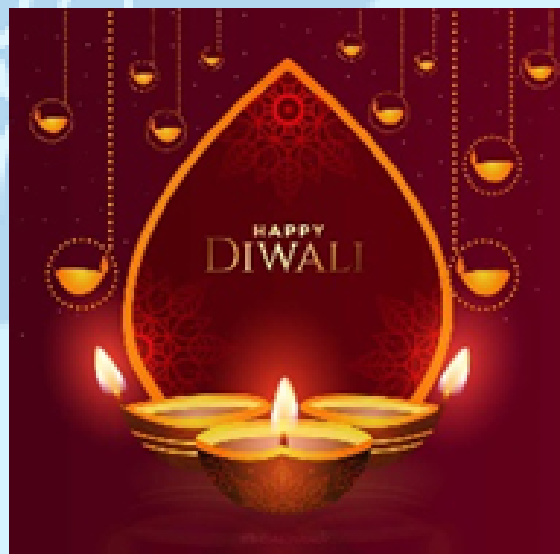


I hope you all had a restful half term break. Today we shared slides and information with our students on Remembrance Day. Our History and Social Sciences Department collated the informative and poignant slides and the Reverend Trevor Wyatt from Christchurch Bexleyheath prepared a videoed short sermon on our hope for peace in the world. Our students' behaviour was impeccable and thoroughly respectful throughout the service.

We are pleased to report on our new building plans coming along. Enclosed in this VIP is more information on what has been happening since the last update, along with some photos.

Happy Diwali

We wish our staff, students, and parents a happy Diwali. We hope you have a wonderful weekend celebrating.



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And finally, our return from the half term break was saddened by the sudden loss of our dear colleague, Mr John McCartin. Mr McCartin joined Beths in 2005 and was a dedicated, engaging teacher of Law, Business and Economics. Many of our students, past and present benefited from his vast knowledge of his subjects. He was much liked and a highly valued member of our school community who played his part in making the school the unique place it is. His death was a shock to both staff and students, and I thank you for your kind emails with your condolences. They are providing much comfort for all of us who are slowly coming to terms with this sad reality.



Kind regards,
Richard Blyghton



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SIXTH FORM BUILDING UPDATE

Since recommencing on site on 9th October, Hutton's have been busy preparing the ground and laying foundations. Despite some unexpected services requiring diverting and Storm Ciaran's best efforts to disrupt the works, the last row of foundation pits were poured with cement on schedule this week.

At the start of next week, Hutton will prepare the ground ready for the delivery of the mobile crane on Wednesday 15th November. Later the same day a delivery of galvanized steels will be received, and the crane will start to erect the steels to form the building frame. This will continue over a period of two weeks in a rotational pattern until the frame is completed (an increase in noise level can be expected). The diagram below details the programme with the first steels (shown in red) forming a front section of the building (facing the main teaching block), followed by :

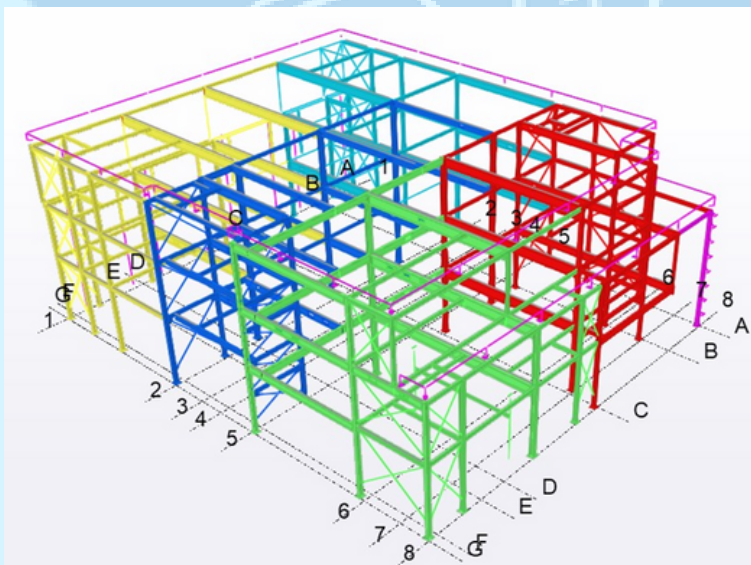
Green load delivered on Friday 17.11.23

Blue load delivered on Tuesday 21.11.23

Cyan load delivered on Thursday 23.11.23

Yellow load delivered on Monday 27.11.23

Purple load forming the balance of the galvanized steels tbc



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SIXTH FORM BUILDING UPDATE

A clear Traffic Management Plan has been agreed with Hutton. The steel deliveries will be directed from the A2 along Thanet Road, Parkhill Road, Parkhurst Road and then through the West Gate to avoid congesting Hartford Road. The steels are also scheduled to be delivered on “short” 10m (trailer length) articulated lorries to ensure minimum disruption.

