

St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy

Friday 11th September 2026
Autumn Term
Issue: 1



Dear St Peter and St Paul Community,

What a wonderful start to the autumn term we have had! I am delighted to share some of the exciting things happening in our school and to celebrate the achievements of our children and staff.

Gospel & Reflection

This Sunday's Gospel (*Matthew 18:21–35*) brings us a powerful message about forgiveness. When Peter asks Jesus if he should forgive his brother as many as seven times, Jesus answers: "*Not seven times, but seventy-seven times*" (or seventy times seven). Through the parable of the unforgiving servant, we are reminded that just as God forgives us abundantly and without limit, we too are called to extend that same mercy and compassion to others. I encourage you to reflect on this message with your children and to join us at your local parish church this weekend, where all are warmly invited to worship, learn, and say a prayer for our families and friends.

Life in School

Our children have settled beautifully into the new term. Our nursery children are already enjoying learning to write their names and exploring letters through play, while our EYFS children have taken to this new academic year wonderfully well. They are loving their time in the playground alongside the older children, and it has been a joy to see them flourish so quickly. Next week, we will be appointing our new School Council and Prayer Leaders which will be an exciting milestone in our school year!

I was delighted to lead my first hymn practice in the hall, where children from all year groups supported me in leading our school community in song and prayer. We have also welcomed Father Lynch, who will be joining us in lessons. Meanwhile, our staff have completed updated First Aid training, and Munchkins delivered an engaging lunchtime dance session that the children thoroughly enjoyed!

School Environment & Developments

I am thrilled to announce that our outdoor spaces are undergoing some beautiful transformations. I met with our gardener to plan improvements across our playground, forest school area, gardening space, and prayer area. You will see these changes developing over the course of this half-term, and I will share photo updates each week so you can follow our progress. Additionally, our new reading shed is nearly complete, and work is underway on our forest school classroom which will both be valuable additions to our learning environment.

Important Reminders & Requests

Ofsted Parent Survey: Calling all parents! So far, only **50/218** parents have completed the survey. Could I kindly ask you to take five minutes to fill it out? Your views are invaluable in helping us understand how we can best support your children and make our school even stronger. You can complete it here: <https://forms.gle/SU2bHqxmziJyYWdV8>.

Food Safety & Allergy Policy: In line with our commitment to allergy safety, children will no longer be able to bring sweets, cakes or food treats into school for birthdays. Instead, families who wish to celebrate are invited to send in a special birthday book to be read to the class and added to our school library which is another exciting project we are looking forward to growing and enhancing. For any scheduled charity bake sales, all home-baked items must clearly display a label with a full list of ingredients, the parent's name, and the child's name and year group.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership as we begin this new academic year together.

God Bless!

Miss M Ryan

Headteacher



ST PETER & ST PAUL
CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMY

*Unlocking Potential,
Inspiring Futures*



PLACES AVAILABLE

IN NURSERY

SEPTEMBER START

FROM
AGE 3



FAITH
AT THE
HEART



NURTURING
EVERY CHILD'S
POTENTIAL



LEARNING
TOGETHER,
GROWING
TOGETHER



ENQUIRE VIA THE SCHOOL OFFICE



Catholic Life Mission



This week, the children have been introduced to **Mini Vinnies**, an exciting new opportunity to put our Catholic faith into action and make a positive difference within our school and wider community.

Mini Vinnies are the primary-school members of the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). Inspired by the example of **St Vincent de Paul**, children learn about the needs of others and find practical ways to respond through **prayer, friendship, fundraising and acts of service**.

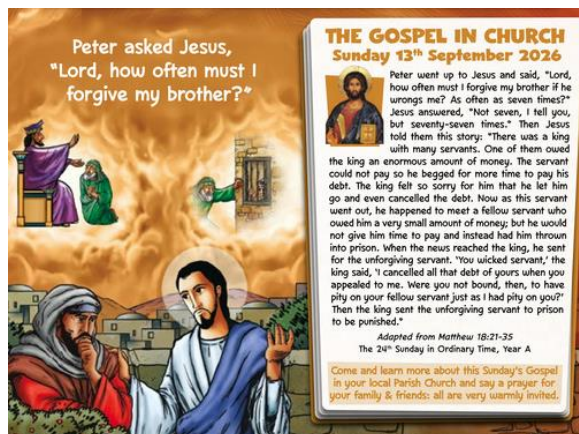
Being a Mini Vinnie is about noticing when someone needs help and asking, “**What can we do?**” Children are encouraged to turn their faith into action, developing compassion, responsibility and a commitment to serving others.

