

REMINDER – FRIDAY 16th JULY – BAGS2SCHOOL

Covid Guidance

The current guidance is that we will return to 'normal' for schooling in September. This will mean an end to bubbles and staggered start and finish times. We will still keep in place the hygiene elements of the risk assessment including handwashing, additional cleaning and ventilation. If there are any changes over the summer, we will communicate this with you as soon as we can. From September, all year groups 1-6 will enter via the main playground gate (top end of the car park). Parents will be able to take their children directly to the classroom doors and there will be members of staff available on the playground to direct you. Gates will be open at 8.30am for registration at 8.40am but after this, children will be marked as late. Reception children will enter the building via the entrance to the side of the school (closest to Abbey Park) and Nursery children through their own gate. Pick up for all year groups will be 3.00pm (3.10pm for afternoon nursery) from classroom doors or Reception/Nursery class entrances.



STOP CORONAVIRUS!

Although restrictions end on 19th July, we have decided to maintain our current procedures until the end of term as we are all set up to run in this way and it may confuse the children (and staff!). From Monday 19th July however, parents are no longer required to wear a mask whilst on school site and staff will no longer be required to wear masks in communal areas. All adults may continue to wear face coverings if they wish to do so.

Fiddle Toys

We are noticing a lot more of these appearing in school. Please note that fiddle toys may only be brought into school after discussion with Mrs Clarke the SENCO. Whilst we recognise that fiddle toys can be of help to some children, for many they are a distraction for themselves and others in the room. Thank you.

Library Books

Please can everyone have a good look for school library books at home and return these to school by the end of the week as we would like to be able to sort out the library before the end of term and make sure we are well 'stocked' for September. Many thanks.



Transition Week

This week the children are enjoying being with their new teacher in what will be their classroom for September. Each class is undertaking a creative arts project based on a picture - each year group has a different picture based on an environmental theme. Their work will be put into a school gallery at the end of the week. We are sorry that we are unable to invite parents to visit due to Covid restrictions but we will be sure to post lots of photos and videos on Dojo. The children will have a chance to visit the gallery on Monday next week and celebrate the work of others in the school. Children have also had the chance to take part in an Olympic themed dance workshop in celebration of this event.

Please Pick Up Your Child/Children on Time

Over the last few weeks we have had some children left at school waiting for their older siblings to pick them up from Abbey Park or other schools. These siblings are not finishing school until at least 3.10pm so it means the child is left with staff or in the main office waiting. Teachers have meetings to attend and work to complete and support staff should be leaving when the class finishes, so we politely ask that your child/children are picked up on time and at the correct pick up point as we cannot have children waiting for older siblings. Thank you for your understanding.



Online Learning

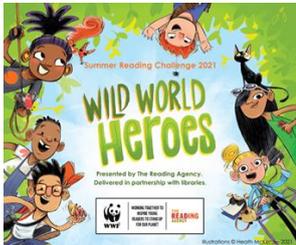
All children have access to quite a number of online learning programmes that the school buys into. Please see the log in codes in your child's home/school contact book so that you can access these. Thank you.



Disabled Parking Bays

These spaces are reserved for those with Blue Badges and Access Buses/taxis who collect children at the end of the day. **If you are parked in these bays and you do NOT qualify you will be asked to remove your vehicle** to the main car park, checks will be made daily so please only park in an appropriate visitor car parking space to avoid embarrassment. This applies to Nursery drop off and collection too.

Please also **do not double park** in the main staff car park as this restricts staff who have to leave to collect their own children from other schools. If you have double parked you will be asked to move.



Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is back! This year, Swindon libraries are offering an online registration process, where children will be able to join the Challenge, choose which library they pick up their Summer Reading Challenge packs from and can even select to have a lucky dip pack of books to borrow - all chosen by expert staff! All libraries will still have paper joining forms available. Packs will include a pull-out folder with three sets of stickers, a Steve Antony competition entry form, a Nature Quest booklet from the National Literacy Trust and a Swindon Libraries activity booklet and

of course an official Summer Reading Challenge certificate. [Register online here](#)

Lost Property

Our lost property trunk is also full once again - any named items found have been returned to their owners however, if your child is missing any uniform/coats please have a look through and retrieve your items - at the end of term any items left will be going to charity.

Online Safety

Valorant is one of the hottest first-person shooters on the market. Developed by Riot Games (makers of the hugely popular League of Legends) its gameplay is similar to titles like Overwatch and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive. Players choose a character and face off in teams of five against five opponents. Currently available only on PC through the Riot Games site, Valorant requires quick reflexes and dedication to progress. However, between dealing with other players, navigating the online store and avoiding possible addiction, there's plenty for parents and carers to consider before allowing children to play. In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as addiction, violence and in-game purchases.