Drainage and ducting will commence on 27.11.23 for two weeks, along with the substructure (underground) blockwork on the 4.12.23, which weather dependent should be finished by the start of the school holidays.

Between 2.1.24 and 2.2.24 the block and beam ground floor, 1st and 2nd floors along with the roof planks will be completed. A mobile crane will be on site for this period.

As many of you are aware, the school has been running at electrical load capacity for some years, which has prevented us supplying heater units to some areas of the school. The demolition of the old LRC has not provided enough additional capacity to resolve the heating shortages issues. As part of the project, the school will be building a new substation on the boundary of the school site next to the A2 slip road, to increase our electrical capacity and to future proof for the coming years. As with all planning applications the process can be very protracted, but the design and legals are well underway, with an anticipated completion next Autumn.

Make sure you check on our website for weekly updates!

<https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=285>



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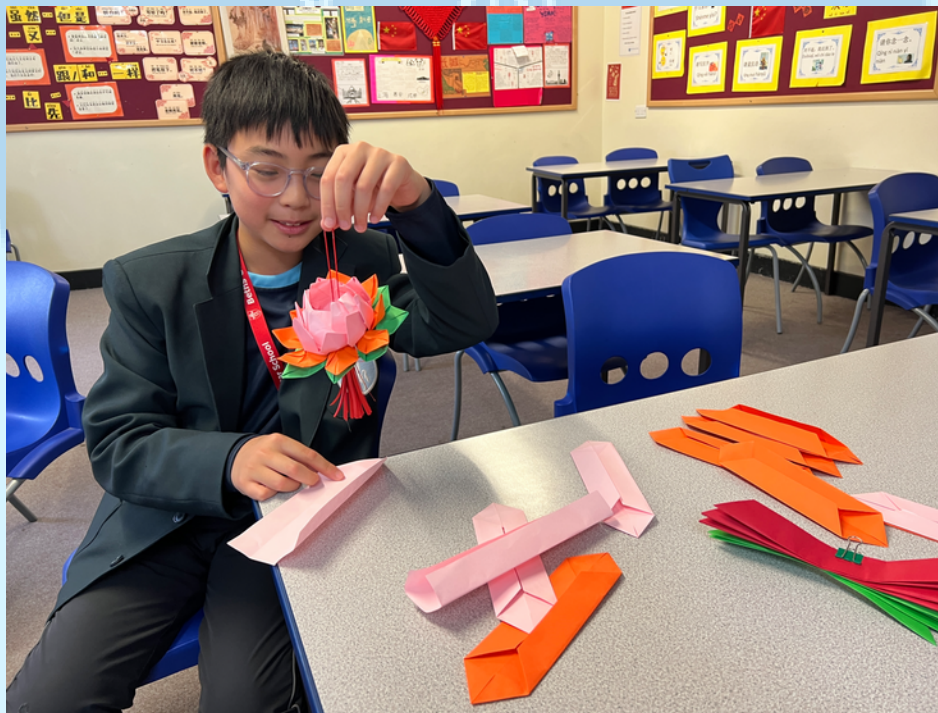
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CHINESE CULTURE CLUB

During Year 7 Chinese Culture Club, students enjoyed making Lotus Lantern. They received a little toy Panda and a sweet as a treat! The Chinese department welcomes students to join the club which runs on odd week Wednesday lunchtimes.



