

Friday 10th June

Lower Junior News!

'We believe in the power of YET!'

Hello everyone,

Welcome back after half term and we hope you had a lovely week off. The children looked great in their Spanish colours and dress code today. They have really enjoyed our Spanish activities. The children have been working hard all week2. In science they looked at what makes something a living thing and described the 7 different life processes. In geography they began researching the region of Lazio. In RE the children learnt about the story of Rama and Sita and why Hindu's celebrate Diwali.

In English the children have been finishing their unit of Twisted Tales. They began by planning their own tale based on Jack and the Beanstalk. Once they finished planning they began to change the ending of the story and these were fantastic reads! In maths the children have been working on measuring mass and adding the amounts together. They then moved on to degrees of turn looking at right angled turns. In year 4 they have been subtracting fractions and multiplying and dividing numbers.

Year 4 Tables Check – The Year 4 times tables check will begin next week, and we urge the children to practise all their tables over the weekend as much as possible. They have been practising in school so are comfortable about the format, but any further practise will only benefit them.

Sports Day – Sports Day is scheduled to take place Thursday 7th July to start at 1:20pm. We are pleased to say parents will be allowed to come and watch this year.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about THE METAVERSE

AGE RATING
Varies per metaverse platform

'Metaverse' is a relatively new term to many, however the concept has been around for some time. Videogames, for example, use many aspects of the metaverse: avatars, digital currency, mini-games, and open communication. A metaverse can also take many forms: Fortnite can be seen as a metaverse, as is Roblox. Put simply, a metaverse is an online environment where people interact, play games and express themselves. Away from traditional videogames, there are newer and more 'dedicated' metaverses such as Decentraland, The Sandbox and Somnium Space which are akin to Second Life.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNSAFE AREAS
Many metaverse platforms feature little to no moderation. This is due to the decentralised nature of the metaverse – as there is no one company overseeing the platform, users can create and build with freedom. This can be a minefield for younger users as adult material or sensitive topics can feature on a parcel of land seen by everyone.

VOICE COMMUNICATION
The freedom found within creation is also found in communication. Most metaverses use proximity VoIP communication (Voice Over Internet Protocol) and users can approach any other user to start a conversation. It is necessary for avatars to be quite close to another in order to talk and once they are, anything can be said. While a chat box can be moderated, voice chat cannot.

ANONYMITY
As with almost every other form of online interactions, anonymity features heavily within the metaverse. The concept for the metaverse is to live any type of life digitally. This could mean that bad actors (those with malicious intent) can take advantage of others with ease. Reporting and monitoring these users is becoming easier on the more popular platforms, but others struggle to police these situations.

VIRTUAL REALITY
Not all metaverse platforms are VR enabled, in fact less than 10% feature VR interactivity. However, it's always worth monitoring the amount of time younger users spend in virtual reality. A VR metaverse differs greatly to VR gaming in user interaction. Approaching each other in a VR metaverse attempts to represent reality and can result in a greater impact if experiences are negative.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT
Whether in virtual reality or not, interactions and experiences in the metaverse can often carry more weight because they mimic real life. Oftentimes, due to the freedom in avatar creation, younger users may open themselves up to bullying, prejudice or an unrealistic idea of reality. For instance, female-orientated avatars may find themselves targeted by bullies or inappropriate users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TRY IT OUT FIRST
This may sound like an obvious tip, but by entering the metaverse and exploring on your own, you'll be able to see what your child might. You can explore the busier areas and even the quiet sections to see what users are bullying or advertising. You'll also learn first-hand how users communicate with each other. Many metaverse platforms will feature an entry area which showcases the busiest areas. Check them all out and see what's happening.

LEARN ABOUT NFTS, WALLETS AND CRYPTO
With the metaverse comes Web3 technologies such as NFTs, cryptocurrency and wallets in which to store them. If you have a crypto wallet, do not connect it to your child's metaverse. One simple click could result in loss of cryptocurrency. If you are unsure what these technologies are, try to research them as these terms will appear in the metaverse.

CREATE AN AVATAR TOGETHER
If you decide on allowing your child into the metaverse, set up their initial avatar together. This way you can ensure the avatar is age-appropriate and keeps their identity private. You can also advise on aspects which may result in attracting bullies or unwanted attention.

START WITH THE FAMILIAR
There are already metaverse experiences with children in mind: explain to your child what a metaverse is and have them recognise similarities between those and games like Roblox, Fortnite and Minecraft. Unfortunately, there is no 'child safe'

SUMMER FAIR

SAT 25th JUNE AT 10AM TO 12 NOON

We are holding a summer fair on Saturday 25th June from 10.00am to 12.00 noon. The money raised will be put towards developing the playgrounds and outside areas of school. Please put the date in your diary! There will be lots of stalls, activities and fun.

Friday 10th June

NON-UNIFORM DAY

To support us in raising money for school, we are planning to have 2 non-uniform days this term. These will take place on:

- **Fri 17th June:** We ask that children bring in a bag of sweets to the value of £1.00.
- **Fri 24th June:** We ask that children bring a bottle of something (drinks, shampoo etc).

These items will help stock up our stalls on the day.

Please remind children to read each night. Also, to use TTRS on sound check mode to practise their times tables.

Spanish Phrase of the Week - What's up? — *¿Qué pasa* All good — *Todo bien* So-so — *Más o menos*

Home learning

Year 3: Maths Mat - Reading Comprehension

Year 4: Times Tables - Suffixes

A huge well done to the stars of the week:

Junior 1

Thomas Lunt

Ellie Howarth

Junior 2

Ethan Hornsby

Eva Holmes

Miss Williamson

Keira Reilly

Heidi Green

Mr Jennings , Mr Roberts & Miss Williamson