



Cleeve Meadow School

Christmas is in the air.....



Message from the Head of School

We have been so fortunate this half term to be able to operate with minimal disruption. I would like to extend my gratitude to all staff who have not only ensured that the students have had continuity in their learning, but have also gone above and beyond to provide fun activities and learning outside of the classroom too. I would like to thank the students for their continued sensible attitude towards safety and social distancing, their fantastic behaviour and caring approaches towards each other have made it much easier for us to ensure safety in school.

Teachers have been impressed with the student's attitude to classwork and we are always being complimented by our teachers from Cleeve Park regarding the willingness of our students to engage with their learning and try new things. As a senior science teacher from Cleeve Park put it 'this is why we came into teaching'. The Creative Arts department at Cleeve Park cannot wait for us to be able to work on collaborative events as they have already spotted some real talent in our students.

This half term we have managed to squeeze in a Child in Need day, an escape room problem solving day, Christmas craft day and a special multisensory performance for year 7 about the life and work of Mary Seacole. We will be sharing photographs of these events in the new letter.

Students have been working hard in class and it has been a real pleasure to discuss with them their practical work in D&T, their learning about Oliver Twist and Victorian society in English, their moral dilemma discussions in RE, understanding of light transfer in Science and work on map reading in humanities. We have also taken part in whole staff training on Philosophy for Children and are training the students to become leaders in debate and critical thinking. Please look out for the sticky questions that tutors will be setting the students to discuss with their families.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Executive Head Teacher Alex O'Donnell in January 2021. Alex brings with her a wealth of experience and knowledge of school development and leadership. Her support for the school as it grows will be invaluable and we are very much looking forward to working with her to ensure the highest possible standards over the years ahead.

I hope that you and your families have a happy and healthy holiday. I would to express my gratitude to parents for all of your support and encouragement, we really appreciate all of your feedback and it is great for us to hear how happy you are with the school.

Ms Juliet Morris



REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote education experience.

1. TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

As a parent or carer, your school may have explained how remote education works already, but children may still need help. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION AND ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3. ESTABLISH A DAILY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINE

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4. ENCOURAGE SCREEN BREAKS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AWAY FROM DEVICES

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks: however, it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5. ENSURE YOUR LEARNING DEVICE IS IN PUBLIC SPACE IN THE HOME

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral, with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CONTROLS AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS ON APPS AND SOFTWARE

Dependant on how your school implements remote education, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7. ENSURE YOUR CHILD ONLY USES OFFICIAL SCHOOL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH RELEVANT SCHOOL POLICIES

Schools should have a policy on remote education that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



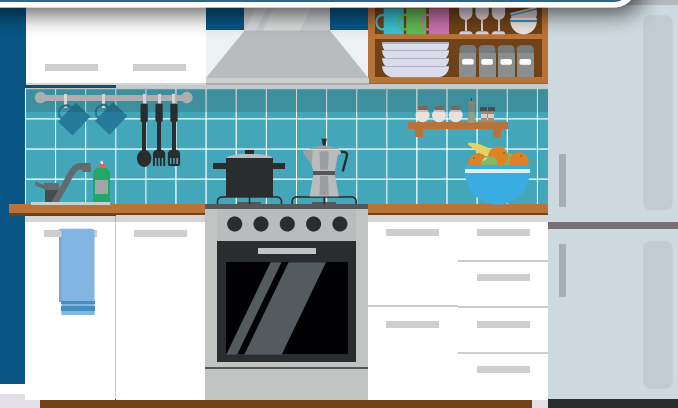
9. MAINTAIN FEEDBACK WITH TEACHERS

Engage in communication with teachers where possible, and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Remote education will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as they can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends every day might take its toll.



A message from our new executive Head Teacher - Alex O'Donnell

Dear Parents, Carers and Students of Cleeve Meadow,

I would like to introduce myself as the new Executive Headteacher of Cleeve Meadow School from January. I feel incredibly privileged to be leading Cleeve Meadow School alongside Mrs Morris as Head of School as we go into 2021. My first impressions of Cleeve Meadow are of a school community that really cares about each other. It is an exciting time as the school grows and whilst things feel very different due to the Covid 19 pandemic, my visits into the school have shown that the students and staff are friendly, kind and keen to succeed despite the challenges we are all facing at the moment. Most have adapted well to this strange environment, and as parents I thank you for your support in that.



