



### **Year 6 Sporting Events**

This week some pupils in Year 6 have been out and about at several sporting events. On Tuesday they attended the Bobby Robson Trophy competition to support Great North Hospital. The children played with great determination and sportsmanship. On Wednesday they attended an athletics festival at St Thomas More again showing superb behaviour and enthusiasm! Well done to them all!

### **Year 5 go Green!**

On Wednesday the children in Year 5 took part in a Green Skills Workshop with Newcastle College. The children were able to put their learning about renewable energy into practice and build some wind turbines.

### **CAP**

Whitley Bay Baptist Church have set up a CAP Centre (Christians Against Poverty) to help and support anyone in managing debt and finances. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

### **School Lunches**

Please complete the school meals form to make your child's lunch choices by clicking on this link. This form will open on Mondays at 7am until noon on Wednesdays. <https://forms.office.com/e/Bs6ydtRWY0>

### **Connect Team Virtual Support Group**

The Connect MHST invites parents and carers supporting children and young people with social, emotional, and mental health needs to a virtual support group on Wednesday 12th June, 6pm on Zoom. This month the group will share tips and strategies that might help you to support your child/young person with any Transitions they may be about to experience in school this year. Please see attached flyer

### **Clothing donations**

Just a reminder as we approach the end of the school year that we have a donation bin in our school car park (next to the Nursery gate) for any donations of clothing, shoes, bedding etc which can be sent on to families in need.

### **Dates for your Diary**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June** – Meeting for New Reception Parents at 6pm

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June** – Meeting for New Nursery Parents at 6pm

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 3 Strong not Tough Group

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 2 Family Celebration of the Word

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June** – School Photographer in school

**Next week is Monkey week on the school lunch menu**

**Don't forget to visit our school website for further school information**

**[www.stmarysonline.co.uk](http://www.stmarysonline.co.uk)**

**Online Safety #wakeupwednesday**



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about PALWORLD

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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

## 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.

## 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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