

BETHS VIP

Excellence - Community - Respect - Nurture

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Carers,



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, from all at Beths Grammar School.

We have now reached the end of term and Christmas is fast approaching. It has been hard for staff and students to get through the last 2 ½ days this week, but hopefully the knowledge that students have an extended Christmas break softens the blow a tad. Students will return to school on Tuesday 10th January, at normal time.

Sometimes we are caught up in the busyness of everyday life and we don't stop to appreciate or reflect on what has happened. During the first half term (September-October) we welcomed our new Year 7 and 12 students and parents to Beths; held our first in person Awards Presentation Evening in three years; and ran a number of Open Events for prospective 2023 Year 7 students.

Returning to school for the second half term we learnt of the sudden sad passing of our scholar, Osaivbie Obasohan. I was extremely proud of how our staff and students took care of each other upon hearing the news. We closed the school as a mark of respect for Osaivbie and his family, and some staff and students, from various year groups, attended his funeral. We continue to plan events in the New Year for the remembrance and celebration of the life of Osaivbie and will keep you posted.

We have held Information Evenings for internal and external students for Sixth Form entry in 2023, along with a number of Open Events, and this month has seen over 230 families visit the school. We held two packed out music concerts and returned to Christ Church in Bexleyheath for our Christmas Carol Service, again, the first time we've been able to do this in three years! Our Year 11s took their trial exams at the end of November and we have ran a number of charity initiatives throughout the school, which I am immensely proud of. These initiatives included a Christmas jumper day which raised £226 for the PA and Save the Children; our Prefect team have wrapped our remaining student notebooks to donate to local charities; KS3 had filled plastic bottles of loose change for the charity Young Minds and also created food hampers to donate to the local Food Bank. The amazing DT team have created this sleigh for the hampers to go in!



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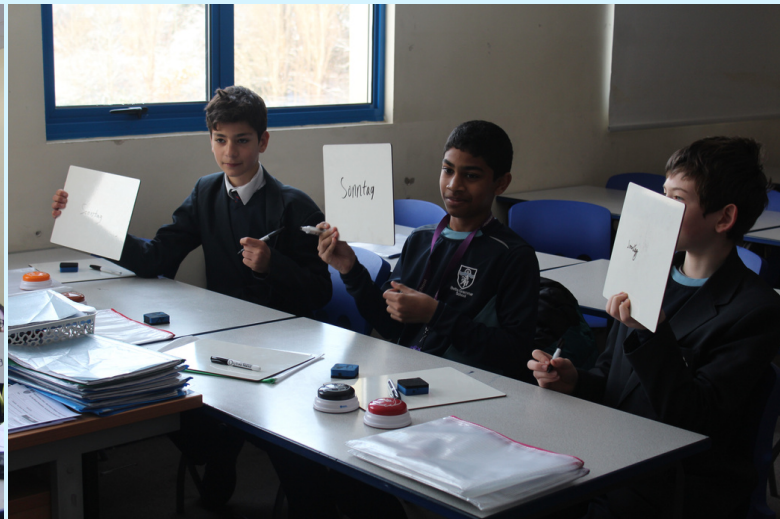
I would like to give my thanks to the Facilities team, who on Monday 12th December came onto the school site to assess the site safety and although the decision to close the school was taken by SLT, the Facilities team remained onsite for hours to clear as much snow and grit the grounds in order for us to return on Tuesday.

I hope you all take time over the extended Christmas break, to relax, reflect and spend time with loved ones.

With Christmas wishes,
Richard Blyghton

MFL SPELLING BEE

On Tuesday and Wednesday last week, the cold was not felt in the MFL corridor as the KS3 students were on fire in the Semi Finals of the MFL Spelling Bee competition. A selection of students, chosen for their hard work and dedication to languages this year, competed against each other in 5 different languages: French, Spanish, Mandarin, German and Italian. Each had prepared well and it was a tough fight, often concluding in tense tie breaks. Congratulations to the winners who will go on to represent Beths in the Regional Finals of the MFL Spelling Bee at Bexley Grammar in January. Best of luck to them!



