

HTL News



Issue 2, 19th November 2021

Message from School Principal

The last 3 weeks have flown by! I hope that all our families and our wider school community managed to find some time to rest and enjoy spending time with your immediate families during the break. Thank you to parents and carers for taking the time out of your busy lives to see your child's teachers. It was wonderful for them to touch base with you and update you on your child's progress to date. As part of our efforts to keep you more informed about your child's progress, we have updated our homework policy. It was absolutely fantastic to see so many of you at our PTA fireworks display. We certainly had a blast! We have entered a really busy half term with the children having the opportunity to enjoy lots of different activities on the run up to Christmas.

In this issue we have a number of exciting events to report on including Black History Month, where we had lots of guests visit us to do all sorts of amazing things, from Caribbean/African cuisine; African Dancing; and Steel Pan Musicians. The children and adults all truly enjoyed these authentic experiences and it certainly brought a new lease of life to HTL!

I hope you enjoy reading this edition of HTL News and I look forward to seeing you at the gate in the morning.

Mrs Dawes

Prayer and Reflection

We learn and teach others about how God created our beautiful Earth. He created night and day, the stars, the moon, the plants and all the amazing animals. This month it would be fitting to say a prayer to encourage us to think of small changes we can all make to help look after our wonderful world. Let's appreciate all its beauty and the resources it provides humankind.

Most gracious God

We come before you to pray for the wellbeing of the planet.

You alone know the full extent of the destruction we have wrought to your beautiful handiwork.

We pray for the people around the globe who suffer because of environmental damage.

We pray for the defenseless creatures harmed.

We pray for the oceans, air, mountains, plants, and soil, that life and health may again pulse in them.

We pray that we humans make the changes needed to stop harming the planet so that future generations can enjoy.

Amen

In school

Welcome & Goodbye to members of staff

We'd like to introduce you to our new members of staff.

Hello!

Mr. Rebelo—Teacher

Ms. Spillett—Teaching Assistant

Ms. Walton—Teaching Assistant

Ms. Voice—Midday Meals Supervisor

Good bye!

This term we said goodbye to Ms Gower, our Year 6 teacher and Ms Edwards, who has been with us for 20+ years. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Message from Mrs. Paddon—Chair of Governors

Wow – what a busy term we are having !

We dived straight into the new school year with a new Academy Principal and new teachers, had coffee mornings for our newest parents and Parents Evenings, as well as consulting with the parents and children in years 3 and 4 about uncombining the classes.

We celebrated Harvest Festival in church as well as restarting year group services and following the half term holiday, we have had the wonderful PTA Fireworks event. We are now looking forward to all the Nativity and Christmas events planned for December.

It was also my pleasure to announce that the Amadeus Primaries Academy Trust had appointed Mrs Sebrina Dawes as the substantive Academy Principal and quite a few parents and carers have told me how pleased they are with her appointment.

Thank you all for your continued support for the School and especially to the PTA for raising the funds to allow purchasing of much needed equipment and materials.

Sandra Paddon

In School

Journeys Week—Zeraffa the Giraffa, by Dianne Hofmeyr

We had a whole school writing collaboration—Journeys Week, beginning on 1st November. Our week started with a real **BANG** when we gathered together to read 'Zeraffa the Giraffa' and celebrated her journey by setting off some confetti cannons!!



We explored the many countries Zeraffa travelled through on her way from Africa towards Paris.

When Zeraffa reached Paris, we all partied in style by releasing some eco-friendly balloons all tagged with the school's email address in the hope that they would be found by someone in another part of the county who would let us know where it was found.

We didn't stop there—children threw confetti over their classmates and the teachers even joined the fun and set off some confetti cannons! This was just the start of our week, and children then went off to produce some fabulous artwork: large scale wire puppets; a 3D map of the river Nile; sketches of futuristic transport inventions and paintings based on the illustrations from the book! Children have written poems, newspaper reports, diary entries, information texts and stories based on Zeraffa's journey.



We look forward to displaying all the children's hard work very soon and can't wait to share it with you.



General News

Journeys Week— Decorating & hiding a rock

During half-term, we asked the children to find a rock or pebble and bring it to school. We decorated them in class and attached a tag with the school's email address on it. We sent the rocks home with the children asking them to hide the rock in a special place of their choice. We wondered how many rocks would be discovered and how many emails we would receive. We're delighted to announce that we have had 4 emails back from members of the public who have found our rocks! Do you recognise them?



This rock was found on 11th November by a lady called Christine at her local rock painting tree drop off near Bramshot Country Park in Fleet, Hampshire

This one was found on 15th November by a man called Sean in Lovelace Green, Eltham. He sends lots of luck to us and all our rocks!