Throughout this term I have been able to visit the school and I am in regular contact with Mrs Morris. Her insight to the school has been valuable in enabling me to understand the school community before I start. I am grateful for her support and that of the senior team.

Whilst my school leadership experience is currently in a mainstream academy, we have a very successful Specialist Resource Provision for autistic children of which I am immensely proud. I expect all teachers to be educators of all children embracing and celebrating differences in academic ability as well as educational need.

It is wonderful to see that Cleeve Meadow offers the balance of academic and pastoral care that I would want my own children to experience and give them the skills they need for later life. I have one child at university and one completing an apprenticeship - there are many routes into adult world and I truly believe in finding the best route for the individual child. Inclusion should be at the heart of everything we do to enable all our children to succeed in their chosen pathway.

I make no apologies for high standards in every aspect of school life. School should be an exciting, engaging and positive experience for all. There will be things that you agree with and things that you do not, but having given the privilege of educating your child to Cleeve Meadow, I hope I can rely on you to support us to make appropriate and informed decisions based on sound educational experience. To do this there must be a strong partnership between parents and school. We must support each other to guide and educate our children.

It is important that children are happy and secure in their learning. Education is a lifelong journey. I see it as our role to guide young people through that journey - avoiding the potholes, planning the route for the future and knowing when it is time to speed up or slow down. Sometimes these messages are difficult and it is important that we all understand that the goal is for young people to leave Cleeve Meadow with all the academic and social skills to be successful in whatever path they take in adult life.

I look forward to meeting many of you as I join the community at Cleeve Meadow.

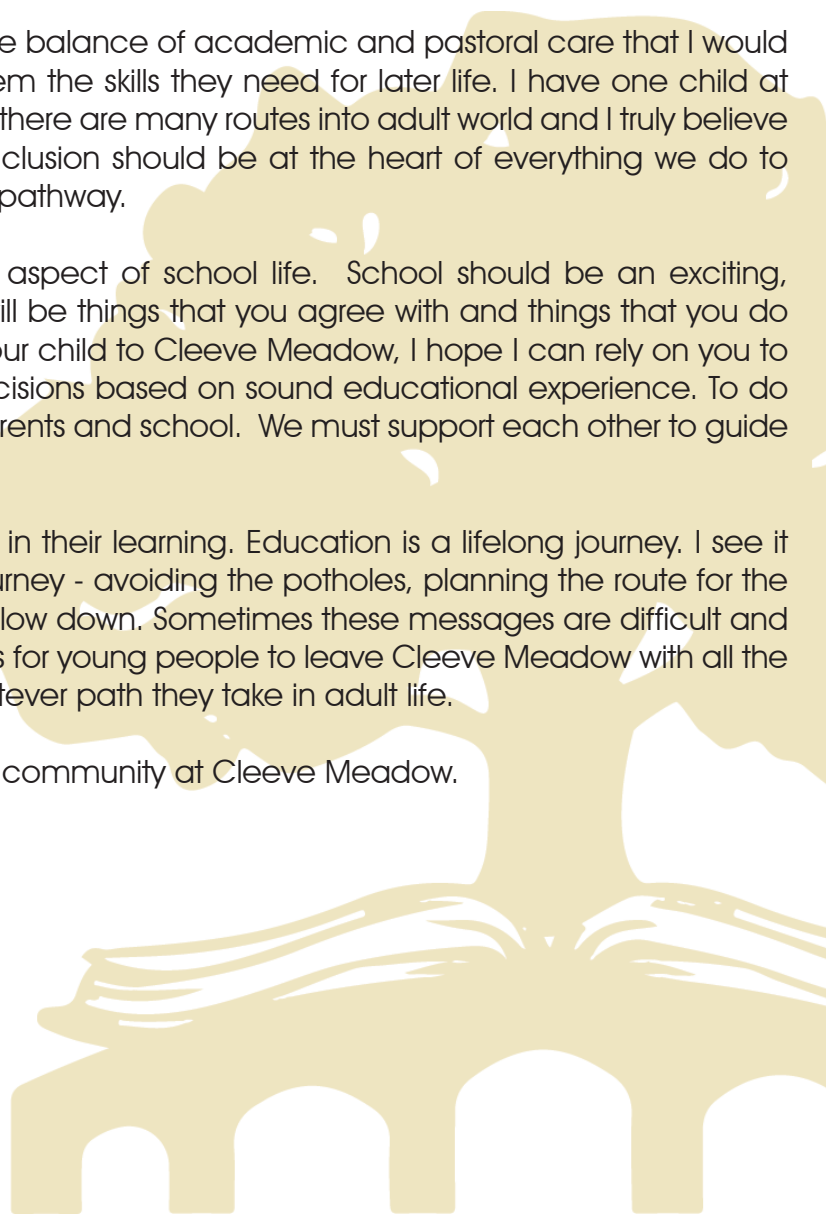
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'A O'Donnell'.