Over the **next couple of weeks**, children who would like to become Mini Vinnies will have the opportunity to **apply to join our school group**. Our Mini Vinnies will then work together to identify ways in which they can support our school, parish, local community and wider world.

We are looking forward to seeing our children take an active role in living out our mission of **Living, Learning and Growing Together in Christ**, showing that even the smallest actions can make a real difference.



Prayer and Liturgy



This Week's Gospel – Forgiveness and Mercy

This Sunday is the **24th Sunday in Ordinary Time** and also **Education Sunday**, a special day when the Catholic Church in England and Wales gives thanks for everyone involved in Catholic education.

In this week's Gospel, **Matthew 18:21–35**, Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive someone who has wronged him. Jesus' answer makes it clear that our forgiveness should not have a limit. Just as God continually shows us love, compassion and mercy, we are called to show the same mercy to others.

This gives us an important message to reflect upon as a school community at the beginning of a new academic year. There will be times when we disagree, make mistakes or hurt one another. Jesus challenges us not to hold on to anger or resentment, but to **forgive, repair relationships and begin again**.

This message connects particularly well with our **JESUS value of Forgiveness** and reminds us what it means to live, learn and grow together in Christ.

A question for families to reflect on this week:

How can we show forgiveness and give someone the opportunity to start again?

Prayer

Loving God,

thank you for always loving and forgiving us.

Help us to forgive others when things go wrong,

to say sorry when we make mistakes,

and to show kindness, patience and mercy.

Bless all the children, families and staff in our school

as we begin this new school year together.

Amen.

Attendance

EYFS	95.6
Year 1	86.6
Year 2	97.3
Year 3	95.2
Year 4	98.8
Year 5	96.8
Year 6	92
Whole School	95.63

Congratulations to **Year 4** for winning the space race gaining 2 Stars. Well done to Year 2 for achieving 1 star for over 97%

How many children were late for school this week?

56

VIRTUES AWARD – VIRTUES TO LIVE BY

Our Virtue to Live by:

Respect and Courtesy

I am respectful.
I treat others as I would like to be treated.

I show courtesy to everyone as we are all made in God's image and likeness.

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you."
Matthew 7:12

Year 1	Amelia D
Year 2	Daniel
Year 3	Ekua
Year 4	Amelie
Year 5	Eloise
Year 6	Danny



Alia – Year 2
Frederick – EYFS
Diane – Year 4
Gabriel Year 4
Hazaiah - EYFS

Good ATTENDANCE

♡ EVERY DAY COUNTS! ♡

Be here. Learn more. Achieve more.

Good attendance helps you:

- Make the most of every learning opportunity
- Build strong friendships and be part of our school community
- Grow in confidence and self-esteem
- Achieve your goals and reach your potential

BE PRESENT BE PROUD

Attend today, ACHIEVE TOMORROW!

GOOD ATTENDANCE = BRIGHT FUTURES
Let's work together to make every day count for our children.

Nursery Star of the Week



Rosa-Mae



Headteachers Award



This will begin from next week's assembly, so keep an eye out for our next newsletter to see our first award recipients!

Share Your Child's Achievement

A huge well done to **Isaiah**, who completed the **Big Mile in Greenwich** on Sunday 6th September!

Isaiah walked the course alongside his Godmother and completed the mile in a fantastic **14 minutes and 36 seconds**.



If your child has been working hard on something you wish us to celebrate, please email admin@stpstp.co.uk and we will feature it in our newsletter!

Reporting Absence

To ensure that all absence notifications are received and recorded accurately, please email absence@stpstp.co.uk or call the school and leave a message on the absence line.

This helps us avoid any messages getting lost and ensures that all absences are logged correctly.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Please note, we follow up all absences where we have not been notified. If we are unable to get hold of you, we will call all emergency contacts. In the rare case we are not able to get hold of anyone we may have to engage with external agencies.

Pre-Loved Uniform Shop

We're excited to announce that our Pre-Loved Uniform Shop is now available online, in partnership with Cress. Families can now browse and purchase uniform 24/7 using our new online shop, with easy collection from school.

Please use this link to make your orders



<https://wearecress.com/school-shop?storeId=4768>

Labels

Please remember to **clearly label all clothing and water bottles with your child's name**. This makes it much easier for us to reunite lost items with their owners.