This one was found today, on Lovelace Green as well, by Rikki.



Bob found the same one as Christine on 15th November too. He and his sons spotted this rock when they were out on a walk at the weekend, near his home on the edge of Fanborough, Hants. It was on a wooded path which eventually leads to a country park, next to the slip road to the M3 at J4a. He said 'Well done to whoever put it there for getting out on a walk while they've been visiting someone.' He thought it was a great idea and he might do this activity with the schools in his area!

In School

Spanish Day



Our Spanish celebration day took place on Tuesday 19th October and it was a great success. It was brilliant to see every class enjoy a variety of activities. Some of these included: painting flags, learning songs, creating Picasso-inspired work and learning more about Spanish speaking countries. Some children also made traditional biscuits and vegetarian empanadas while the rest of the children were served Spanish tortillas for lunch.

It was wonderful to have help from some of our Spanish speaking parents. This meant as well as having their normal Spanish lessons with their teachers, children could benefit from learning from other native speakers.



Nursery Zumba

Over the past weeks Nursery have been enjoying some fantastic Zumba sessions in the hall with Mrs Andrews. This happens every Friday afternoon during the children's golden time. So far year one to year five have also joined us. Everyone has been having an amazing time, looking forward to it each week...especially Mrs Andrews! It has been lovely seeing the children learning some new skills and gain in confidence when performing. We look forward to learning some new routines each week.



In School

Black History

We started off our week by celebrating Black History Month with a live performance of the steel pans. Children in Years 3-6 experienced workshops where they learnt to play the steel pans and performed as a group. They were really excited and energetic and it sparked a love of making music in all the children.

Children in Years 1 and 2 enjoyed the African Dance workshops and performed what they had learnt to the Reception & Nursery classes.

Throughout the week, we had Ms. J come in to make African Tribal Masks with each class in the school. The children were creative and made some wonderful masterpieces.



We also had a dress-up day, where children were asked to come in as a person from history. They were asked to look at the legacy of the person, their life's work and what they stood for, and be as creative and imaginative as possible. We had some outstanding, artistic and ingenious costumes. We even had a reggae album cover!

Finally we were blessed to have two volunteers to cook Caribbean and African food for the school. Mrs Emmanuel came in to demonstrate how to cook roti - a traditional bread found in most Caribbean islands - and the children got to sample it and fell in love with how versatile it was. Mrs Kessington cooked up a feast of

African food, making Nigerian jollof rice and plantain for KS1 children to taste, as well as making some for staff.

Black History Month could not have been possible without the love, support and understanding of all the parents, teachers, governors and most importantly the children.



In School

Black History...cont

Mrs Emmanuel promised the children the recipe for roti. Here it is. If you do make it at home, please send in your pictures.

Trinidad Roti (Paratha / Buss-up Shot)

Ingredients

500g self-raising flour
1/4 tsp salt
2 teaspoons vegetable/ sunflower oil
350ml warm water
5 tablespoons butter

For Cooking;

3 tablespoons butter and 3 tablespoons of oil



Method

1. In a large bowl, add flour and salt. Make a little well in the flour. Add oil and water and mix to a soft, sticky dough.
2. Cover dough with cling film and leave for 45 minutes.
3. Form the dough into 5 even size balls and place on a floured baking sheet to avoid them sticking. You may need to flour your hands to help with stickiness. Cover with cling film.
4. Flatten the balls one by one and spread with butter using the back of a spoon.
5. Sprinkle a little flour over the flattened dough. Make a clean cut from the edge of the dough to the centre and roll into a cone shape. Tucking the end under the base of cone.
6. Give it the (thumbs down!) by pressing the top of the cone into the centre. Repeat this process until all pieces of dough are used up.
7. Using a rolling pin, roll the dough out on a lightly floured surface and form into a large thin circle.
8. Place a 24" crepe pan or a large non-stick frying pan over a medium to high heat. Heat for 2-3 mins.
9. After 2-3 minutes gently lift the rolled out dough onto the prepared pan and spread out evenly. Be careful the pan will be hot.
10. Brush the top of the dough lightly with butter using a pastry brush, the bottom of an enamel cup or back of a spoon.
11. After two mins turn the roti and allow to cook on the underside. Brush the top again with butter.
12. After one to two minutes, remove the cooked roti and leave whole or "bussitup" by using two wooden spoons to beat and tear.
13. Wrap the dough in a clean damp tea towel to cover and keep moist.
14. Repeat the process until all the roti is cooked and serve hot. You can have it with ham or cheese or use it to mop up the gravy from a curry!