Alex O'Donnell

Executive Head Teacher

Cleeve Park School & Cleeve Meadow School



THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF

MARY SEACOLE



As part of our Black History Month celebrations we were lucky to be treated to a multisensory audience participation play by our very own Mrs Hughes and her colleague Abigail who form an arts group called BespokenN, performing with young adults and schools.

The drama performance followed the life of Mary Seacole, an inspirational British Jamaican nurse, healer and businesswoman who set up the "British Hotel" behind the lines during the Crimean War in 1853.





Mary Seacole's reputation after the Crimean War (1853-1856) rivalled Florence Nightingale's. Unlike Nightingale, Seacole also had the challenge to have her skills put to proper use in spite of her being black. A born healer and a woman of driving energy, she overcame official indifference and prejudice.



The **SIGN CLUB** meet every Thursday at Break time with Ms Mill's. The group have been putting their talents together and have learned and performed the Christmas carol 'Silent Night'.

You can watch the very festive performance by visiting the school website [here](#)



CHALLENGE - Can you learn some BSL and join in with our performers?



**S I G N
C L U B**



What is it?

Through the Woodland Trust Award schools can take part in fun, practical projects while helping the environment and improving the school grounds. It's completely free and the Woodland Trust provide resources and support to help students get the most out of it.



Cleeve Meadow has achieved the Bronze Tree Award

The students have taken action to help the environment! Schools are rewarded for doing projects such as decorating a tree, visiting the woods and, educating themselves on the power of doing something to help, even if it is planting one tree, or one thousand! By doing enough activities that will help our surrounding environment, Cleeve Meadow was awarded the Bronze certificate for our contribution and we are quickly working towards the Silver award.



How the award works

Schools are rewarded for doing environmental projects such as tree planting, reducing CO2 emissions and visiting woods. You collect points for each activity you complete, progressing through bronze, silver and gold levels up to the prestigious platinum award.

Linking Learning with Literature

The Man Who Planted Trees is written by Jean Giono. It tells the story of a shepherd who plants thousands of acorns near his home. His actions breathe new life into the landscape and bring the community back together.

'A book for children from 8 to 80. I love the humanity of this story and how one man's efforts can change the future for so many. It's a real message of hope.' Michael Morpurgo

THE MAN WHO PLANTED TREES



JEAN GIONO

'How one man's efforts can change the future for so many.'
MICHAEL MORPURGO

Design & Technology

Easton Class - Finished Bird Boxes



LMA Christmas Sing Along

We were very lucky to be treated to a live performance from the students at Liverpool Music and Arts University led by our founding Executive Headteacher Jenni Tyler-Maher. It was great to see our students up and dancing at the end of the show. We cannot wait to get our first visit up to University in the Olympic Park



Working on our Fine Motor skills

All classes have been working hard and having fun in form times, taking part in fine motor activities. The activities are designed to be challenging but engaging and students always love the sessions, and have also helped the students develop friendships as they work together to solve the challenges.

Activities include transferring rice grain by grain using tweezers, balancing marbles on golf tees, and racing to tighten as many nuts and bolts as possible in one minute!