Any water bottles left on the wall outside at the end of the day will be brought to the **School Office** and kept for **7 days**. After this time, any unclaimed bottles will be disposed of.

Thank you for helping us keep lost property to a minimum!



School Hire

We are pleased to announce we have teamed up with School Hire Solutions. If you know of any clubs that would like to use the school facilities outside of our operating times, please direct them to the following website which will handle all bookings and lettings:

[School Hire](#)

Snacks for KS2

A little reminder for our **Year 3 families** that, unlike in KS1, **fruit is no longer provided by the school for morning break**.

Children in Year 3, and across KS2, are welcome to bring a snack from home; however, **this must be fruit only**.

Please remember to send your child in with a piece of fruit if they would like a snack at breaktime.

EYFS

This week, we were delighted to welcome our **EYFS children into school full time!**

We know that the first full day of school can be just as emotional for parents and carers as it is exciting for the children, so we sent our families home with a **small token to help them through that special (and sometimes difficult!) first day**.

We are so proud of how wonderfully our youngest children have settled in and look forward to watching them grow and flourish throughout the year.



Nursery

Our Nursery children have been out in the welcomed rain on Tuesday, searching for autumnal changes. In the second picture below you can see a nursery pupil mark making and writing his name.



EYFS

We have welcomed our new early years cohort into the school. Who, coming from half days, have very quickly transitioned into a full learning day - Well done! They will be sleeping well this weekend!



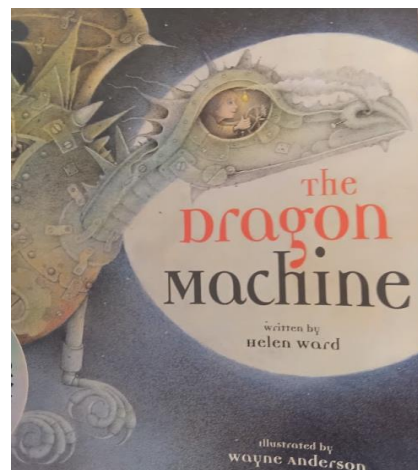
Year 1

This term Year One's science topic is Animals, Including Humans. In this lesson, children learned new vocabulary and used it to label parts of the human body.



Year 2

In English, children have been following the book - Dragon Machine. In a particular lesson they showed off their preposition knowledge by incorporating them into detailed sentences. Very impressive indeed!



Year 3

The children have been focusing on teamwork in PE getting them ready for the collaboration they will need this school year.



Year 4

Pupils have been busy building 3D nets to create packaging for treats which is part of their new DT project.



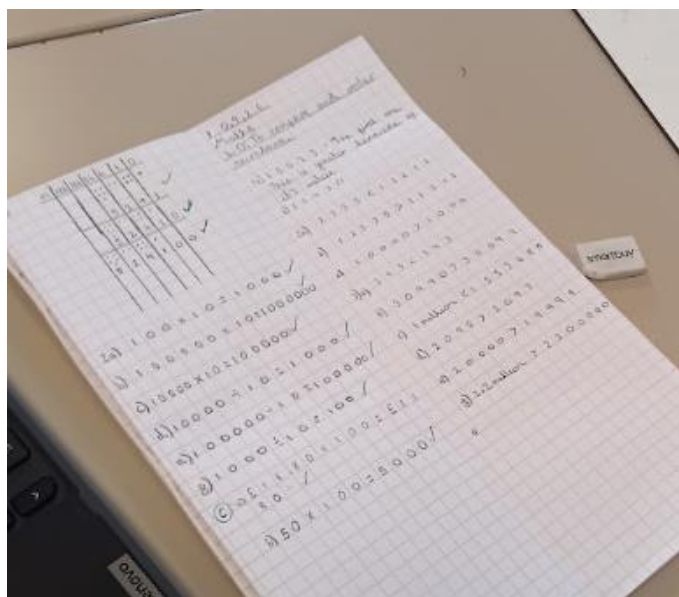
Year 5

Online Safety is a big focus for us here at St Peter and St Paul and we teach online safety each half term. On Tuesday, you can see pupils learning about various types of online communication methods including Memes, Gifs and Emojis. In this lesson, children created their own Gif to convey a message.



Year 6

Students have come into year 6 with maturity and grace, knowing that they are the top of the school. They have focused on maths presentation in their books this week, knowing that this is an important year. Well done.



SEND Update

As we begin the new academic year, we are continuing to develop our inclusive provision and support for children with additional needs across the school.

