

# COLDWALTHAM, ST. JAMES' C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

*with Chuckleberries Pre School*

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**Headteacher: Mr Jon Gilbert**

## **Learn, Discover, Achieve**

20/06/2018

Dear Parents,

We have become concerned about the impact computer games are having at school.

There are several children who are exhibiting the influence of games such as 'Fortnite' (age 12+), 'Roblox' (age 13+ but with special settings for under 12) 'World of tanks' (12+) and 'Five Nights at Freddie's'.

The children's gaming experiences are having an impact on;

- talk
- imaginative play at playtime
- the content of their personal writing
- the content of drawing and artwork
- lessons where gaming / gun sound effects and actions are sometimes heard (suggesting children are not 'switching off' even hours after last playing the game)
- lessons in which children find it hard to focus and concentrate on learning
- even surveys in maths have been about weapon selection in games!

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that most of the computer games mentioned above are rated at 12+ and the content is often unsuitable for children under this age.

An additional concern for us at school is that children who are not exposed to these games at home are being exposed to the 'idea' of them at school; this is particularly worrying with younger children in mixed age classes.

There are further concerns regarding who children communicate with online as they often play games with strangers who may not be who they say they are and sometimes use offensive language.

Recent research has shown how addictive these games can be, sapping peoples' time and energy.

As a school we recommend that you carefully research any games that your child plays to ensure that you know that it is appropriate and that you supervise or monitor their computer time as well as any impact it may be having on them.



If you do decide to allow children to play games that are rated above the primary age at home please could you make it clear to them that the content is not appropriate for school in any form (violence, guns, murder, snipers, etc).

You are welcome to come and discuss computer gaming with a member of staff if you are concerned about any impact.

Yours sincerely,



Mr J Gilbert  
Headteacher