What are Fine Motor Skills?

Fine motor skills involve the use of the smaller muscles of the hands, commonly in activities like using pencils, scissors, construction with bricks, doing up buttons and opening lunch boxes. Fine motor skill efficiency significantly influences the quality of the task outcome as well as the speed of task performance.

Off timetable day:

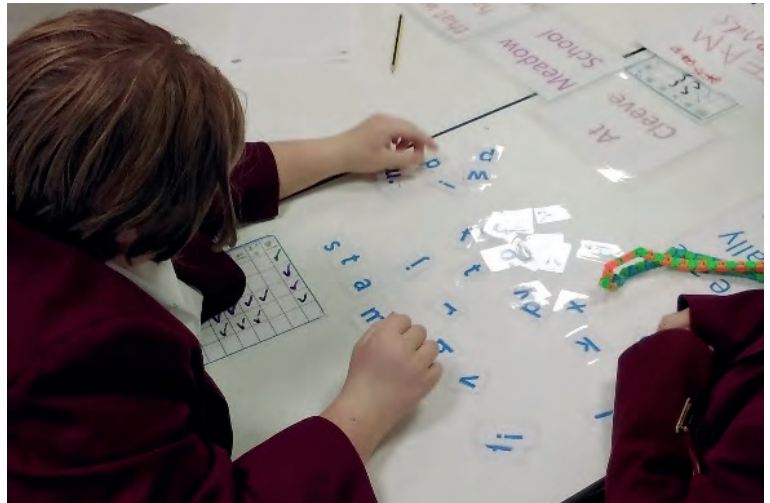
Escape Room



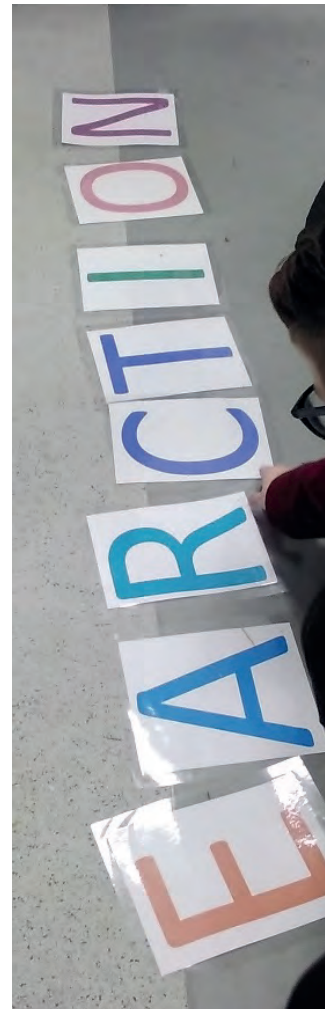
Students had a wonderful time during the escape room activity. The classes worked really hard as teams to solve a range of clues to win keys. It was a bit tense at times, as classes were racing against the other classes in their bubbles!

The activities involved a lot of English skills, particularly vocabulary skills, and using the vocabulary that we have been learning this term.

The students amazed us with their problem solving skills and every class were able to exit the escape room in time for break.



Escape
Room

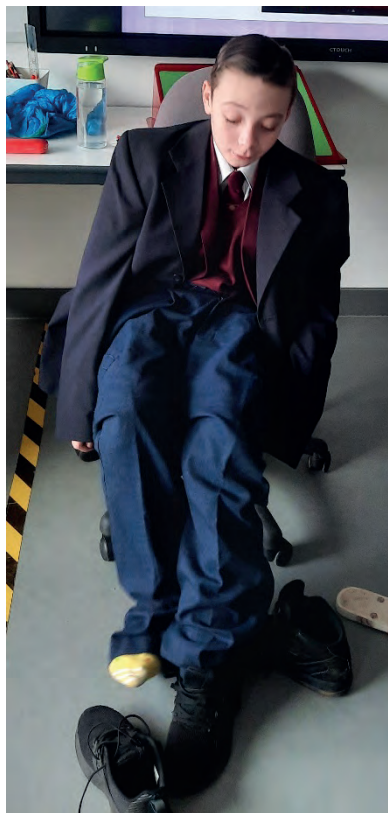
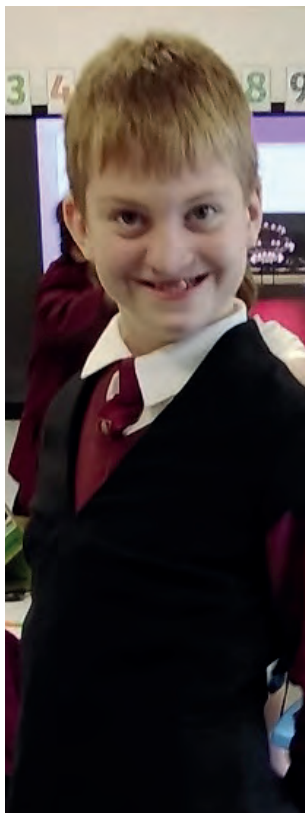