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CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Christmas festivities were in full swing here at Beths. Students enjoyed a delicious traditional Christmas dinner. Thank you to our wonderful catering team!



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CAROL SERVICE

On Friday we held our annual Christmas Carol Service at Christ Church in Bexleyheath. It was a beautiful service and our orchestra were breath-taking, a massive well done!



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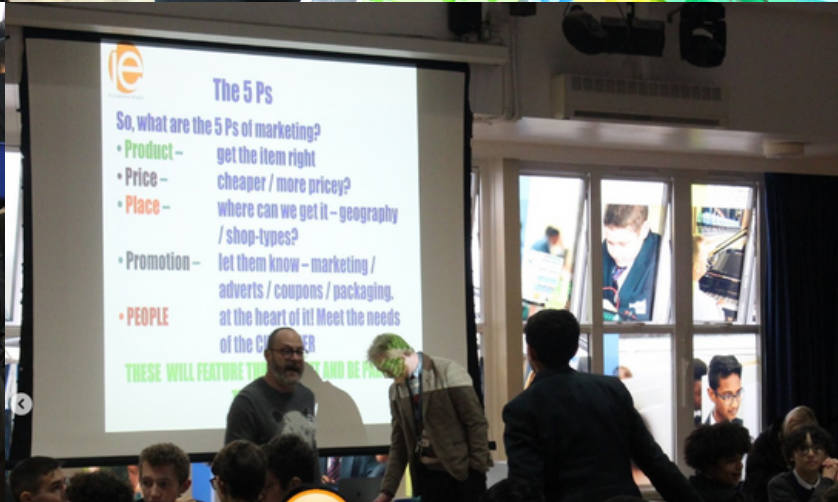
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YEAR 10 ENTERPRISE DAY

As part of their Enterprise Day on Monday 19th December, our Year 10 students designed, created and marketed their own soaps! It was a wonderful opportunity to get their business hats on and learn more about running a business!



YEAR 11 ENTERPRISE DAY

On Tuesday 20th December, our Year 11 students took part in an Enterprise Day. The day was based around stock exchange and the market, students had to buy and sell stock while working in a team with different job roles. Congratulations for all your hard work and we hope you enjoyed the day, and learnt/ developed many skills.



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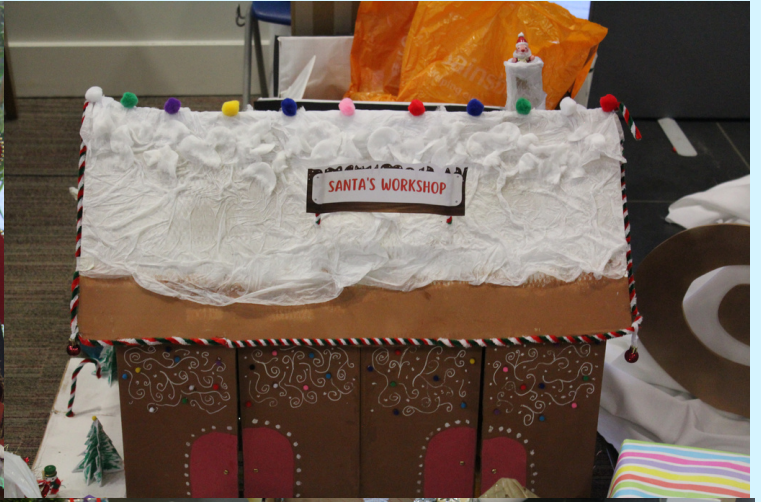
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KS3 CHRISTMAS HAMPERS COMPETITION AND FOOD DONATIONS

Our KS3 students competed to create the best Christmas hamper to store the food that was donated to local food banks. We had so many amazing entries and even more food collected! We done all, such wonderful creativity and generosity!



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CHARITY DONATIONS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

At the start of the pandemic, the school was fortunate enough to be in the position to provide laptops to all staff and students, to minimise any disruption to learning caused by lockdowns. Sufficient student laptops were purchased, enabling the school to continue allocating them to new students up to the present time. As Christmas approached, the school realised that it was still holding a large stock of unused computers. A decision was made to donate two hundred of them to adults and children in need, rather than leaving them unused in their boxes.