School-wide interventions

From next week, our programme of targeted interventions will begin across the school. These interventions provide additional, focused support where children need it, alongside the high-quality inclusive teaching they receive every day in the classroom. Staff will monitor children's progress carefully and review support regularly to ensure it is having the intended impact.

Individual Support Plans

All children on the **SEND Register** will have an Individual Support Plan outlining their individual needs, agreed outcomes, provision and strategies to support them. Updated Individual Support Plans will be shared with parents and carers **at the end of this half term**. These are working documents and will be reviewed as part of our ongoing Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle.

We want to hear from you – Parent Voice

Partnership with parents and carers is an important part of developing our SEND provision. Over the **next two weeks**, we will be sending out a short SEND parent survey. This will give families an opportunity to share their experiences, tell us what is working well and identify areas where we can continue to improve.

We would really value as many families as possible taking the time to contribute.

Parent workshops

Later this term, we will begin offering workshops for parents and carers, including a session focused on **supporting children to understand and manage anxiety**. Further information, dates and booking details will follow.

The changing SEND landscape – what to expect

There are significant changes taking place nationally around SEND and inclusion. Over the coming months, we will use this newsletter to help families understand what is changing, what this may mean for children, families and schools, and how we are responding at St Peter and St Paul Catholic Primary Academy.

Do you have a concern about your child?

If you have concerns about your child's learning, progress or additional needs, your **child's class teacher should always be your first point of contact**. Class teachers know your child and their learning best and can discuss the support, strategies and adaptations already in place.

Where further SEND advice or discussion is needed, parents and carers can arrange an appointment with the SENDCO using the **SENDCO appointment calendar**:

<https://calendar.app.google/C3aeH4sWhatUvusp8>

By working together with children, families and staff, we can ensure that children receive the right support, at the right time, to participate fully in school life and achieve their potential.

Kind regards

Mr M O'Dwyer

Key Dates – Autumn Term 2026

Please see below some key dates for the Autumn Term. Further information regarding individual events will be shared with families nearer the time.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Tuesday 15th September – Headteacher Meet & Greet after morning drop of or after school pick up in the Academy Gym.

Wednesday 16th September – Individual School Photographs – Winter Full Uniform
Please note: this date has been amended.

Thursday 17th September – Class Information Mornings
Further information to follow.

Thursday 24th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning

OCTOBER 2026

Monday 12th & Tuesday 13th October – Parents' Consultation Evenings (after school)
Further information to follow.

NOVEMBER 2026

Wednesday 4th November – 9:00am – Nursery Open Morning

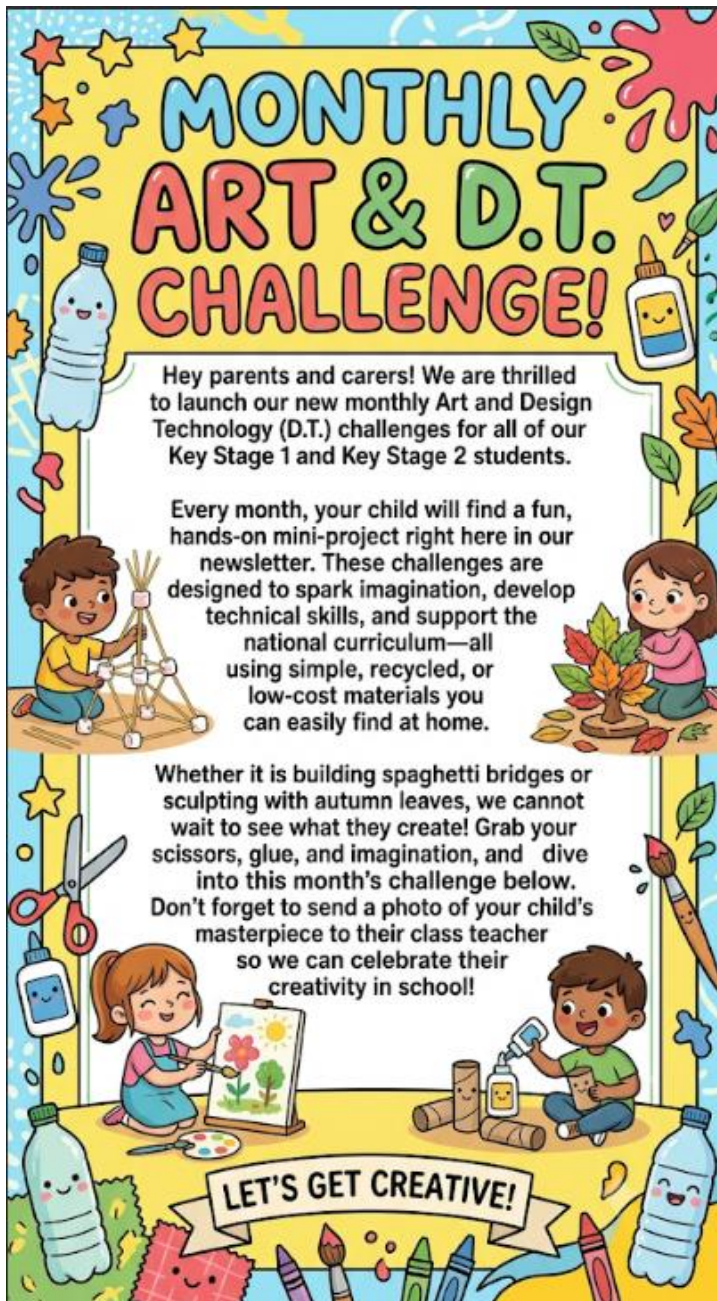
Wednesday 11th November – 9:30am–10:30am – EYFS Open Morning