Contacting School

School office hours are 8.30am-3.30pm please be aware that calls are not answered outside of these hours. Our phone number is **01793 493920**.

If your child is unwell and will not be attending school please send an email to Mrs Ponting on pontingj@redoaks.org.uk as well as letting the teacher know on Class Dojo, many thanks.

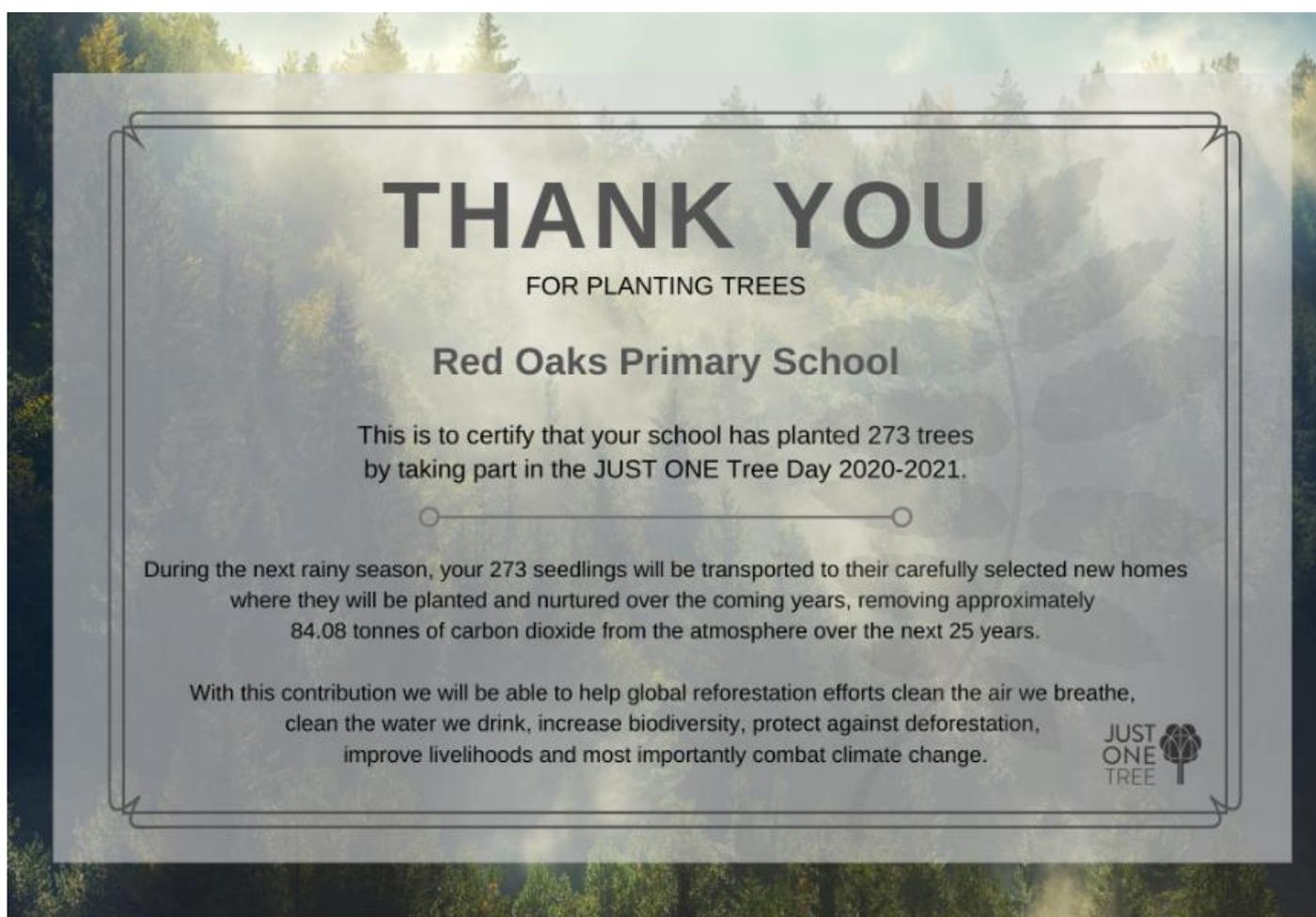


Bags2School

If you're having a sort out, please bear in mind that we will be collecting any unwanted clean, dry clothing of the type that you would wear again yourself or pass on to your family or friends to wear. Below is a list of items that can go in the bags and those that aren't suitable, for example **school uniform is not suitable**. We will be unable to send out bags this time due to Covid restrictions, so feel free to use any clean bin liners or other collection bags you have already.

The school collection day will be this **Friday, 16th July at 8.30am.** Please can we request that any bags be dropped off under the large umbrella outside the main office on the Friday morning as this will allow for prompt collection as we have nowhere to store them. The bags are weighed, and the more weight we accumulate will mean more funds for the school. Thank you.