Off timetable day: **Taskmaster**

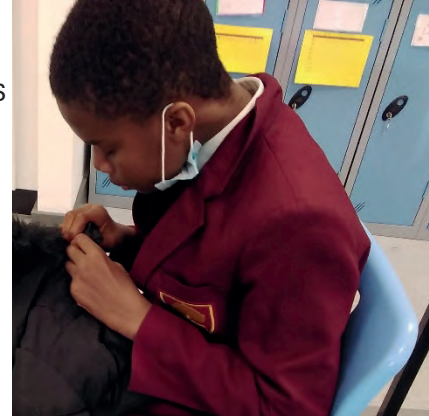
The Task master challenge was a huge hit with all students (and staff!) Students were set 3 challenges – dressing for 3 different occasions (an interview, a hiking trip and a trip to the theatre), recreating a piece of art work using only equipment they found in the classroom, and finally they had to work in pairs to create the tallest tower they could using spaghetti and marshmallows.

All students participated brilliantly, and it was amazing to see the team work in classes, with students collaborating with each other, discussing options and ideas, and negotiating with others.





This term in life skills, we have been focussing on dressing skills. Students have been learning to do up zips, buttons and shoe laces. They have also been using the internet to research and design outfits they would wear for different occasions, such as going to a party or staying at home and relaxing.

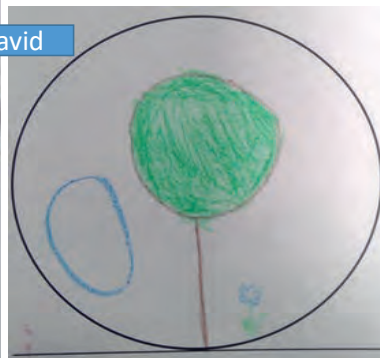


Designing the Eco Monitor badges

Our Eco Representatives work on Eco projects in the school to ensure that we are able to gain our Eco Award and keep it. This supports the school to be as environmentally aware as possible and to avoid waste as much as we can. Our Eco reps also support us with our Outdoor Education programme making sure that we have lots of fun activities which link us to our local environment.



