



One family, belonging, believing and learning together.
Romans 12v5 'So in Christ we, though many, form one
body, and each member belongs to all the others'.



Author focus: Michael Morpurgo

Sir Michael Morpurgo OBE is one of Britain's most loved children's authors. He has written over 150 books, has served as Children's Laureate, and has won many prizes including the Smarties Prize, the Writers Guild Award and the Eleanor Farjeon Lifetime Achievement Award. With his wife, Clare he is the co-founder of Farms for City Children. Michael was knighted in 2018 for services to literature and charity.

We have lots of Michael Morpurgo books on our shelves for to enjoy such as:

War Horse, Kensuke's Kingdom, Best Mate, Running Wild, Listen to the Moon, Kaspar: Prince of Cats, The amazing story of Adolphus Tips, The Butterfly Lion, Private Peaceful, Friend or foe and so many more.

[Home - Michael Morpurgo Official Site](#)

This website has lots of information about Michael and his wonderful books.

Sporty stuff

Well done to our rounders team who played brilliantly yesterday at the Lune Valley tournament.

We have plenty of events coming up including KS1/2 cross country, Y3/4 hockey and Y3/4 korfbal. We also have sports day in the afternoon of Wednesday 3 July for all children to take part in – everyone is invited to watch this.

PTA funding: stage

HELP REQUIRED

As usual, our wonderful PTA have been fundraising and we would like to spend some of the money you have raised revamping the stage on the KS2 playground. The children love to use this but it is in a state of disrepair and is often 'out of action.' We would like to make it look more attractive, ensure it is usable all year round, and possibly put some sort of shelter-type roof on it so that it can be used for forest school changing.

If you have any skills or knowledge in joinery and/or big projects like these, and wouldn't mind volunteering some of your expertise to get us started with ideas, please contact Mr Gittins in the first instance.

Bertha the minibus continues to be a wonderful servant to our school, transporting our children all over the local area and beyond to sporting events, outdoor ed and school trips.

However, Bertha's engine is willing but her body is becoming tired. At some point in the next couple of years, we will likely be fundraising to purchase a new minibus. If you have any connections in this field, please speak to Mr Gittins.

Movie night

A reminder that our PTA movie night is next Wednesday 12 June at 3:30 – 5:00pm. All children will be in the hall watching Minions, The Rise of Gru. Please ensure you feel this film is suitable for your child before signing them up to come. WAC club is on as usual – these children will be given the option to watch the film. Please let us know if you don't want them to do this.



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Assessments

Next week, our Y1 children will take their phonics assessments. This is a 1:1 assessment with Miss Heap, where they read 40 words, a mixture of real and nonsense words. This is a statutory Government assessment, but we will ensure it is carried out in a supportive and compassionate manner. There are also a few Y2 children sitting this assessment with Mrs Scott

Also next week, our Y4 children will be sitting their Multiplication Tables Check (MTC), which again is a statutory Government assessment. This check is done on an iPad, with 25 times tables questions. Children have 6 seconds to answer each question. Any practice children could do for this over the weekend would be helpful – they all have a Purple Mash login which will help them to practice their times tables speed. All children in Y1 – Y5 will sit internal assessments at the end of this month. The results of these enable us to accurately assess what your child knows and what they will need to revisit in the coming years. Again, these will be held in a supportive manner. We no longer need to externally report the results of Y2 SATs, although we will be using the same materials as in previous years.

You will receive an end of year report on Monday 15 July, which will detail your child's achievements this year and will give you information about the level they are working at for maths, reading, writing and GPS (Grammar, punctuation and spelling).

VIPs

A massive CSP well done to all our super VIPs this week.

Diamond - Noah A for working so hard on all his challenges and being a super help tidying up! Well done!

Ruby – Emily S for producing excellent writing based on a story. She included fantastic vocabulary to describe how a character was feeling.

Topaz – Molly M for always being a kind and considerate member of our class and always working hard to produce her best work.

Emerald - Johnathon Y for working really hard to improve his writing and showing a great attitude towards his work.