<u>Things they WILL accept</u>	<u>Things NOT acceptable</u>
Men's, ladies and children's clothing Paired shoes (tied together) Hats Handbags Scarves and ties Jewellery Lingerie Socks Belts Soft toys Household linen Curtains Towels Bedding, sheets, pillow cases, duvet covers	Duvets and blankets Pillows and cushions Carpets, rugs and mats Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing School uniform with or without logo Corporate workwear Textile offcuts, yarns or threaded materials



Our school's 'forest' of 273 trees will remove approximately 84.08 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere over the next 25 years and help compensate for our environmental impact. Thank you for all your kind donations.

Dates

- 16/7 Bags2School collection - drop off by 8.30am
- 22/7 Nursery last day
- 23/7 School finishes at 1.30/1.40pm as per start times



MUMS ON A MISSION

We wanted to let you know about an exciting day that we have planned for Changing Places users at Lydiard Park on Saturday 24th July 2021.

By way of introduction, we'd like to let you know who we are and what we do! Mums on a Mission - Swindon, are a campaign group of 6 Mums whose children have disabilities. We champion inclusive play equipment and Changing Places toilets - which are larger, fully accessible disabled toilets that include a ceiling hoist and an adult-sized changing bed. We work very hard within our local area (Swindon) to campaign for these facilities in places where they should, but don't exist; for example, in our local hospital, our local theatre, our major parks and some of our shopping centres.

Mums on a Mission have teamed up with Mobiloo to bring this fantastic facility to Lydiard Park. MobiLoo is a mobile Changing Place on wheels and it will be located near the children's play area between 10am - 4pm on the day.

How can you help us?

We would be extremely grateful if you could share our flyer with your parents/carers, as we would like show Swindon's decision makers just how many users would benefit from having these facilities. In the hope it will demonstrate just how valuable having a permanent Changing Places facility installed at major parks like Coate Water and Lydiard Park would be for the community.

We hope to see you there! Many thanks,
Abi, Anna, Bron, Jess, Louise and Sarah



MOMS welcome Mobiloo to
Lydiard Park, Saturday 24th July 2021
Find them near the play area 10:00—16:00



The mobile Changing Places includes:

mobiloo
a vehicle for change

Friendly attended service, with height adjustable, adult sized changing bench. Ceiling mounted hoist, height adjustable sink, fully accessible toilet, space for carers and covid safe.

Swindon's Changing Places & Inclusive Play Campaigners:



We'll be raising awareness of inclusivity and want to hear your views. Plus, join us and mini MOAMS for a teddy bears picnic at midday.



An Introduction to Food Technology



£30 per day
or 2 days for £50



Braeside
Education Centre
Braeside Education
Centre



Available Dates:
Tuesday 27th July
Wednesday 28th July
Tuesday 17th August
Wednesday 18th August



Braeside Holiday Camps!

Adventure - Challenge - Fun

Dates: 26th – 30th July

9th – 13th August (no 12th)

16th – 20th August

Age 8 – 14 years

ALL DAY - £36



Drop Off – 8:30am – 9:00am

Gates will be closed and locked from 9:15am

Pick Up 4:30pm – 5:00pm

Gates will be open for pick up from 4:30pm

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

26th - 30th July

Climbing Wall
High Ropes -
Leap of Faith
Compass Skills
GPS Orienteering

Zip Wire
High Ropes -
Parallel Poles
Problem Solving
Games
Photo Search

Abseiling
High Ropes -
Crate Stack
Lifeline
Orienteering

Climbing Wall
Low Ropes
Problem Solving
Games
Wide Games

Survival Day
Fire Lighting
Shelter Building
Willow Weaving

9th – 13th August

**Mountain
Biking Day**

**Water Sports
Day**
Canoeing
Paddleboarding
Kayaking

**Water Sports
Day**
Canoeing
Paddleboarding
Kayaking

No
Club Running

Survival Day
Fire Lighting
Shelter Building
Willow Weaving

16th – 20th August

Zip Wire
High Ropes -
Parallel Poles
Problem Solving
Games
Photo Search

Climbing Wall
High Ropes -
Leap of Faith
Compass Skills
GPS Orienteering

Climbing Wall
Low Ropes
Problem Solving
Games
Wide Games

Abseiling
High Ropes -
Crate Stack
Lifeline
Orienteering

Survival Day
Fire Lighting
Shelter Building
Willow Weaving

Activities will run in groups, in rotation, throughout the day.



Braeside Education
Centre

Please book online by visiting

www.braeside-education.co.uk/holiday-club

Contact us for more details – info@braeside-education.co.uk 01380 722637

Get back to nature this Summer!