A group of Year 13 students volunteered to take on the massive task of checking all the machines were in full working order and then to wrap them in festive paper. They also identified and contacted several local charities to see if they could make use of or distribute them to those most in need.

On the last day of term, they loaded the wrapped laptops onto Santa's sleigh (or more accurately, the school minibus!) and two hundred laptops were delivered to the following charities in time for Christmas.

Over fifty laptops were donated to The Childhood Trust, in association with The Met Christmas Appeal and Bexley Council. The laptops will be distributed to families most in need in the Borough of Bexley.

One hundred and twenty five laptops were donated to the Foodbanks in Bexley, Bromley, Lewisham and Greenwich, in association with Charlton Athletic Community Trust (CACT), who work within the community to improve the health, education and employability of those in need. Each region will prioritise and distribute the laptops accordingly.



CHARITY DONATIONS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Ten laptops were delivered to Blackfen Library. They will be used in the library for group activities for young children and they will also be loaned out to borrowers who do not have access to a computer at home.

Ten laptops were delivered to Bexley Winter Shelter, a Bexley based charity providing accommodation for those experiencing homelessness, specifically during the coldest months of January to March. They work with the council and Thames Reach, with the aim of getting their guests into permanent accommodation. Once established, they provide household items to help the accommodation feel like a home. IT equipment helps them to access online services, such as job searches, whilst also enhancing their social life.

We would like to thank the Year 13 students for all their hard work in helping Beths to make these donations happen, hopefully improving the lives of local families and adults in need at this time of year.



PE NEWSLETTER

Our sports student media team have created a beautiful newsletter of the sport events that have happened through December. Below is a little snippet of the newsletter, the full newsletter can be found here <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Sports+Bulletin&pid=393> and a short video here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FHsMhldlwU#>

Beths PE Newsletter

Wednesday 30th November

1st XI v Wilmington Grammar Score (league)

Beths win 3-1



Today saw us take on Wilmington for the second week running in the league. Last week we had emerged 5-3 winners after a good team performance and knew that we would all have to be at our best to get another result. The league table was looking good with Beths top and clear by 3 points with a game in hand as well so we knew another three points today would get us that one step closer to winning the league.

The game started slowly with neither team creating many clear-cut opportunities in the first half and both sets of defence looking solid and hard to break down. We weren't at our best and hadn't got into our normal rhythm of passing, keeping the ball and trying to work an opening and found ourselves going into the half time break at 0-0.

With some wise words of encouragement from Mr Webb, we started the second half much stronger and created a couple of good chances. However, around the 55th minute we found ourselves 1-0 down courtesy to a bullet header from a long throw. We knew this was a game we couldn't lose and kept battling away and shortly after Arinze latched onto a long ball over the top and fired it past the keeper to make it 1-1 and we were back in the game. Searching for the winner, Beths pushed on and were awarded a penalty after Jack was fouled in the box. Dapo stepped up and calmly slotted it into the bottom corner, in off the post to make it 2-1. We had made the comeback and were still hungry for more goals and were rewarded when Adam rolled one in off his left foot in the dying minutes to make it 3-1 and finish the game.

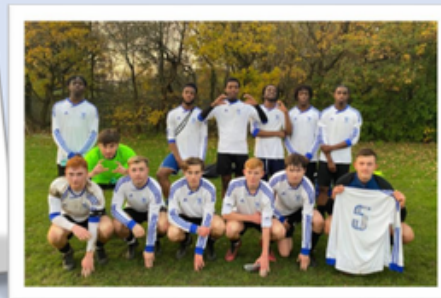
A massive three points for the Beths XI which keeps us top of the table and in a very good position.

