

St Martin's Newsletter



SUMMER TERM - Friday 10th May

Attendance

Whole school attendance is **slowly climbing** and this week is 92.3%.



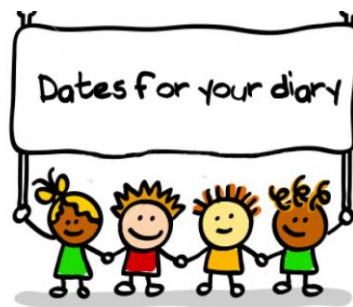
Sats Week

Next week **Y6** will be sitting their statutory tests. Y6 can come into School from **8.15am** each day to enjoy a free breakfast with their friends before the tests.

Y6 SATS

Key Dates May

13th May – KS2 SAT's Week
13th May – Year5 Bikeability
21st May – Good citizen talk with PCSO for year 5 & year 6
21st May – KS1 Music festival
22nd May – Whole school Mass to celebrate Pentecost at 10am
25th May – 9th June Half term



Attendance

Year R - 87% 1 Late
Year 1 - 93% 8 Lates
Year 2 - 89%
Year 3 - 91% 2 Lates
Year 4 - 91% 9 Lates
Year 5 - 100%
Year 6 - 95%

4 Classes with less than 10 lates

Well done to year 6, this weeks Dojo Champs

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance



Parent Poetry Workshop

I am sure that your children will have told you how **amazing** their day with **Ian Bland** was. We are excited to say that he has agreed to come back on **Thursday 13th June** to run a parent workshop, where you can work with your children. A form will be available to sign up for this over the weekend but be quick as places are very limited.

Warm Weather

As the weather has begun to improve please remember to send in **water bottles** to school and apply **suncream** in the morning.

St Martin's Stars

Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

Pre-School – William & Frankie

Year R – Elexis S

Frankie K

Year 1 – Emmanuel I & Hannah N

Dylan W

Year 2 – David B & Annie F

Harvey P

Year 3 – Tommy H & Fyona M

Cathryn J

Year 4 – Winter K & Lillie J

Sophie M P

Year 5 – Olivia S & Alex J

Jonathon E

Year 6 – Halle F & Lenny S

Cassius P

Assembly

Next week the assembly will be led by **Year 2**. Parents and carers are invited to join us.



Parent Guides

This week's guide contains what parents need to know about **Helldivers** <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/helldivers-2> Click the link or see the attached guide for more information.

Wednesday Word

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the weekly Gospel's with their children.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/love?pid=MTA101634&p=2&v=127.9>

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 titles 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 as 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College