

# Churnet View Newsletter

## TT Rockstars

As part of our commitment to make Maths exciting and high profile in our school, we are taking part in a friendly competition on Times Tables Rockstars – England Rocks! Schools across the country will compete against each other from 7:30 Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 to 19:30 Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023. It's all done online via [play.ttrockstars.com](https://play.ttrockstars.com)

Children can play in any game mode with every correct answer to a multiplication or division question, earning themselves, their class and the school a point. The Times Tables Rockstars platform will calculate the class average (the number of correct answers per pupil in the class who play during the competition hours, subject to a daily 60-minute limit). Winning classes in the school and in the competition as a whole will be the ones with the highest average of correct answers.

To support player wellbeing, there is a daily time limit of 60-minutes per player. In other words, each player can earn competition points for up to 60-minutes between 7:30 GMT and 19:30 GMT on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November to Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Once the player goes beyond 60-minutes of play on that day, they will still earn coins but will no longer earn points towards the competition.

In the spirit of the competition, please do not play on behalf of pupils but by all means encourage and support pupils. We look forward to our success!

## Important Dates

### **Christmas holiday:**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup>  
December – Friday 5<sup>th</sup>  
January 2024

### **Inset day:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup>

January 2024



## Social Media Updates

You can now find us on Facebook and Instagram. We'll be posting our latest updates and news on these platforms.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Churnet-View-Middle-School-Leek/100063578257320/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/churnetviewmiddleschool/>



## Admissions for Middle School

Admissions to middle school are now open. You can now visit the weblink below to apply for your middle school place. The deadline for admission applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Parents will receive their offer on National Offers Day. This is 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

If you missed our open evening, or have been unable to attend one of our tours, there is still time to visit us. Please call the school office on 01538 384939 to arrange a tour of the school.

<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/Education/Admissions-primary/Apply/Overview.aspx>



## Wow!

Staff and pupils at Churnet View Middle School would like to say a big well done to **Mollie Hulme** who competed at Beaverhall for their Halloween show jumping competition. Mollie gained two 1<sup>st</sup> places and a 3<sup>rd</sup> for show jumping. She also got a prize for the best Halloween costume for her and her pony, Lenny.



### Netball Club

Netball Club is extremely well populated for KS3 and the club will continue to run this half term. However, due to the loss of light after school, the club will be held indoors. As this is a smaller space, years 7 and year 8s will be able to attend on alternate weeks. The schedule for this has been designed for upcoming fixtures so pupils can have as much practice and game experience as possible ahead of their tournaments.

Please see the scheduled dates below: (your child will know which team they are in)

16<sup>th</sup> November – year 7 A & B  
23<sup>rd</sup> November – year 7 A & year 8 A  
30<sup>th</sup> November- year 8 A & B  
7<sup>th</sup> December – year 7 A & B  
14<sup>th</sup> December – year 8 A & B  
21<sup>st</sup> December – year 7 A & B

Please complete the necessary form via the Parent app to register your son/daughter for the after-school club. Information about upcoming fixtures will be sent out closer to their date.

### A Churnet View Champion!

Imogen Campbell recently attended the GKR National Karate Championships, at Sheffield, in October. She won gold in her division in both Kumite and Kata, and is now **NATIONAL CHAMPION 2023**.

We have a national champ at our school!  
Congratulations Imogen!

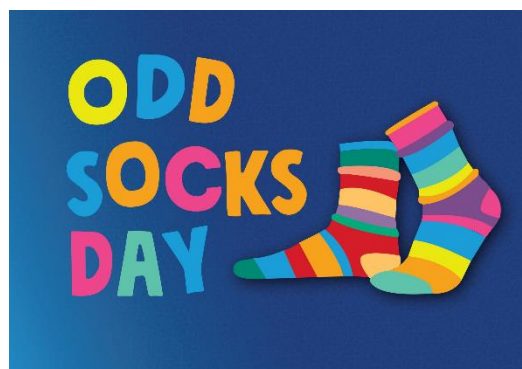


### Odd Socks Day

Odd Socks Day marks the start of Anti-Bullying Week 2023. Due to the year 7 pupils being at Warwick Castle on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, we are inviting pupils to wear odd socks to school on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023** to raise awareness of bullying. Odd Socks Day is an opportunity to have fun, be yourself and spread awareness of the core values that Anti-Bullying Week promotes. There is no pressure for pupils to wear the latest fashion or for parents to buy expensive costumes. All children have to do to take part is wear odd socks to school.