Join the Roves Farm

Nature Detectives

Woodland Crafts

Bug Hunting

Den Building

Activity Trail

Tractor Rides

Animal Racing

Meet & feed the animals

Outdoor & Indoor Play

From Sat 24th July

**Save time & money, pre-book
tickets online!**



www.rovesfarm.co.uk



What's On in 2021

- September -

Mini Farmer Weekends

- October -

Pumpkins & Halloween Fun

- December -

Roves Farm

'Christmas Experience'

For more details visit

www.rovesfarm.co.uk

Connect with us on



Sevenhampton,
Swindon, SN6 7QG

www.rovesfarm.co.uk



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VALORANT



Valorant is one of the hottest first-person shooters on the market. Developed by Riot Games (makers of the hugely popular League of Legends) its gameplay is similar to titles like Overwatch and Counter-Strike: Global Offensive. Players choose a character and face off in teams of five against five opponents. Currently available only on PC through the Riot Games site, Valorant requires quick reflexes and dedication to progress. However, between dealing with other players, navigating the online store and avoiding possible addiction, there's plenty for parents and carers to consider before allowing children to play.

Violence & weapons

The violence in Valorant isn't gory, but players nevertheless use weapons like guns, knives and explosives to kill opponents and win a round. The selection of guns that can be bought and used ranges from fairly authentic looking to brightly coloured and cartoonish. The game's PEGI 16 rating should give parents and carers a useful indication of the intensity and realism of the combat.

In-game purchases

Valorant is free to download, only requiring an account on the Riot Games site. There is, however, a built-in digital store where real money can be exchanged for points: Valorant's in-game currency, which can be spent on weapons. Bundles of points cost between £4.99 and £99.99 – so if a card or PayPal account is linked to the game, children could easily rack up a large bill without realising it.

Risk of addiction

Games with a high skill ceiling – which require dedication and repetition to master – can quickly become addictive. Developers design games like Valorant to hook players and keep them coming back every day: this practice has seen online shooters cultivate vast user-bases over the last decade. Children are particularly susceptible to these tactics, which can unfortunately lead to obsession and eventual addiction.

Other Players

When millions of gamers from around the world discover a new title, it's sadly inevitable that some will harbour more sinister aims than winning games and having fun. In Valorant, teams audio chat via headsets – potentially exposing children to hazards such as name calling, harassment, inappropriate language and grooming. Players could also befriend each other online and then communicate outside the game via third-party apps like Discord or TeamSpeak.



Advice for Parents & Carers

Watch for signs of addiction

If you're concerned that a child is becoming addicted to a game, it's important to step in. Warning signs include irritability when not playing, hiding the extent of their game time, an inability to stop when asked and a lack of interest in other hobbies. Encourage a healthy mix of activities and perhaps agree a set amount of gaming time each day. Seek expert help if the symptoms worsen: it's better to have all safeguarding options on the table than let an addiction go too far.

Remove payment methods

The simplest way to prevent children accidentally (or deliberately) spending money on in-game purchases is to remove their ability to. If there is a bank card or PayPal account linked to any online games your child plays, the safest option is to disconnect them. Valorant supports prepaid gift cards, so you could consider purchasing these as an alternative which gives you more control.

Report problem players

If another player becomes a problem, your child could mute them or report them to the game's developers. From the 'Career' tab on the main menu, they can view previous matches and should select the match featuring the abusive player. Highlight that player, and the option to report is in the dropdown menu. To mute other players in a game, go to the scoreboard and either mute or drag the volume slider of that player all the way down.

Try it yourself

Games like Valorant can seem overwhelming to start with, but they are designed to be easy to pick up and play – with a level of depth for those who want it. If you have another computer, you could download a second copy of the game and play alongside your child. It's an enjoyable way to bond over something they're already interested in, while also keeping an eye on them online.

Give eSports a chance

As a popular eSports title, Valorant has many professional players who compete in tournaments for sizeable prize pots. Watching a high-octane competitive game with professional shoutcasters (commentators) on platforms like YouTube and Twitch can be exciting. You could find out when live games are being played and watch them with your child, just like you might with football or rugby.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two the biggest gaming news sites in the world: UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Having started gaming at a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work – but, more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: <https://guides.gamepressure.com/valorant/guide.asp?ID=54605#:-:text=There%20is%20no%20parental%20consent,client%20and%20play%20the%20game,https://gamequitters.com/valorant/https://www.common sense media.org/game-reviews/valorant/user-reviews/adult,https://www.common sense media.org/game-reviews/valorant,https://www.taminggaming.com/game/Valorant,https://www.pcgamer.com/uk/how-to-report-players-valorant/#:-:text=On%20the%20main%20menu%2C%20select,Report%20once%20more%20to%20confirm.>