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SPANISH CULTURAL TRIP

The opportunity to view "Pan's Labyrinth," a spellbinding masterwork by Guillermo del Toro that masterfully combines fantasy and reality, was presented to Year 11 Spanish students on Wednesday. It tells a grim fairy tale with themes of brutality and innocence set in post-Civil War Spain. The film's gorgeous imagery, outstanding acting, and haunting score combine to form a fascinating and thought-provoking viewing experience. "Pan's Labyrinth" is a must-watch if you love older, visually captivating stories that explore the resiliency of the human spirit. They also had the opportunity to practice their listening skills because the whole film was purely in Spanish!

Year 11 then had the opportunity to eat at Chupitos, a culinary treasure chest with a warm environment and a menu full of typical Spanish tapas. A variety of delectable delicacies, including fresh, flavorful items that bring true Spanish tastes to life, are offered by Chupitos. It's ideal for private dinners or get-togethers with friends thanks to the warm atmosphere and skilled personnel. Chupitos is a must-visit location if you enjoy Spanish food or are curious about the tapas culture. It's a star that attracts both residents and tourists thanks to its delectable menu and attractive ambiance.

(Spanish)

Este miércoles, los alumnos de 11º curso tuvieron la oportunidad de asistir a la proyección de la famosa película "El laberinto del fauno", dirigida por Guillermo del Toro. La película combina aspectos de fantasía y realidad, ambientada en la España franquista de 1944, es una visión política de la vida en España durante ese periodo de tiempo. Las encantadoras imágenes, el audio y la escritura cautivaron a los alumnos y les permitieron practicar su español. Recomiendo encarecidamente esta película a cualquiera que le gusten las novelas y películas de fantasía oscura - un visionado inolvidable.

Los alumnos de 11º, después de ver la película, fueron a comer a un restaurante tradicional español llamado "Chupitos" en Welling. El restaurante estaba lleno de colores brillantes y aroma fresco, y también, con deliciosa comida. Pudimos comer multitud de tapas, comimos paella y la mayoría de la gente comió churros con dulce de leche, de postre. Chupitos es un restaurante prioritario apto tanto para pequeñas cenas románticas como para grandes reuniones, ¡un destino maravilloso seas quien seas!

By Mustafa 11H



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SPANISH CULTURAL TRIP



Holla, me llamo Alexander Ursu, y soy un estudiante de Beths Grammar School. Hace un día, fui a un restaurante maravilloso en Welling, que se llama Chupitos. Fue una experiencia divertida puesto que como yo lo veo, el ambiente era muy animado y los camareros fueron muy amables y acogedores. Las tapas estaban deliciosas. No cabe duda de que los calamares fueron las tapas más ricas y deliciosas que he probado.

Después, nos trajeron el plato principal, una paella clásica. Sin Embargo, en mi humilde opinión, el postre (los churros) fueron la estrella del espectáculo.

En cuanto a la película, vimos Pan's Labyrinth - El laberinto de Fauno. Creo que la película era bastante triste y un poco difícil de ver. La película implicaba muchos temas que se concentraban en el dolor sufrido durante la guerra civil en España.

La protagonista era una chica que tenía entre diez y doce años, era marginada de su padrastro, quien fue un general militar.

En general, como ya he dicho, la película fue interesante y me ha hecho pensar mucho en la vida.

Escrito por Alexander - Yr 11



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STEM CLUB

The Zombie apocalypse continues during STEM club, students were buzzing with enthusiasm after two weeks break! Students made a solar cooker to cook (as the Zombie attack left no electricity or gas). Their Solar Cookers were put to the test as they melted some marshmallows. One group did a mathematical workaround to melt the marshmallow by positioning it in the focus of a parabolic mirror.



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STUDENT SUCCESS

Congratulations to Lisle C Year 13 who has been selected to play for the England Volleyball team (Under 19 men).

He was chosen to attend training camps every month at the National Volleyball Centre and had been picked to play for England in an international competition in Finland over the half term holidays. This is a fantastic sporting opportunity for Lisle to represent his country.

Lisle originally started playing volleyball at Beths at an after school club a few years ago. Thanks to Ms Smart who has agreed to start this club up again and to supervise the volleyball at school on Tuesday. Every bit of practise helps!

-Julie and Andrew Costard

A massive well done Lisle and we hope you had a wonderful time!