EYFS



This week we took part in anti-bullying week. 'One Kind Word' has been chosen as the theme. We began our celebrations with Odd Socks Day and children enjoyed a selection of activities including making masks.

In Reception in our phonics sessions, we have been focusing on the sounds 'u' and 'b'. The children will be learning to recognise, pronounce and write these sounds.

In maths, our focus has been writing numbers to 10 and then 20 using correct formation. Ordering numbers using number lines and learning how to place them in order from lowest (first) to highest (last).

In expressive art and design, we have been using recyclable materials and tissue paper to make rockets—What do you think?



KS1



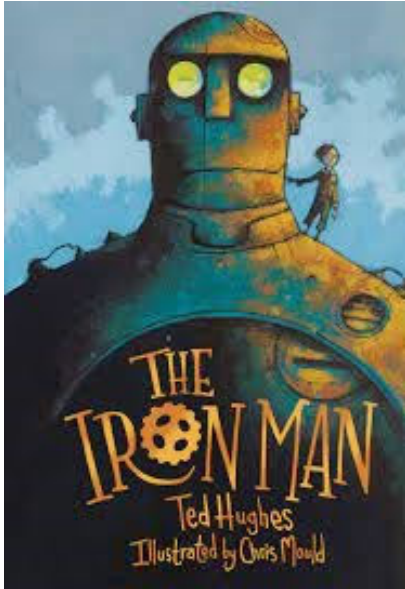
Key Stage 1 has had a great start to this half-term. Our Year 1 children have enjoyed participating in the whole school's writing project entitled Journeys. They have produced some fantastic poems for display. Teamwork was imperative as children had to collaborate to produce a large piece of artwork applying their new knowledge of tones and shades. Please look in the Year 1 corridor to see their beautifully finished pieces! In addition, for this half-term's topic, a new season kitchen has opened! Children can indulge their

senses and start conversations as they explore the different items linked to the season.

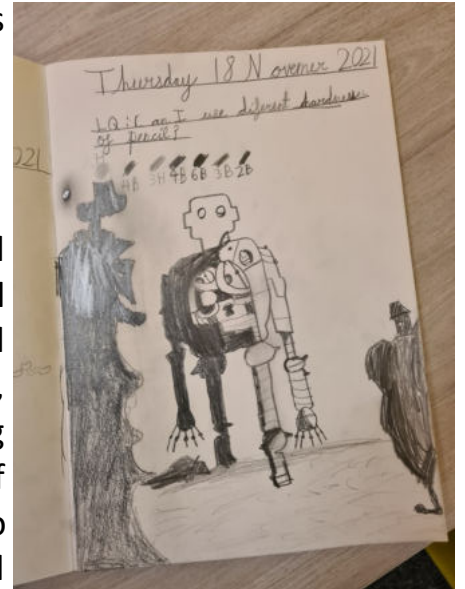
Along with their fantastic contributions in the whole school themed writing week, our Year 2 children were very lucky to have David from Tower Bridge join us for a special bridge building workshop. David taught them a lot about Tower Bridge. Tower bridge is made up of lots of different types of bridge, including a suspension bridge, a beam bridge and a bascule bridge. We were set a challenge to build three different types of bridge. We then tested each bridge to see which was the strongest. Most of us found that the triangular bridge was the strongest bridge. We had lots of fun doing this. They were challenged to create a variety of bridges such as arch and suspension bridges using just blocks and paper which they then weight tested. Many of the children were amazed at how creative and innovative they naturally are. This leads us nicely into this half-term's focus on engineering, part of which is a planned trip to Tower Bridge! We have some surprises for our parents coming up soon, so watch this space!



Lower KS2



Year 3 have started reading the book Iron Man by Ted Hughes and have thoroughly enjoyed learning about this iron creature. Children have created images using the author's descriptive language and have started to write first person diary entries as a little boy who comes face to face with Iron Man. They are looking forward to hearing the rest of the story and writing poems in the next few weeks. In Maths, year 3 have been working super hard on their times tables and using their knowledge to multiply and divide by 3 and 4 and will be moving onto 6 and 8 later this half term.



Year 4 have started their new book, Egyptian Cinderella and have already begun to spot similarities with the traditional story. Their work in Journeys Week gave them a great head start researching Egypt and the Ancient Egyptians. In Maths, year 4 have been working hard on measures and converting different units of length, using their knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1000. They have also enjoyed their swimming lessons so far this half term and look forward to strengthening their skills in the water over the coming weeks.