Wednesday 18th November – 9:30am–10:30am – EYFS Open Morning

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

AGM Meeting – Date and time to be confirmed





MONTHLY ART & D.T. CHALLENGE!

Hey parents and carers! We are thrilled to launch our new monthly Art and Design Technology (D.T.) challenges for all of our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 students.

Every month, your child will find a fun, hands-on mini-project right here in our newsletter. These challenges are designed to spark imagination, develop technical skills, and support the national curriculum—all using simple, recycled, or low-cost materials you can easily find at home.

Whether it is building spaghetti bridges or sculpting with autumn leaves, we cannot wait to see what they create! Grab your scissors, glue, and imagination, and dive into this month's challenge below. Don't forget to send a photo of your child's masterpiece to their class teacher so we can celebrate their creativity in school!

LET'S GET CREATIVE!

The poster features a vibrant yellow background with a blue border decorated with stars, leaves, and paint splashes. It includes illustrations of children engaged in various art and design projects: a boy building a spaghetti bridge, a girl painting a flower, and a boy sculpting with autumn leaves. There are also drawings of art supplies like a water bottle, glue, scissors, and crayons.



MONTHLY ART & D.T. CHALLENGE!

This month's Art and Design Technology challenges are as follows :

KS1 children - Draw a self-portrait using only shapes like circles, and triangles.

KS2 children - Draw a still-life of a piece of fruit, focusing on light, shadow, and shading.

LET'S GET CREATIVE!

This poster is identical in design to the one on the left, featuring a vibrant yellow background with a blue border decorated with stars, leaves, and paint splashes. It includes illustrations of children engaged in various art and design projects: a boy building a spaghetti bridge, a girl painting a flower, and a boy sculpting with autumn leaves. There are also drawings of art supplies like a water bottle, glue, scissors, and crayons.



**Less
screen time.
More
green time.**

[Scouts.org.uk/join](https://scouts.org.uk/join)

#SkillsForLife

Aged between 10 and 14? Looking for new adventures, fun and friends?

Scouts is in over 7,000 communities across the UK and we'd love you to be part of it.

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Start your new adventure.

Scouts meet every Friday at 7pm

St Edwards Church

St Keverne Rd,

Mottingham

London SE9 4AQ

Contact us:

1stmottingham.stedwards.scouts@gmail.com

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VIRTUAL REALITY

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PREMATURE EXPOSURE

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide – allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips – most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR affects children in the longer term.

13+

EYE STRAIN

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with prolonged use. Lenses inside each headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity (just as they would in the real world) to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety features built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing – so creating a clear, tidy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'Guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible.

MOTION SICKNESS

Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is nausea caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gameplay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy – so careful curation is advised.

Advice for Parents & Carers

START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short stints – and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get acquainted with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.



NO SURPRISES

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR – and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of flailing arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' darkens the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.



RESEARCH CONTENT

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.



Meet Our Expert

Peter Graham is the editor at XR (extended reality) and Web3 specialist site gmw3.com and has been writing about VR, augmented reality and the immersive tech industry for more than seven years. He's served as a panel speaker and a judge at awards events and game hackathons.



**National
Online
Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: Gfmd.com/insight



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