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CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH BEXLEYHEATH

DECEMBER SERVICES^{*}

3rd 3pm - Messy Church, All about Angels

3rd 6pm - Advent^{*} Carols

10th 10am - Christmas Gift Service

17th 10am - Nativity Play

17th 6pm - Nine Lessons & Carols

24th 3pm & 4.30pm - Christingle

24th 11:30 pm - Midnight Mass

25th 10am - Holy Communion

Christ Church Bexleyheath

CHRIST CHURCH BEXLEYHEATH



ALL ABOUT ANGELS !

JOIN US FOR CRAFTS, SINGING, STORY AND FOOD

3RD DECEMBER

3-5PM

DOORS OPEN AT 15:00
FOOD SERVED AT 16:30

FOR REGISTRATION :



CHRISTCHURCHBEXLEYHEATH@GMAIL.COM

CHRIST CHURCH IS SITUATED NEXT TO ASDA ON BEXLEYHEATH'S BROADWAY



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CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH BEXLEYHEATH



Christ Church Bexleyheath

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Raffles | Free
Bottle tombolas | Entry

Toys, crafts, cakes
and jewellery stalls

25th November
10:00 - 13:00

**Come find a present, enjoy delicious
cakes and enjoy friendly company**

Christ Church is situated on Bexleyheath's Broadway
Church Halls behind main church.



CHRIST CHURCH BEXLEYHEATH

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Christmas Gift Service

IN SUPPORT OF

Bexley Women's Aid
Safe homes. Secure relationships.

SUNDAY **10TH** 10:00 AM
DECEMBER

Christ Church is situated next to Asda on Bexleyheath's Broadway



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BEST OF THE BETHS STUDENT NEWSLETTER

Please find the October edition of Best of the Beths, the first edition of the academic year! In this edition you will find: Year 11 Work Experience By Damilola 11H, Rugby World Cup Knockout Phase Review by Riley 11W, Olivia Rodrigo: GUTS by Ronnie 11H and much more! The newsletter can be found here <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Best+of+the+Beths+Newsletter&pid=403>



BEST OF THE BETHS



2023/24
BLACK HISTORY MONTH

THE BEST OF OCTOBER

Reviewing the iPhone 15

By Eden 10H

On September the 22nd, Apple released their latest batch of iPhones, the 15 series. There have been many major changes differentiating the 15s from the 14s, such as the new addition of USB 3 on the pro models, and USB 2 on the non-pro models. This was due to a new European regulation which was meant to reduce landfill waste. The change does mean you can carry one USB cable to charge all your apple products, however it now means any lightning ported gadgets made specifically for iPhones are now useless. There is also a cool new action button which is in the position of the traditional ring/silent slider we've seen since the iPhone 2G. Not only does it do the same functions as the ring/slider, but it also allows us to quickly launch an app or do a specific task, custom to whatever we programme it to do. All iPhones have a larger battery and all come with dynamic island and are all lighter than their predecessors. However, only the Pro models come with titanium sides. The titanium helps with the lightness and durability of the phone, but it is only 1mm thick and it only wraps around the phone, so you still get standard aluminium on the back. They have also supposedly made iPhones easier to fix, something that people have been waiting ages for. This is because you can open it from the front, back and you can easily access the internals of the phone.



iPhone 15

As for photography, all phones come with a 48 megapixel main lens, the non-standard ones having a f/1.6 aperture and a 26mm focal length. Furthermore, they can now digitally zoom in twice and get a clean 12 megapixel shot as the resolution has been quadrupled from last gen. The Pro Maxes have a f/1.78 aperture, however they have implemented a new technology into the main cameras which means it can have a 24, 28 and 35mm focal length points. The Pro Max model also has a telephoto lens which can do up to 6x optical zoom.

Black History Month

By Nathaniel 11A

Black History Month (UK) is the annual celebration of black heritage and culture. It provides us with the opportunity to learn new things about African and Caribbean culture, but also to reflect on key figures in Black British History. Generally, the contributions to society made by black people in British history have often been overlooked and underappreciated, with only a small selection of the general public knowing key events in Black British History. This was mostly because for many children in the UK, this month would be the only month of the year which they would have learnt about black history. However, in 2022, Wales became the first nation in the UK to introduce mandatory changes to its curriculum, including lessons about the contributions of figures from ethnic minority groups. England, Scotland and Northern Ireland are yet to do the same. Luckily, I had the opportunity of learning about some of the key historic events/figures in Year 8, some of which I have detailed below:



Bristol Bus Boycott



In 1963, a young black man named Guy Bailey was refused an interview for a job at the Bristol Omnibus Company because of the colour of skin. This sparked a boycott of the company's buses, led by youth worker Paul Stephenson and the West Indian Development Council. Eventually, this boycott attracted national attention and ultimately paved the way to the country's first ever race discrimination law, the Race Relations Act, five years later. This act

Barcelona Tour

By Thomas 10A

What percentage of kids want to be professional footballers? Research shows that 23% of boys' childhood dreams are to become professional footballers, the most sought after job worldwide.