Children should attend school in their uniform as normal, or P.E. kit if it is a P.E. day, and odd socks.

There will be no charge for this as we simply want to raise awareness and encourage children to express themselves and celebrate their uniqueness.



### Switch-off Fortnight

Switch-off Fortnight is an energy saving campaign run by *The Pod*, encouraging schools to educate their students about their energy usage and to switch off appliances and lights when not in use.

By committing to turning off unused appliances and lights, the average school saves 10% of their typical energy usage. Saving money and helping reduce wasted electricity!

Energy consumption is related to a number of global warming factors, such as air and water pollution. Switch-off Fortnight is a great opportunity to raise awareness about the effects that energy use has on the environment.

This year, Switch-off Fortnight 2023 will be taking place in November from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup>. The campaign runs every year in November.



## P.E. Department Extra-Curricular Activities Autumn Term 2

	<b>AM (8.15-8.45)</b>	<b>Lunch (12.45-1.15)</b>	<b>PM (3.40-4.45)</b>
Monday	Year 5 Table Tennis – Hall / Mr Wheeldon	Sports Leaders Alternative Year Group Games – Astro Turf – Mr Coates	Girls Basketball – All Years – Mr Wheeldon
Tuesday	Year 4 Table Tennis – Hall / Mr Wheeldon	Outdoor Table Tennis Year 8 Fitness- Fitness Suite – Miss Hickling	Year 5 and 6 Dodgeball – Mr Wheeldon KS3 Fitness – Mr Simpson
Wednesday	Year 7 Table Tennis – Hall / Mr Wheeldon	Outdoor Table Tennis Year 6 Fitness Suite-Mr Heath	ALL Years Badminton – Mr Wheeldon Basketball Fixtures
Thursday	Year 6 Table Tennis – Hall / Mr Wheeldon	Outdoor Table Tennis	Basketball at Leek High School (Mr Simpson / Mr Coates (limited places on mini-bus, otherwise own travel) – Mr Simpson Year 7 and 8 Indoor Netball- Miss Hickling / Miss Harrison
Friday	Open Years Table Tennis – Hall / Mr Wheeldon	Year 7 Fitness – Fitness Suite – Mr Simpson	x

### Churnet View's Christmas Fair

Our Christmas fair is on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 10am to 1pm. If you are interested in having a stall at our fair, please contact the school for more information.





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about



AGE RESTRICTION  
**13+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In October 2022, the enormously popular social media network Twitter was purchased by tech tycoon Elon Musk. That sparked a host of changes to the platform – not all which have been received positively by its fans. The alterations have continued with each passing month, many of them raising online safety concerns among the 530 million users of Twitter (now rebranded as simply X). With further adjustments reportedly in the pipeline, X has attracted more than its usual share of controversy and caution in recent times.

## A BLOCK ON BLOCKING

X has announced plans to remove its blocking feature. Previously, this stopped other users from viewing your profile or sending you direct messages, while also hiding their posts from your feed. Only this latter function will now remain. The decision has been criticised by some members, who feel that blocking (in its current form) protects them from X users who 'promote denial and hatred'.

## LIMITED REPORTING FEATURES

X offers a premium membership, with some functionality (such as controlling who can view and reply to your posts) increasingly being made exclusive to those who pay the subscription fee. Several commentators have speculated that X could one day become an exclusively paid-for service, with access to accounts being revoked for anyone unwilling or unable to take out a subscription.

## AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many of X's less age-appropriate posts can feature anything from extreme political views to pornography. While accounts marked as 18+ are restricted from non-members, it's still fairly easy to stumble across this material accidentally. X's new 'For You' page also shows content from accounts that a user doesn't already follow – meaning that almost anything could end up on a child's feed.

## VERIFICATION FOR SALE

Historically, Twitter's moderators granted account verification: certifying someone as authentic by placing a blue tick next to their username. One of X's earliest changes was to place verification behind a paywall: this caused the number of celebrity impersonators to rise and left no way to distinguish, say, a legitimate influencer from a copycat fake account seeking to exploit other users.

**BLUE TICK SALE**

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### PROTECT PRIVACY

Unsavory characters may try to gain access to a young person's X account – either to view their posts and gather information on them, or to completely take control of it. To minimize risk, ensure the account has a strong password and enable the 'Protect Your Posts' feature (via the account settings), so that strangers can't view your child's posts without first being approved as a follower.

### DON'T RISE TO THE BAIT

To gain more views and followers, some X users post deliberately inflammatory comments on sensitive topics such as race, sexual orientation and gender issues. Many young people could find this upsetting. Emphasise that, if your child encounters someone spreading hate on X, it's best not to give that person what they want: an argument. Ignore them, mute their account and move on.

### STAY ALERT FOR IMPOSTERS

Make sure your child understands that X's blue ticks no longer guarantee the identity of anyone on the platform. While it might be exciting if a celebrity liked your child's post, it could just as easily be an imposter with malicious intentions. If your child's not 100% sure that an X user actually is who they claim to be, advise them to err on the side of caution and avoid interacting with that account.

### ONLY FOLLOW TRUSTED ACCOUNTS

Using the 'Following' tab on X helps to ensure that the only content your child sees has come from accounts they've chosen to follow: this should reduce the chance of them inadvertently being exposed to harmful, violent or explicit content. Show your child how to report another user's account if, say, they're behaving inappropriately by spreading misinformation or offensive opinions.

### BE READY TO TAKE ACTION

If your child suffers harassment on the platform or becomes the target of a hack, you could consider deactivating their account entirely. Recently, X's safety features have been criticised for allegedly failing to protect users' wellbeing – so if your child is being subjected to abusive messages or similar mistreatment on the platform, it might be prudent to remove them from X altogether.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRacon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. Always eager to test out the latest apps, games and online trends, he's also a parent who understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

### ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

### PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

## EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

### DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

### AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

### SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. It's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

### CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

### (GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

### STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

### WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The Inquirer, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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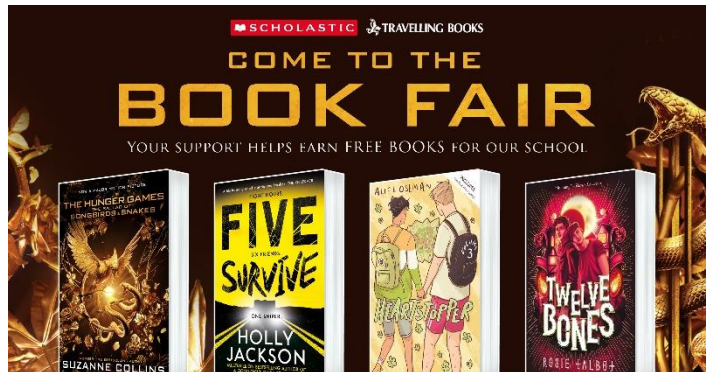
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### Give a Gift of Books This Christmas!

During our Christmas fair, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, we shall be hosting a Scholastic book fair. Any purchase that is made will help to raise funds for new texts in our school along with new books for our school library. If we are unable to sell you the book on the day due to stock availability, you will be able to have your purchased book in time for Christmas.



### This Week in P.E.

This week in their P.E. lessons, the year 8s have been focusing on Gymnastics. Miss Hickling and Mr Simpson have been incredibly impressed so far with pupils' skills and determination towards their lessons.



