



St Monica's Catholic Primary School

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Wednesday, 6th November

Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: Class 5GB boys and dinnertime football

I am writing to explain that we have banned football for the boys at dinnertimes each Wednesday. We have boys who work very hard in lessons, but when they play football at dinnertime, they often display very argumentative behaviour and show meanness to one another. This is to the point of making one another cry for accidentally kicking a ball over the fence.

This has started to impact upon Wednesday afternoon learning time and cannot continue. Every other class can get along and play without this attitude during their dinnertime.

I am concerned that part of this poor attitude may be due to some boys playing Fortnite online together in the evening, harnessing a competitive streak that is changing the way they interact. It could even be stunting their neurological development long term. I understand not all the boys in the class play this game so this does not apply to all. It is also a combination of having very competitive boys in the same class.

We need to unpick this behaviour as it is not helping the boys develop a mindset that promotes teamwork and positive, friendly behaviours towards one another.

Thank you for your understanding in this matter. I am on the gate each day, please speak to me if you have any concerns or questions (or if you are seeing the same behaviours at home). I am calling our next phase 'Project Kindness' so we can help the boys develop and mature.

Mr J. Gouldbourne

Headteacher