Sapphire – Joshua M for his calm and mature attitude towards his work and great contributions to class discussions.

Amethyst – Neave G for always presenting your work to the highest standard and for always trying your very best – I am very proud of you.

Edinburgh

Our Y6 residential to Edinburgh is almost upon us. So that you have all the information needed, we will be holding an information evening on **Monday 17 June at 5:30pm**. This should last about 30 minutes and will give you a chance to ask any questions you might have about this trip.

Coniston

What a fabulous time our Y5 children are having in Coniston, in spite of the dodgy weather. Thank you to all staff who have given up their time (and sleep!!) to make this possible!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about PALWORLD

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

In Palworld, players head out into an environment where they must craft items and survive alongside creatures called 'Pals'. In this sense, it's similar to Minecraft: fight monsters while maintaining a base. Palworld has sold more than six million copies and often has over two million people playing online simultaneously.



MATURE CONTENT



While Palworld may look cute and cuddly, the game does have its more mature moments. For example, if you try to catch a Pal and don't succeed, the game displays a mild swear word. There are also minor references to inhumane acts like slavery when getting your Pals to perform certain tasks for you. While the presentation is intended to be humorous, this could still be seen as being in poor taste.

VIOLENCE

Palworld has been referred to as "Pokémon with guns" and with good reason. As the game progresses, Pals can be given firearms, explosives and other weapons, allowing them to fight by the player's side. There are several moments where cute animals use these guns to kill other Pals or fight against bosses. The violence is cartoonish and bloodless, but it's present.

SUGGESTIVE WRITING

Some of the Pals' descriptions – found in the game menu – can be very suggestive and adult in nature. The game makes a joke of balancing on the line between age-appropriate and mature content: playing on the contrast between the two while never being outright explicit. While it's possible that younger players won't notice this content, it's just as conceivable that they will.

ONLINE PLAY

Palworld can be played with other people online. On Xbox, players can only play with people on their friends list. On PC, however, up to 32 players can share in the same game, playing in a large online world, and these players may not necessarily be known to the host beforehand. It can be quite complicated to set up these servers. However, it can be quite complicated to set up these servers (online worlds) and they cost money to keep active.

DIFFICULTY

Despite its endearing visuals, Palworld is actually an extremely difficult game in places: defeating bosses, catching Pals and exploring the environment can all be very tricky. It takes a lot of skill – or working together with a friend – to be successful, which could be off-putting or even aggravating to a player expecting something more like Minecraft or Pokémon.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH GAMEPLAY

Watching gameplay and reviews for Palworld on sites like YouTube is the best available means of gathering information on it, second only to playing it for yourself. Currently, there are plenty of videos showing this game off to the internet at large, along with detailed breakdowns of what can be found or done within it.

LEND A HAND

By learning the basics of the game – Pal catching, battling, crafting items and building up a base – you can help to lower the difficulty for younger players. This, in turn, decreases the likelihood that such players will need to look online for tips and tricks, where they could quite easily stumble across more violent and mature content associated with the game.

SET CONTENT LIMITS

As Palworld is available on Xbox Game Pass, it's easy for players to access it. Any player subscribed to this service can simply find the title on Game Pass and hit the download button. If a child or young person isn't allowed to play Palworld, the best way to prevent them downloading it regardless is to enable age limits on their account. Setting the limit below 12 will not allow users to install Palworld.

PLAY TOGETHER

By playing Palworld yourself, you'll have the best chance of catching any content that you don't think is suitable for children, as well as getting an idea of how violence is presented in the game. The conflict is cartoonish in nature – until players and Pals unlock the ability to use guns, at which point it can become more intense. It's likely best for you to give it a look and form your own opinion.

PLACE BOUNDARIES

Limit options when it comes to online play. For players on PC, they'll still be able to cooperate with friends through the game's multiplayer option, much like Xbox users. Just because they have the option to run a dedicated server that's open to anyone doesn't mean they need to take it. The risks of interacting with strangers can be significantly lowered or even eliminated entirely by playing on servers which are restricted to friends only.

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