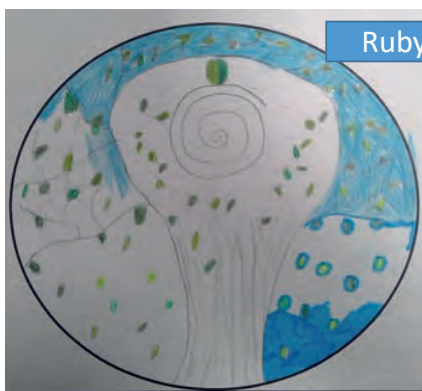
Tommy



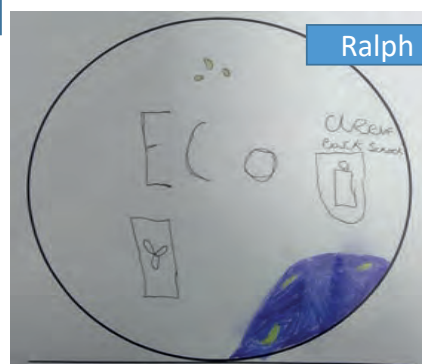
David



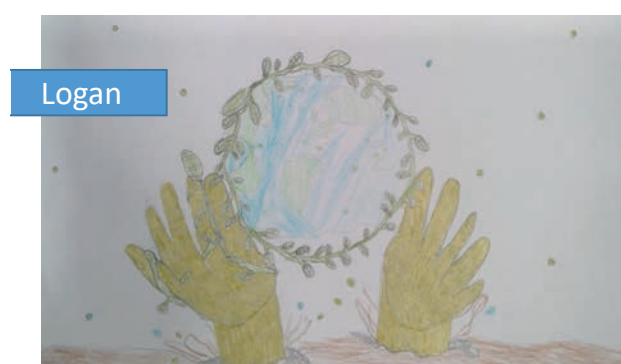
Sophie



Ruby



Ralph



Logan



What parents & carers need to know about... XBOX SERIES X|S

The Xbox Series X and Series S are the next-generation video game consoles from Microsoft. They offer improved graphics, sounds and much quicker loading times. Parents should note that the two versions available are quite different.



Safely Setting up Your Xbox Series X / S

Xbox Series X

Xbox Series X is a larger device, with a disc drive, twice as much storage and higher performance chips. It can play the new Xbox games at the highest resolution and with the best visuals. It enables you to run games from disc or digitally.



Apply Family Settings

Both Xbox models offer important family controls that should be set-up before your family starts using the system. Although this can take a little time, it ensures that children have their own accounts and sets limits on spending, interactions and age ratings. If done correctly, children cannot circumvent these controls that require the parent's password to alter.

Managing Spending

You can set a limit on spending via the family settings. This means that any additional purchase requires your password. Another alternative is not to put credit card details into your account and instead add credit as they need it using the book-token-like cards in-store or online.

Setting Limits on Play-Time

You can specify the time of day and how long the console can be used to play without needing a password. Talk to your children and agree how long is appropriate, then set this together so it's something they understand and accept. On the Xbox Series X|S you can also limit time on a particular game, which is a good way to encourage children to play a wide range of experiences.

Game Subscriptions

In addition to buying individual games digitally or in-store, you can also subscribe to services that offer access to 100's of games for a monthly fee. Xbox Game Pass is often bundled with the Xbox Gold subscription you need for playing online. Most of the bigger Xbox games are provided as part of the service, as well as a wide range of independent games that often offer educational and well-being based experiences.

Xbox Series S

Xbox Series S is a smaller, disc-less version of the console which plays all the new games but with reduced visuals or possibly frame-rates. Because it doesn't support discs you can't play old games from discs and must purchase new games digitally. It also has smaller storage, offering 500GB which is about half that of the Xbox Series X.



Setting Age-Ratings

You can set a limit that stops any older rated games being played without a password being entered. This is not only a good way to ensure children are playing appropriate content but is a good chance to talk about the games they are playing.



Managing Online Interactions

Another important area of the Family Settings is specifying how and who your child can interact with online. Modern consoles enable players to share text, voice, images and video with each other. You can set whether they can do this, and also apply a password before they can add new friends.



Creating Guest Account Password

An important step on the Xbox Series X|S set-up is specifying a passcode for your own account and a password to access the Guest account. This ensures that all users need to access the system with their own account and related limits and settings.



Types of Accounts

Set-Up Parent Accounts

Setting up a parents account is important so you can manage the console for your family. After downloading the Xbox app to aid set-up, connect to the internet and while the console updates, use the app to start specifying settings. Once updated, create a parent user account with an email address you regularly check and password specified.



Set-Up Child Accounts

Setting up child accounts are important to be able to limit play-time, spending and apply age ratings automatically. Separate accounts for each child user can be set-up. It's a good idea to specify a password for the guest account so children cannot access this also. You can also download the Xbox Family Settings app to help you adjust these settings in the future without having to access the console directly.