UTB

Written by Jack B



Effort



Enjoyment

Excellence



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CLUBS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have a range of clubs and extra curricular activities running for all year groups. For a full timetable of clubs and club information please head to our website <https://www.beths.bexley.sch.uk/page/?title=Extra+Curricular+Activities&pid=50>

KS3 Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 - 8.30am			KS3 Basketball Sports Hall	KS3 Basketball Sports Hall	
Lunch	French Club EVEN WEEK S19 Ms James Spanish Club EVEN WEEK S16 Ms Bridge Reading Club EVEN WEEK B5 Ms Monteith U14 Basketball Sports Hall Year 8 Rugby Field	LGBTQ+ Society S18 Mr Stein Drama Club P3 Ms Monteith Year 7 Basketball	Eco Club ODD WEEK A4 Mr Glendinning Humanities club EVEN WEEK M2 Ms Palmer Music Appreciation 12:15-12:45pm P2 Y8 Dungeons and Dragons DandT Hub Ms Commerford Collegium Antiquum 12.15 start S19 Mr Simpson	Connect Club EVEN WEEK B4 Ms Takeda KS3 Badminton Sports Hall	DT Club A9 Mr Knott Manga Club ODD WEEK B4 Ms Takeda* Animation Club A3 Ms Twinem Creative Writing ODD WEEK B2 Lady Irving-Gale Music Support Session 12:00-12:45pm P2
After School	Run Club School Field Mr Walter Beths Youth Band 3:40-4:45 P1 ** Group Piano lessons 3:30-4:30 P2 Year 7 Rugby Field STEM Club Y7 S12 Ms Sarker	Memrise Clinic S16 Ms Bridge Music Enrichment - Audition only Orchestra 3:40-4:45pm in the Main School Hall Year 8 Rugby Field Year 9 Rugby Field	Theatre Production 3.45-4.30 P3 Ms Grady* Year 7 Football Field ** Violin Club: 3:30-4:00 beginners; 4:00-4:30 intermediate in P2	Warhammer S1 (3.40 start) Mr Turnbull Beths Singers 3:40-4:45pm P1 Year 9 Football Field U14 Basketball Sports Hall	U13 Basketball Sports Hall Beths Big Band 3:40-4:45pm P2

KS4 Clubs

Timetable	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime	Tap and Rap 1:10-1:45pm P1 History Club EVEN WEEK M5 Maths Club B12 Mr Khalid Chess Club A2 Mr Healy	Y11 Study Club (13.20-13.50) B4 Ms Takeda Music Revision 1:10-1:45pm P1 Philosophy Society ODD WEEK M2 Ms May and Ms Moffat	Eco Club EVEN WEEK A4 Ms Purbrick Poetry Club EVEN WEEK B1 Dr Easton U16 Basketball Sports Hall English Revision Club ODD WEEK B5 Reading Club ODD WEEK B5 Ms Monteith Music Theory Club at 1:10pm-1:45pm P1	Psychology Club MCC Mr Walsh and Ms Moffat Debating Club M4 Mr Chamberlain	LGBTQ+ Society (ODD- S19 , EVEN S15) Ms Harris Social Sciences Reading Club FIRST ODD FRIDAY OF MONTH M4 Film Club B6 Ms Quinn and Mr Russell Y11 Study Club (13.20-13.50) B4 Ms Takeda
After School	Year 10 Rugby Field ** Group Piano lessons 3:30-4:30 P2	Orchestra 3:40-4:45pm in the Main School Hall	U16 Basketball Sports Hall ** Violin Club: 3:30-4:00 beginners; 4:00-4:30 intermediate in P2 Theatre Production 3.45-4.30 P3 Ms Grady*	Warhammer S1 Mr Turnbull Beths Singers 3:40-4:45pm P1 Year 10 Football Field	Beths Big Band 3:40-4:45pm P2

