Barley Lane School

Ready, Respectful, Safe.

Headteacher: Mr D. Jones

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to make you aware of the imminent release of *Grand Theft Auto VI (GTA 6)*, which is scheduled for release on **20th November 2026**. As a school committed to the safeguarding, wellbeing and positive development of all our pupils, I feel it is important to highlight some of the risks associated with this game and the responsibilities that fall to adults in making informed decisions about access to age-restricted content.

GTA 6 is expected to carry an **18+ age rating**, meaning it is designed strictly for adults and is not considered appropriate for children and young people. Previous games in the series have contained significant adult content, including:

- Graphic violence and criminal activity
- Strong and offensive language
- Drug and alcohol use
- Sexual content and references
- Depictions of exploitation and criminal behaviour
- Online interactions with other players
- Themes that may be distressing, influential or difficult for younger audiences to process appropriately

While we recognise that many pupils will be aware of the game through social media, YouTube, TikTok, gaming communities and conversations with friends, we encourage parents and carers to carefully consider whether access to this content is suitable for their child.

We are also conscious that major game releases can sometimes lead to disrupted sleep routines, increased screen time and heightened excitement amongst young people. These factors can have a direct impact on attendance, punctuality, engagement in learning and emotional regulation.

For this reason, the school will be monitoring attendance closely on **19th and 20th November 2026**. We expect all pupils to attend school as normal and be ready to learn. Parents and carers should not permit gaming activities, late-night play or release-day events to interfere with their child's education.

As parents and carers, you hold the primary responsibility for ensuring that your child accesses age-appropriate content and maintains healthy routines that support their learning, wellbeing and safety. We

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Viktor Frankl

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respectfully ask that families exercise careful judgement regarding game purchases, access to online content and overnight gaming in the days surrounding the release.

We appreciate and thank you for your support in helping us maintain high expectations for attendance, safeguarding and pupil wellbeing. By working together, we can ensure that our young people continue to make positive choices both in and outside of school.

Thank you, once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

D Jones
Headteacher
Barley Lane School

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