

Monday 13th May 2024



If you are on Facebook, why not check out our school pages?

- ◆ Tonacliffe Primary School
- ◆ Tonacliffe Forest School and Community Allotments

These pages are a great way of keeping up to date with school events.



Last week at Forest school, the children had fun making a cowboy bed roll out of a canvas tarp.

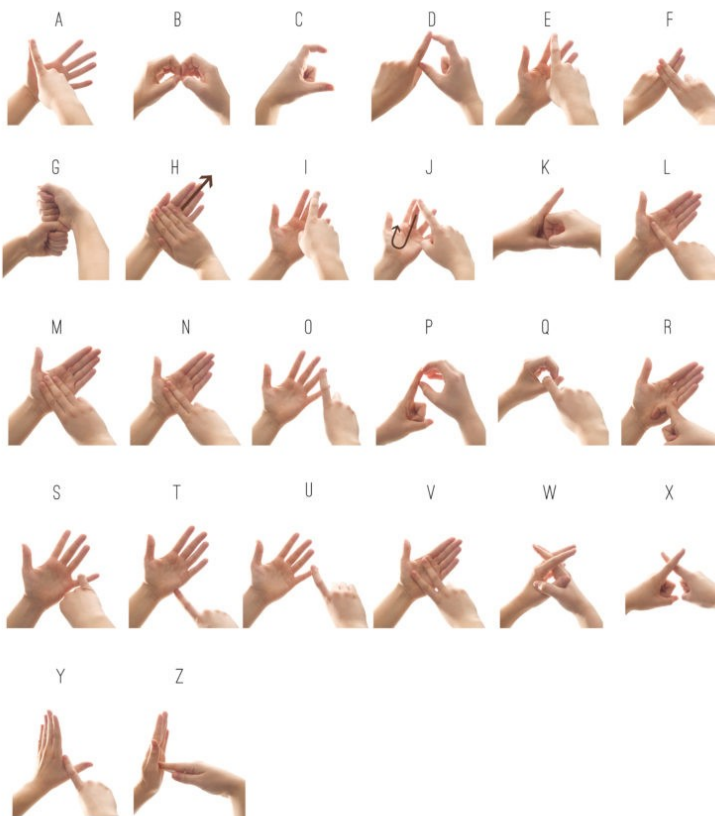
The children also furthered their learning about tree identification and went on a minibeast hunt.

Turquoise Class emailed Jake Berry (our local MP) during their work on Earth Day, to ask for his support in reducing plastic waste and also to help ensure Whitworth is a clean and safe place to live. He has written to us (letter attached) offering to come into school to discuss this issue with us. Miss Griffiths has emailed him to arrange this. . . Watch this space for more exciting developments!

In the meantime, please be discussing at home any concerns you may have or questions you would like the children to raise. We will be keeping a list of these in class so that we are prepared for this exciting visit!

As last week was **Deaf Awareness Week**, Yellow Class learned some sign language with Mrs Howarth.

The children really enjoyed learning to sign 'My name is' and then their first initial and 'I am ... years old'.



Swing into Spring

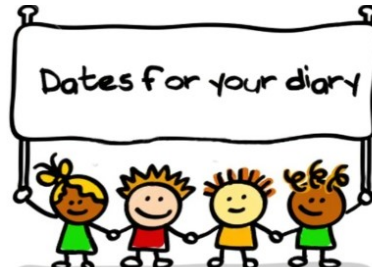
16 May

Pork & Carrot or
Quorn
Meatball Sub
Tortilla Chips
&
Salad Sticks
or
Rainbow Vegetable
Quesadilla
Mildly Spiced Rice
& BBQ Sauce
~
Ice Cream Tub

lancashire.gov.uk

Lancashire
County Council

The poster features a vibrant illustration of children playing in a park. One child is swinging on a swing set, another is on a skateboard, and a third is playing with a soccer ball. The background is a bright green field with stylized trees and a fence. The text is in a playful, rounded font.



Please remember to visit our website for long term dates. Thank you.

Monday 13th May: KS2 SATS week begins.

Monday 20th May: Pupil Passport Week.

Monday 20th May: Reception and KS1 Sports day– 9:15-10:15am.

Monday 20th May: KS2 Sports day– 2-3pm.

Thursday 23rd May: Musical Evening– 6pm.

Friday 24th May: School closes for half term.

Tuesday 4th June: School reopens for Summer Term 2.

Monday 10th June: Gold Class weekly swimming lessons begin.

Wednesday 12th June: Yellow Class parent's assembly– 9am.

Monday 17th June: New class letters sent home.

Wednesday 19th June: Meet the Teacher:

KS1– 5-5:25pm

LKS2– 5:30-5:55pm

UKS2: 6-6:25pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HELLDIVERS 2



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, *HELLDIVERS 2* had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING



Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, *HELLDIVERS 2* carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In *HELLDIVERS 2*, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

HELLDIVERS 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This does mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to *HELLDIVERS 2*'s appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS



The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as *HELLDIVERS 2*.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST



HELLDIVERS 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS



At the time of writing, *HELLDIVERS 2* costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether *HELLDIVERS 2* is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES



If playing on Xbox – where *HELLDIVERS 2* isn't available – consider something like *Halo: The Master Chief Collection* as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates *HELLDIVERS 2*'s mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted *Deep Rock Galactic*, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS



Many sites offer in-game purchases, but *HELLDIVERS 2*'s are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk, on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS



Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't integral to *HELLDIVERS 2* as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.



STAR PUPILS

- Nursery: Maximus C-J.
- Green Class: Dougie H.
- Pink Class: Maisy P-R.
- White Class: Olivia-Rose H.
- Red Class: Thomas W-D.
- Yellow Class: Eden A. & Isla S.
- Orange Class: Cillian C.
- Lime Class: Oliver P.
- Turquoise Class: Zara K.
- Gold Class: Grace A.
- Purple Class: David C. & Olivia G.

HOUSE POINTS

Dolphin: 256

Octopus: 284

Seahorse: 204

Starfish: 243

Well done

to the Octopus Team who are this week's winners!

ATTENDANCE

We aim for at least 97% attendance each week; here are the attendance figures for last week:

	Yellow Class:	90.7%
Green Class:	92.2%	Orange Class: 88.4%
Pink Class:	95.4%	Lime Class: 91.4%
White Class:	94.6%	Turquoise Class: 94.1%
Red Class:	100%	Gold Class: 96.9%
	Purple Class:	92.2%

Our overall school attendance figure for week ending

Friday 3rd May 2024 is 93.6%

FRIENDSHIP AND KINDNESS AWARD

Alfie T.

For stopping his game of football to help other children struggling with the gate.





Term Dates – 2023-2024

September 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

November 2023						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February 2024						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
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28	29	30				

May 2024						
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June 2024						
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30						

July 2024						
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28	29	30	31			

August 2024						
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

	Training Days (children do not attend school)
	Holidays

School Holiday/Term Dates 2024-25



September 2024							October 2024							November 2024							December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

January 2025							February 2025							March 2025							April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30			
														30	31												

May 2025							June 2025							July 2025							August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
																					31						

	Training days (children do not attend school)
	Holidays