CLUBS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

KS5 Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8 - 8.30am				Gym Club (Max 15 people) - Weights Room Mr Webb	
	<p>Tap and Rap 1:10-1:45pm - P1 Ms Marriott</p> <p>History Club (EVEN WEE) - M5</p> <p>Chess Club - A2 Mr Healy</p> <p>Muslim Prayer group- C3 Mr Ahmed</p> <p>KSS Chemistry Club - S8</p> <p>KSS Physics Olympiad Club - S1</p> <p>Gender Equality Society - A7B Ms Ewing</p>	<p>Philosophy Society (ODD WEEK) - M2 Ms May and Ms Moffat</p> <p>Muslim Prayer group - C3 Mr Ahmed</p> <p>Computer Science interview prep - S1 Mr Beaney</p>	<p>Eco Club (EVEN WEEK) A4 Ms Purbrick and Mr Glendinning</p> <p>Music Theory Club at 1:10pm-1:45pm - P1 Ms Marriott</p> <p>Poetry Club (EVEN WEEK) - B1 Dr Easton</p> <p>English Revision Club (ODD WEEK) - B5</p> <p>Muslim Prayer group - C3 Mr Ahmed</p> <p>Reading Club (ODD WEEK) - B5 Ms Monteith</p> <p>KSS Maths Olympiad Club - B12 Mr Khalid</p> <p>Personal Statement Clinic - LRC Mr Beaney</p>	<p>Group Therapy* - C4 Denise Brett-Smith</p> <p>Music Revision 1:10-1:45pm - P1 Ms Marriott</p> <p>Psychology Club - MCC Mr Walsh and Ms Moffat</p> <p>Debating Club - M4 Mr Chamberlain</p> <p>Muslim Prayer group - C3 Mr Ahmed</p> <p>Yu-Gi-Oh Club - A5 Mr Walter</p> <p>Informatics Olympiad club - IT1</p> <p>BMAT physics support for Medics - S0 Mr Beaney</p>	<p>LGBTQ+ Society (ODD-S19, EVEN S15) Ms Harris</p> <p>Social Sciences Reading Club FIRST (ODD FRIDAY OF MONTH) - M4</p> <p>Film Club - B6 Ms Quinn and Mr Russell</p> <p>Muslim Prayer group - C3 Mr Ahmed</p> <p>Multi-Cultural Committee - MCC 1-1.30pm</p>
Lunchtime					
			<p>Music Technology Club Venue TBC Ms Marriott</p> <p>1st XI Football PE</p> <p>2nd XI Football PE</p> <p>6th Form Basketball Sports Hall PE</p> <p>6th Form Girls Football PE</p> <p>** Violin Club: 3:30-4:00 beginners; 4:00-4:30 intermediate in P2 Ms Marriott</p>	<p>Warhammer S1 Mr Turnbull</p> <p>Beths Singers 3:40-4:45pm P1 Ms Marriott</p>	<p>Beths Big Band 3:40-4:45pm P2 Ms Marriott</p>
After School/ Wednesday P3	<p>** Group Piano lessons 3:30-4:30 P2</p> <p>Engineering A6 Mr Morgan</p>	<p>Girls Rugby Field Ms Ewing</p> <p>Orchestra 3:40-4:45pm in the Main School Hall Ms Marriott</p>			



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SPORTS FIXTURES AND RESULTS

Results for week commencing 12th December

FOOTBALL					
19.12.22	KSFA	U14A	V Hurstmere School	Home	Lost 3 – 4
BASKETBALL					
14.12.22	Kent League	U18A	V Gravesend Grammar School	Away	Won 43 - 49
15.12.22	National Cup	U17A	V The John Roan School	Home	Won
19.12.22	Jr NBA	U13A	V Ravens Wood School	Away	Won 26 - 51



Fixtures for week commencing 9th January

FOOTBALL					
10.01.23	KSFA Rd 4	U13A	V Ravens Wood School	Away	KO 2pm
11.01.23	KSFA Rd 2	1st XI	V Tunbridge Wells Grammar	Away	KO 2pm
11.01.23	KSFA Rd 2	2 nd XI	V Norton Knatchbull Grammar School	Home	KO 2pm
12.01.23	Area Cup	U12A	V St Columba's Catholic Boys School	Away	KO 3pm
13.01.23	KSFA	U16A	V St Paul's Academy	Home	KO 2pm

*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)

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 www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnite rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register; entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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