School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 1st July	• Qualitas After School Club – KS2 Striking and Fielding • Gardening Club with Mrs Rogers (places already allocated)
Tuesday 2nd July	• New Starters Stay and Play – 1.15pm – 3pm • Qualitas Club After School Club – KS1 Football • School football team training after school
Wednesday 3rd July	• Moving Up Day to new classes • Year 6 Highfields transition day • New starters transition visit 9.30am – 11.30am • Qualitas Club after school – KS1 and KS2 – Athletics
Thursday 4th July	• Year 6 Lady Manners transition day • Little Smiles Parent and Toddler Group 9am - 10.30am • Class 4 Swimming – Last lesson for this year
Friday 5th July	• Forest School Class 1 and Class 2 – AM
Monday 8th July	• Qualitas KS2 Striking and Fielding after school
Tuesday 9th July	• **Class 3 to Highfields Starkholmes for an afternoon of tennis PLEASE PROVIDE CONSENT ON PARENTPAY** • **Football match St Giles V Castle View** • Qualitas KS1 Football Club after school
Wednesday 10th July	• Qualitas KS1 and KS2 Athletics club after school
Thursday 11th July	• Little Smiles Parent and Toddler group 9am – 10.30am • New starters transition visit 1.30pm – 3pm
Friday 12th July	• Forest Schools for Class 1 and Class 2 - AM

OTHER NEWS

- **ADVANCE NOTICE – NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB ON THE LAST DAY OF TERM – Tuesday 23rd July**
- **PARENT PAY. Please help us by settling all outstanding balances for School Meals, Breakfast Club and After School Club promptly. IN ORDER TO ASSIST US WITH THE PREPARATION FOR THE END OF TERM PLEASE ENSURE EVERYTHING IS PAID BEFORE WE BREAK UP. We cannot transfer debts into the new school year. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this.**
- **PLEASE CAN WE ASK THAT YOU ENSURE ALL CHILDREN HAVE A SUN HAT AND SUN CREAM AND WATER BOTTLE IN SCHOOL DURING THE SUMMER TERM.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email with any questions or queries.

Friday updates can be found in the Newsletters section of our school website.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 15th July	Qualitas KS2 Striking and Fielding after school
Tuesday 16th July	Class 2 to All Saints Juniors for Qualitas Sports Event **Class 4 End of Year Production 6.00pm in school – parents of children in Class 4 are invited. No tickets required** Qualitas KS2 Football after school
Wednesday 17th July	Qualitas KS1 and KS2 Athletics after school NO GYMNASTICS AFTER SCHOOL
Thursday 18th July	NO GYMNASTICS AFTER SCHOOL
Tuesday 23rd July	**LAST DAY OF TERM** **Leavers service in St Giles Church at 11.00am - Y6 parents are invited to attend** **"Clap Out Y6" at 3.15pm - please allow Y6 parents to be at the front near the gate to EYFS outdoor area** **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB TODAY**
	2024 – 2025 Academic Year
Wednesday 4th September	**INSET DAY – school closed**
Thursday 5th September	**INSET DAY – school closed**
Friday 6th September	**FIRST DAY OF TERM**
Monday 4th November	**INSET DAY – School closed**
Monday 24th February 2025	**INSET DAY – School closed**
Monday 2nd June 2025	**INSET DAY – School closed**

Highfields School
BE THE BEST YOU CAN

Headteacher: **Mr A Marsh**

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June 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We are delighted that you have chosen Highfields School as the secondary school for your child in September 2024. We are looking forward to welcoming them as a Year 7 student. We are writing to you at this point to let you know about the first familiarisation visit that will be held to ensure a smooth transition for students and families so that everyone is confident and looking forward to starting with us here.

Please read the following information carefully, we have sent out bus timetables for the current academic year. Should you wish for your child to use the school bus on the morning of their visit, they will need to bring bus fare for their journey to and from school (usually £1.20 each way). If you are dropping your child off, please do not drop off on the school site.

We hope that your child will be able to visit us for the day, along with all the other students joining us in September on **Wednesday 3rd July 2024. This will be a full day in school 8.40 to 15.20.**

Your child can bring a packed lunch with them for this day or bring a small amount of cash (we recommend no more than five pounds) with them to purchase lunch from our servery. If your child would like snacks at break time, they will need to bring those with them as we will not have a breaktime servery. For families in receipt of free school meals we will be able to provide a free school meal that day (they will just give their name at the servery).

We will be having a number of team building activities throughout the day so we request that your child wears their current PE kit.

On the evening of Wednesday 3rd July 18.30 – 20.00, we are inviting all parent/carers and the students themselves to come to school to meet with key staff. Please note parking will be limited on Starkholmes site that evening, so consider car sharing where possible.

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 PALWORLD

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

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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

POW!

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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