Northgate Primary School

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Dear Parent / Carer,

Gaming

We are writing to ask for your help. We are becoming increasingly aware that gaming is potentially reducing the numbers of children who are completing homework and/or reading at home. There is also some anecdotal evidence that playing games at night is also decreasing the amount of sleep some children are having. We would like to invite parents to join us in helping to make the online world a positive place for children of all ages to enjoy.

Many of our pupils enjoy gaming at home, with friends and parents. Gaming can be a hugely enjoyable, very creative and can develop problem-solving and collaborative skills, all of which we wholeheartedly support.

However you may want to know more about how to support your child if they are gaming, including:

- how to participate
- how to manage their gaming time
- how to make sure their child is sharing personal information securely

A gameplan is an agreement you can use to help your child game safely and positively. Please find attached a gameplan template for your family, where you can agree what it is okay for you all to do when gaming.

For more information about gaming:
NSPCC Net Aware www.net-aware.org.uk
Ask About Games www.askaboutgames.com
PEGI https://pegi.info

For more information about being safe online:
NSPCC Share Aware www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/share-aware
UK Safer Internet Centre: https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers
Advice on screentime: Screen time - Somerset NHS Foundation Trust

Yours sincerely,

Richard Coath
ICT Co-ordinator.

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