



9th December 2022

# Mail on Friday

## Redhill Primary Academy and Nursery Weekly Newsletter

Email us at: [parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk](mailto:parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk)

### Book Fair

The book fair is being held in school on Friday 9th, Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th December, from 3.15pm until 3.45pm. The children will also have an opportunity to visit the fair in school time.

Please note that it is a cashless fair, so if you are attending, you will use an online payment link at [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/pay) and simply select our school from the drop down menu. If you're unable to visit the Book Fair, your child will be sent home with a 'wish list' and you can pay for their chosen books using the online payment system.

Please make sure the 'Wish List' is returned to your child's school.

Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25.

Go to [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers) to buy vouchers for your child before the fair.

We hope that you are able to visit and hope to see you there.

### Christmas Parties

#### Christmas Parties w/c 13th December 2022

We will be holding our class Christmas parties during w/c 13th December.

Please can children arrive at school wearing their party clothes and then they can remain in them all day. Please can the Year 1 and Year 2 children bring a Redhill sweatshirt, cardigan or hoody to wear over their party clothes to attend the pantomime in the afternoon.

Children can bring one item of party food to eat for themselves, but please do not bring sweets or nuts.

**Tuesday 13th December**  
Nursery and Reception  
**Thursday 15th December**  
Year 1  
Year 2  
**Friday 16th December**  
Year 3  
Year 4  
Year 5  
Year 6



### Christmas Jumper Day

As you know, we have registered to take part in the Christmas Jumper Day. Christmas Jumper Day is Save the Children's annual event which raises money for children in the UK and across the world. Every December, millions of people across the United Kingdom (and beyond!) put on a festive outfit at their workplace, school or with friends and make a donation to help give children the magical future they deserve. We will be celebrating this on the last day of the term, 16th December. If your child does not have a Christmas jumper, please do not go and buy one specially. They can just wear a normal jumper. The payment option is now open on ParentPay for donations.

Thank you for your support.



## Ironbridge Trip- Year 2

5th December 2022

On Monday, Year 2 went to Ironbridge as part of their observational drawing block in art. We walked to the bridge to complete our sketches, picking out key features that we could see.





### Year 6 Swimming

Just a reminder that it is the last Year 6 swimming session on Monday.

Please don't forget your swimming kits.

Thank you.

## The Redhill Winter Reading Challenge

Over the holidays, we are not setting any homework for the children to complete. However, we have planned a reading challenge, which we would love as many children as possible to get involved with. On Tuesday, all children will be coming home with the reading challenge stuck in their reading records, along with some information for parents.

There are 15 fun mini challenges to complete during the holidays, with stickers and house points up for grabs for each completed challenge. There are even two challenges where children have the chance to win book tokens. We would love it if you could encourage your child/children to take part and really promote reading for fun!



### School Uniform

Please remember that we do not allow branded items of clothing to be worn in school. We know the cost of school uniform can be an issue, so we endeavour to keep costs low and discourage branded items, so parents do not feel the pressure to source. For PE, children must wear plain black joggers and a plain black or Redhill hoody along with their house t-shirt.

### UK Safer Internet Advice

Please find a link below for UK Safer Internet advice:

[Coerced online child sexual abuse - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

### Reception Places 2023-2024

If you have a child born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019, they are due to start primary school in September 2023.

You can apply for a reception class place until 15 January 2023.

You will need to apply to the Local Authority in which you live, but you can apply to schools outside of your Local Authority area should you wish.

If your child is attending nursery, they must still apply for a school place.

There is no guarantee of a place at the school even if a child has been attending their nursery or pre-school.

More information is available at [www.telford.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.telford.gov.uk/admissions) around school allocations and oversubscription criteria.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about CALL OF DUTY: MODERN WARFARE II

AGE RATING  
PEGI  
18

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

Like most of its predecessors in the franchise, Modern Warfare II carries an 18 age rating from PEGI (the Pan-European Gaming Information system, which assesses games' content for suitability). This means players will encounter – according to PEGI's wording – depictions of "gross violence, apparently motiveless killing, or violence towards defenceless characters".

### OFFENSIVE CHAT & MESSAGING

Most CoD players are likely to spend the majority of their time on Modern Warfare II in online multiplayer mode. This entails competing against – or cooperating with – strangers on the online battlefield. The fast-paced, cut-throat world of CoD means that communication through the game's voice chat and direct messages often turns heated and aggressive, which may upset younger players.

### IN-GAME PURCHASES

Modern Warfare II follows the 'battle pass' model of games like Fortnite. For a fee – usually around £10 – each 'season' (every three months or so), players will be invited to complete extra challenges to earn new weapons and equipment. Different tiers of battle pass (costing more money) enable them to achieve this more quickly, while items can also be purchased from the in-game store.

### POLITICAL SENSITIVITY

Previous CoD games have been accused of attempting to "rewrite history": failing to correctly attribute alleged war crimes to the US military, for example. The semi-fictional version of history presented on screen can cause players to misunderstand past conflicts and the real reasons they took place. This could lead to young people developing a distorted, inaccurate view of world politics.

### AN ADDICTIVE EXPERIENCE

Multiplayer mode in Call of Duty titles revolves around levelling up your character to unlock new weapons, abilities and equipment. The process is designed so that it doesn't take too long to see an improvement, and the feeling of making meaningful progress can keep players hooked for hours. It's easy for gamers of any age to lose track of time, but younger ones are especially susceptible.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### RESPECT THE AGE RATING

Based on accurately recreating combat situations, Call of Duty games are unflinching in their portrayal of war. Limbs are shot off and explosions send gore flying, while the previous Modern Warfare featured a lengthy interrogation and torture sequence. With Modern Warfare II offering the same style of brutal realism, it's worth reiterating that the PEGI 18 age rating is there for a reason.

### CLOSE OFF COMMUNICATION

Unless they're playing with their real-life friends, it may be worth closing communication channels if your child plays Modern Warfare II. There's less of a team focus than in many other online combat games and therefore no real need to interact with strangers. Call of Duty fans can be intensely competitive, so even a single action by your child could provoke a barrage of abuse from strangers.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

If your child is likely to be tempted by buying that 'must-have' weapon or item, consider removing your bank details from the console or computer to prevent indiscriminate spending – and an unwelcome bill. Pre-paid cards could be an option for in-game purchases, allowing you to control how much your child can spend in advance – and helping them learn the basics of budgeting.

### TRY OTHER MODES

If it seems that your child only ever plays Modern Warfare II in multiplayer, you could try out the Spec Ops mode with them – formulating strategies while enjoying each other's company. You could also play multiplayer together, taking it in turns to ensure regular breaks. Another alternative is the game's campaign mode, featuring bespoke missions and scenarios which follow an overarching plot.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Games Editor of technology and entertainment website Dexerto and has been working in the gaming media for three years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have also been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar, among others.



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