School Office Thursday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 22nd April	• • Qualitas Club after school – KS2 Cricket - *use ParentPay to book*
Tuesday 23rd April	• Class 2 trip to Crich Tramway Museum • Qualitas Club after school – KS1 Bench Ball • Football match at Darley Dale Primary School • NO FOOTBALL TRAINING
Wednesday 24th April	• Qualitas Club after school – KS2 Netball - *use ParentPay to book* • **PTFA AGM 7.30pm in Starkholmes. Please contact the school office for details. Everyone is welcome to attend.** •
Thursday 25th April	• Little Smiles Parent and Toddler Group 9-10.30am • First Swimming for Class 4 - PM • Choir after school
Friday 26th April	
Monday 29th April	• • Qualitas Club after school – KS2 Cricket - *use ParentPay to book*
Tuesday 30th April	• Class 2 Multi Skills event at All Saints Juniors – AM CHILDREN TO ARRIVE IN PE KIT • Qualitas Club after school – KS1 Bench Ball • Football Training
Wednesday 1st May	• Qualitas Club after school – KS2 Netball - *use ParentPay to book*
Thursday 2nd May	• Little Smiles Parent and Toddler Group 9-10.30am • Class 4 swimming • Choir after school
Friday 3rd May	•

OTHER NEWS

- **Children will bring home their Spring Term Reports today. Please check for these.**
- **PTFA AGM – This is being held on Wednesday 24th April at 7.30pm in Starkholmes. Please contact the school office for more details. Please also see the information below regarding how you can help our amazing PTFA**
- **Parent Pay – Please check your Parent Pay accounts. All outstanding amounts should be settled as soon as possible. Thank you.**
- **Class Newsletters for this term are now on the website**
- **PLEASE NOTE THAT UNFORTUNATELY DUE TO KS2 SATS we have had to cancel our Little Smiles Toddler Group on Thursday 16th May. Please can we ask you to share this information with anyone you know who attends on Thursdays. Thank you.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email enquiries@st-giles-matlock.derbyshire.sch.uk with any questions or queries.

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

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 6th May	**May Day Bank Holiday**
Monday 13th May	KS2 SATS – English Grammar and Spelling Papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 14th May	KS2 SATS – English Reading
Wednesday 15th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 1 and 2
Thursday 16th May	KS2 SATS – Maths Paper 3 NO LITTLE SMILES TODDLER GROUP
Tuesday 21st May	Football match after school – St Josephs v St Giles
Thursday 23rd May	BUNTING CUP – Cavendish Fields 10-4
Friday 24th May	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE SCHOOL CLOSES FOR HALF TERM
Monday 3rd June	SCHOOL REOPENS
Wednesday 12th June	Football match after school – St Giles v South Darley
Thursday 13th June	SOUTH PEAK SPORTS – Darley Dale Primary School
Monday 17th June	**INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS**
Thursday 20th June	RESERVE DATE – SOUTH PEAK SPORTS
Tuesday 25th June	Football match after school – Darley Churchtown v St Giles
Wednesday 3rd July	Y6 – Transition Day to Highfields for pupils joining in September
Thursday 4th July	LAST SWIMMING OF THIS SCHOOL YEAR Y6 – Transition Day to Lady Manners for pupils joining in September
Tuesday 9th July	Football match after school – St Giles v Castle View
Tuesday 23rd July	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL BEFORE SUMMER BREAK NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
Wednesday 4th September	**INSET DAY – school closed**
Thursday 5th September	**INSET DAY – school closed**
Friday 6th September	**First Day of Term**

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 TOWNSHIP

AGE RESTRICTION 4+ (on the App Store: 'Everyone' on Google Play)

Despite launching in 2011, Township remains popular with children and adults alike. A city-building game with farming elements, it tasks players with developing their settlement and unlocking new features along the way. Aimed at the more casual gamer, it's mostly child friendly – but there are still some related risks to be mindful of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MISLEADING PUBLICITY

Township's developers have previously faced criticism for advertising the game on social media by using clips of gameplay which can't actually be found in the final product. This may well lead to a child or young person downloading the game with severely misplaced expectations of what they'll be playing.

IN-GAME ADVERTS

While it's common for mobile games to feature in-game advertisements for other products and services, Township employs a particularly egregious strategy seen in several similar products. It offers users in-game currency in exchange for watching such adverts, which can obviously encourage young people to willingly expose themselves to marketing material.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

The game's core concept of building up a settlement to increase its population and income can feel slow paced at first – and players are incentivised to spend real-world money to move things along more quickly. That can mean handing over anything from £1.99 to £19.99 for these in-game boosts: amounts that can rapidly add up to a considerable sum if left unchecked.

TIME-CONSUMING GAMEPLAY

Township's gameplay loop of acquiring resources and reinvesting them into your little community is a fun one – but this rewarding sense of making progress can lead to players spending far more hours staring at the screen than they realise. There are also special in-game events which run for a limited time, designed to entice players into even longer gaming sessions.

ONLINE MULTIPLAYER MODE

After reaching level 19, players in Township can form a 'co-op' and unlock the option to exchange goods with up to 30 other users. Online multiplayer modes are nothing new, of course – but neither are the potential risks they pose to children and young people. Chances are, youngsters will be interacting with complete (and possibly much older) strangers within the game environment.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS THE GAME IN ADVANCE

While older children may notice and understand that Township might be marketed in a potentially misleading way, it could be worth explaining to prospective younger players how and why the game differs from what's been advertised. This will help them to manage their expectations and avoid any possible disappointment if they do decide to download and play it.