Meet our expert

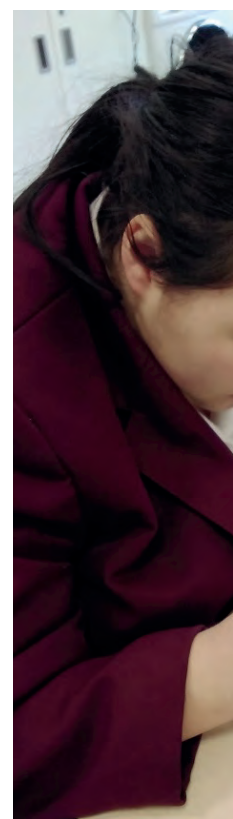
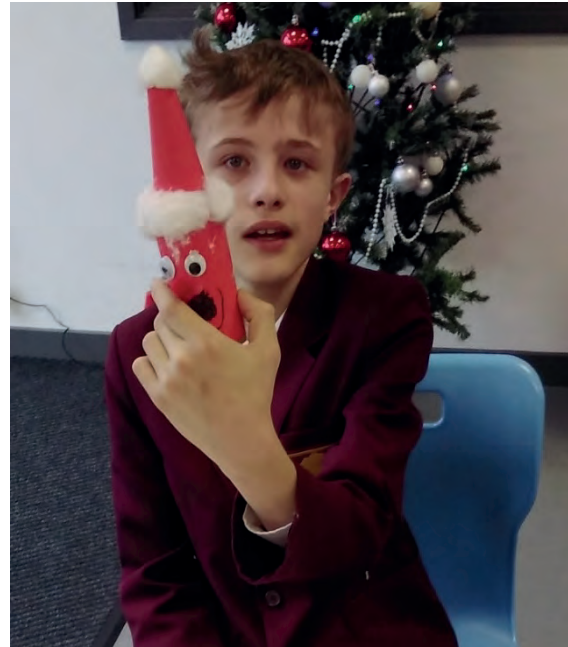
Freelance family technology expert for the BBC. Andy runs the Family Gamer TV YouTube channel and contributes to a range of national media on the topic of video-games and family.



**National
Online
Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday

On our Christmas craft day





On the 4th December students took part in a Christmas Craft Day. Crafts included Santa Toppers, Christmas Cards, Christmas Baubles, Christmas Boxes and Light Up bottles.

It was a fabulous day, a real team effort and all students got to take their beautiful work home



Meet the Team - Our Wellbeing Lead

Hi My name is Cherie Hughes and I started at Cleeve Meadow in September 2020 as the School and Family Wellbeing Lead.

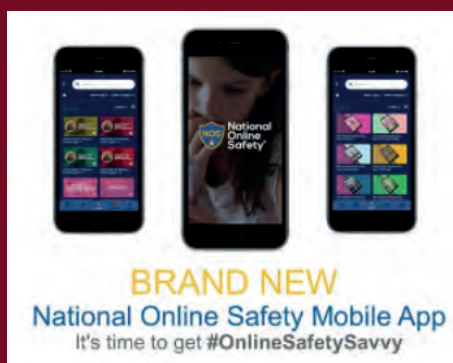
I am a parent to two boys who are on the autistic spectrum and have faced many challenges along the way in being an advocate for their needs over the years. I have also previously worked in many schools in Lewisham for over 25 years, supporting young people and their emotional well-being, exploring conditions such as anxiety, social isolation, autism ADHD and other disabilities.



I am really enjoying my time at Cleeve Meadow. It is a delight working with our lovely students and getting to meet some of the families.

I am always happy to meet any parents or students who wish to speak to me about any issues they may be facing, or just to chat about resources and support we can provide. My office is on the ground floor, opposite reception and I can be contacted via the main school number, extension 313

I look forward to meeting you all!, Cherie



The new National Online Safety mobile app is now available! We know that making training and resources accessible and convenient for busy members of the school community brings its own challenges. Our app addresses that by offering free access to our award-winning resources through any smart phone. It's a simple, flexible way for staff and parents to get expert guidance on online safety issues, whenever and wherever suits them.

Baloo News

Baloo has taken to online learning very well and posts a Blog on Google Classrooms to keep all the students up to date with his antics when not in school. In school one of Baloo's favourite activities is to be read to by the students, but of course, he is always happy to be made a fuss of and given lots of strokes!!!