Beths had a lucky taste of this last week when the year 8 and year 10 football teams along with Mr Webb, Mr Waite and Mr GS embarked on a three night trip to Barcelona in order to participate in the world schools games competition. Sad to say, I had a broken collarbone so had the honour of recording and watching the games.

The weather, the bungalows we all stayed in and the facilities were great, with a basketball court, mini golf, a bar, a swimming pool and a five a side football pitch. We ate at a buffet and the weather was almost always hot and sunny (except on the last night when there was a massive storm) and although we had a great time lounging in the pool and filling up on chicken and fish, the main thing we came for was the football, something our school has a great reputation for. We just had to let Beths work their magic.

The multiculturalism and diversity at the small sporting complex was incredible, there were schools from Dubai, Kazakhstan, Germany, South Korea and others scattered across the world, just showing how big this tournament was.

On the first day we arrived, after an early start for a flight from Gatwick, the under 15s played their first match. Beths won 3-0 against a school from Malaysia, which was to set the tone for what was to come. The under 15s team rampaged through the rest of the tournament, winning all eight of their matches over three days. The goals rained in from all directions, with Raynon Richmond and Daniel Francis leading the way.



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FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Results for week commencing 6th November

FOOTBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
06.11.23	ESFA Rd 1	U12B	Tunbridge Wells Grammar	Home	Won 4-3
07.11.23	ESFA Rd 3	U15A	V Oakwood Park Grammar School	Away	Lost 4-1
08.11.23	KSFA League	1 st XI	V Langley Park School for Boys	Home	Won 5-2
08.11.23	KSFA League	2 nd XI	V Darrick Wood School	Away	Won 12-0
09.11.23	ESFA Rd 2	U14B	V Hampton School	Home	Lost 2-3



*Please note that some matches may be cancelled/postponed and therefore we ask you to keep an eye on the SOCS website.
Beths Grammar School | Sports Home (bethssport.co.uk).

If you have any questions, please email us at
fixtures@beths.bexley.sch.uk

FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Fixtures for week commencing 13th November

FOOTBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
13.11.23	ESFA	U14A	V Grey Court School	Away	1:30pm
15.11.23	KSFA Cup	1 st XI	V Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	Away	2pm
15.11.23	KSFA	2 nd XI	V Farringtons School	Home	2pm
16.11.23	KSFA	U16A	V Hurstmere	Home	2:30pm
16.11.23	KSFA	U15A	V Bonus Pastor Catholic College	Away	2pm
17.11.23	KSFA	U12B	V Cleeve Park	Home	2:15pm

RUGBY					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
13.11.23	Friendly	U12A	V Hayes	Home	2:30pm
13.11.23	Friendly	U12B	V Hayes	Home	2:30pm
14.11.23	Friendly	U13A	V Hayes	Away	3:00pm
15.11.23	Friendly	1 st XV	V Wilmington Grammar School for Boys	Home	2pm
16.11.23	Friendly	U14A	V Ravens Wood School	Home	2:30pm
16.11.23	Friendly	U13A	V Ravens Wood School	Away	2:30pm
17.11.23	Friendly	U12A	V Ravens Wood School	Away	2:30pm
17.11.23	Friendly	U12B	V Ravens Wood School	Home	2:30pm

BASKETBALL					
Date	Competition	Team	Opposition	Venue	Start time
14.11.23	Kent Cup	U14A	V Gravesend Grammar School	Away	4:00pm



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WELLBEING AT BETHS

Be a Parent Wellbeing Champion at Beths!



We place wellbeing at the heart of all we do at Beths and are looking for parents to participate in our Wellbeing programme.



For more details please contact Ms Lucy Bridge

Msbridge@beths.bexley.sch.uk



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KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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#WakeUpWednesday

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