MONITOR SPENDING AND SCREEN TIME

More modestly priced in-app bundles can be a welcome treat for a child wanting to speed up their progress in Township, but it's wise not to leave a linked payment method active in case a youngster gets carried away. Likewise, to prevent Township from causing an increase in screen time, parental controls on most devices allow limits to be placed on how long a game can be played each day.

BE WARY OF EXTERNAL SITES

Township's makers state that all in-game ads are age-appropriate: children won't be shown adverts recommending more violent titles, for instance. Even so, clicking on these adverts can take players out of the game and onto external sites that have nothing to do with Township or its developers: this raises the risk of children encountering inappropriate content or being tempted by online purchases.

TALK ABOUT ONLINE STRANGERS

Township's online multiplayer mode (as with any game which includes that functionality), is an avenue through which a child could be contacted by people who they don't actually know. It's worth reminding young Township fans, therefore, not to give out any personal information to strangers online – whether that's within the game itself or in the social networks associated with it.

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new games and tools, he's also a parent who prioritises online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



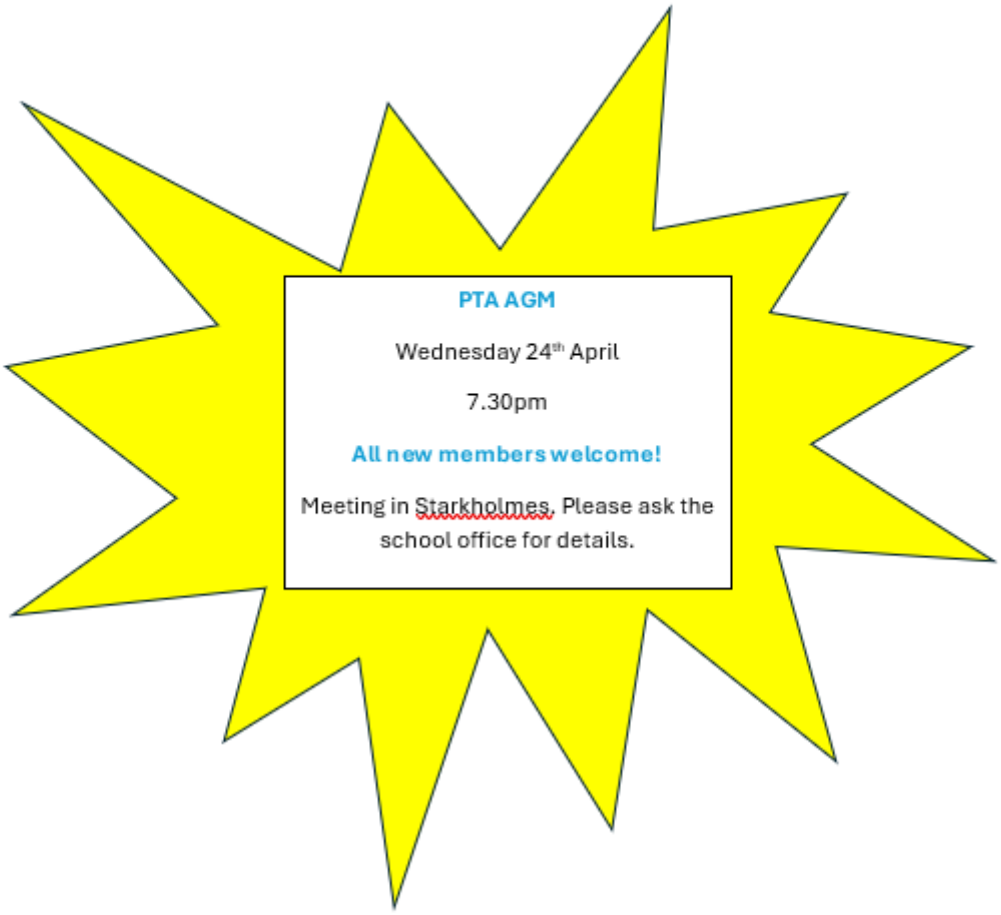
#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Sources: https://www.ateed.it/gaspel/videogame/it/2016/11/1/guida-videogame-gratuiti-mobile-game/?refresh_ce= (in Italian) | https://playtube.ea.com/en/township/faq/#:~:text=Can%20I%20play%20Township%20on%20my%20PC%20or%20Mac%3F

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We are recruiting!!!!!!

We are in desperate need of a secretary. Having a secretary is a vital part of running a committee and a charity and we cannot continue without one. We are at risk of the PTA folding if we do not receive some more help. The role involves the following:

- Attending 3 official meetings a year, which occur at the start of each term.
- Writing minutes for the meetings
- Writing the newsletter following each meeting
- Liasing with the core committee in between meetings
- Keeping an eye on dates and liasing with school and social media secretary to make announcements on the facebook page

We are a laid back committee, all of whom are busy and work. We have realistic expectations of what we can achieve. However, we do need some more help behind the scenes to keep our brilliant little PTA thriving. If you think you can offer some time or skills, please come to the meeting next week or email Laura Hickinbotham (chair) at laurahickinbotham@gmail.com. Many thanks.