### Win a PS5/VR2 Prize Bundle

We are thrilled to introduce our biggest EVER Super Draw prize: A HUGE PlayStation bundle, consisting of not only a Limited Edition Spiderman 2 PS5 console (disc edition, of course) – undeniably the hottest console of the year – but also the BRAND NEW PlayStation VR2 Virtual Reality headset, which ALSO comes bundled with Horizon: Call of the Mountain, for an unforgettable Virtual Reality gaming experience! With our new Super Draw, there are exciting new flexible ways to play – so get your tickets now ready for the big draw on the 25<sup>th</sup> November!

Buy tickets here:

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/churnet-view-middle-school>

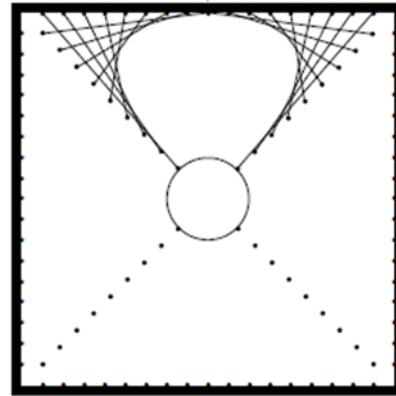
### Get Well Soon!

Staff and pupils at Churnet View Middle School would like to send their well wishes and lots of warm hugs to **Charlie Smith**. We hope to see you back in school soon, but for now, we are all sending positive thoughts your way.



### Curve of Pursuit in Maths

In honour of Remembrance Day, our Maths department incorporated a creative twist with “Poppy Art in Maths” and introduced an engaging and hands-on activity called *Curves of Pursuit*. Our pupils were absolutely mesmerised to realise that straight lines have the remarkable ability to create smooth curves and suddenly, the mathematical world came alive in a visually stunning way. Our pupils observed in amazement as straight lines, when meticulously connected, seamlessly formed beautiful curves.



In their own words, children described the experience as *marvellous maths*. The fusion of Art and Maths proved to be a memorable and enriching experience for our pupils, resulting in beautiful poppies.

### **Did you know?**

The Mathematical Bridge is a wooden footbridge in the southwest of central Cambridge, England. It bridges the River Cam and connects to parts of Queens’ College. Its official name is simply the Wooden Bridge or Queens’ Bridge. Although it appears to be an arch, it is composed of entirely straight timbers built to an unusually sophisticated engineering design, hence the name. The bridge was designed by William Etheridge, and built by James Essex in 1749. It has been rebuilt on two occasions, in 1866 and in 1905, but has kept the same overall design.





# Core Value Winners

The following pupils have earned the most Core Values this week. Well done to everyone for their efforts, hard work and dedication.

## Year 5

### **Dahl**

Finley Rutter

### **Hughes**

Ellie Bester

Jacob Gould

### **Mackenzie**

Lauren Farr

Nelly Hemmings

### **Morpurgo**

Alesha Mills

### **Palacio**

Erin Brough

Joey Mace

## Year 7

### **Gibbons**

Loeisha Venables

Tommy Greatrex

### **Hargrave**

Alannah Hudson

Ryan Bailey

### **Horowitz**

Savannah Leadingham

Archie Bowyer

### **Riodan**

Alfie Jackson

### **Sachar**

Imogen Ball

Walter Machin

## Year 6

### **Carroll**

Lexi Jenkins

Stanley Driver

### **Fletcher**

Holly Garlick

Henry Barratt

### **Noyes**

Jennifer Brough

Blake Davenport

### **Pullman**

Freya Smith

Ryan Bray

### **Rowling**

Natasha Dando

### **Thompson**

Bella Edwards

Leo Evans

## Year 8

### **Blackman**

Stacey Edwards

Michael Heyes

### **Fountain**

Bella Lovatt

Jack Gliddon

### **Hill**

Lily Bett

Thomas Saunders

### **Stevenson**

Penny Bourne

Callum Coates

### **Stoker**

Eliza Crooks

Jack Pitcher

### **Zephaniah**

Laila Moss

Stephen Barlow