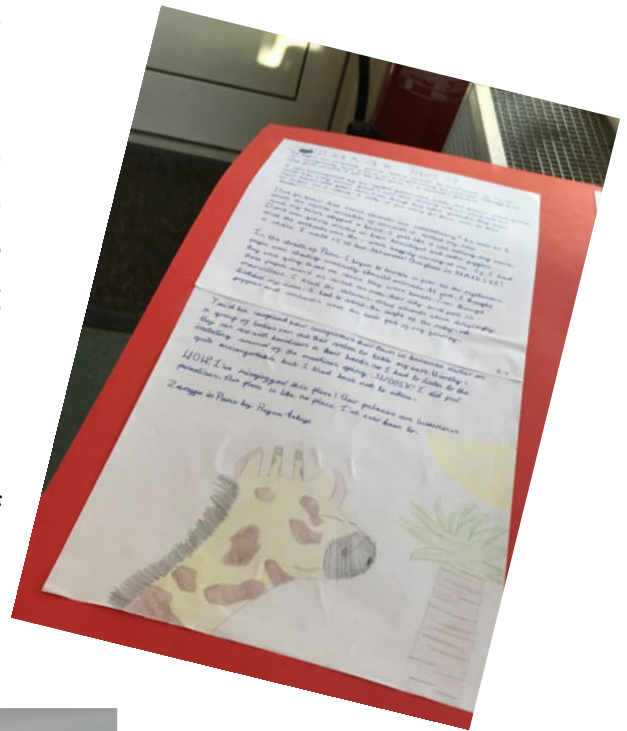
Upper KS2



Year 5 started this half term with a special whole school topic of Journeys. Year 5 were tasked with creating a large puppet of a giraffe made from papier-mâché. The children were so enthusiastic about getting hands-on with the materials. Some were so passionate about creating the giraffe, they wanted to miss their break times to continue with the construction. We also began sewing the capes to go on the backs of the giraffes. Some children have fallen in love with sewing and are

constantly asking to keep sewing.

We have also written a descriptive narrative of Zeraffa's journey through France. The children were asked to include a range of descriptive techniques including metaphors, similes,



personification, alliteration, onomatopoeia, expanded noun phrases and fronted adverbials. The children were so imaginative and creative with their writing.



Upper KS2

Year 6 have made a great start back after half term and it feels as though a lot has already happened. Firstly, a huge hello from Mr. Rebelo in 6LG. Mr. Rebelo will be with us for a while and has already commented on what a fantastic class he has inherited and that he is thrilled to be with us.



Also, many of the children have brought in some of their homework from their half term project linking to our new topic of World War II - and they have been amazing! Lots of bomb shelters, trenches and some model fighter planes too. All have been put on show to make a fantastic display in our shared Year 6 area! In addition, there have been some great bits of research, with some children finding out information on members of their family who were involved and impacted by the war, giving them an even greater personal experience to our learning. Please continue to bring this project homework

in so our display can grow!

In maths this half term, our focus will be on fractions right up until Christmas. In addition to this, we will have an assessment week soon as we did not take any tests in last term. In Literacy, we will be looking at a range of texts and video clips that link to our topic of World War II and will have ample opportunity for a range of different writing, including putting ourselves in the shoes of evacuees at the time and sending letters home! For RE,



for the topic "Was Jesus the Messiah?" We have already been discussing this and cross-referencing prophecies from the Old Testaments to Gospels from the New Testament.

Mass Visits



Year 3 visited the church for their RE lesson on Baptism. Mother Renate led a fantastic session for us and the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of having an RE lesson in church. Mother Renate, performed a baptism on a doll to show the children what happens in a baptism/christening service. They learnt the important symbols of water, the cross and light and recapped the story of Jesus being baptised by his cousin

John in the River Jordan. This session has allowed children to understand the importance of the Holy Trinity, especially the Holy Spirit.



Year 2 went to church on Wednesday, where mother Renate talked about Peace.

Some children got up to act out situations where we are peaceful and not so peaceful.

We talked about making our lives peaceful and when we are worried or anxious, who we can talk to, to help us get back to peace.

The children read and acted the story of when Jesus was out at sea he calmed the storm. Our lives can be like storms and Jesus can help us calm the storm and help us to be at peace. The children also read the prayers they had written. The children read beautifully and were well behaved.



Other News

Harvest Festival



The last day of half-term, in October, was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a whole school. For the first time this year, we all attended Holy Trinity Church for Harvest Mass.

Father Mark spoke about how we all needed to take a rest from our busy lives. We had time to reflect on how we could rest our voices, take a break from doing too much and evaluate our need for material possessions.

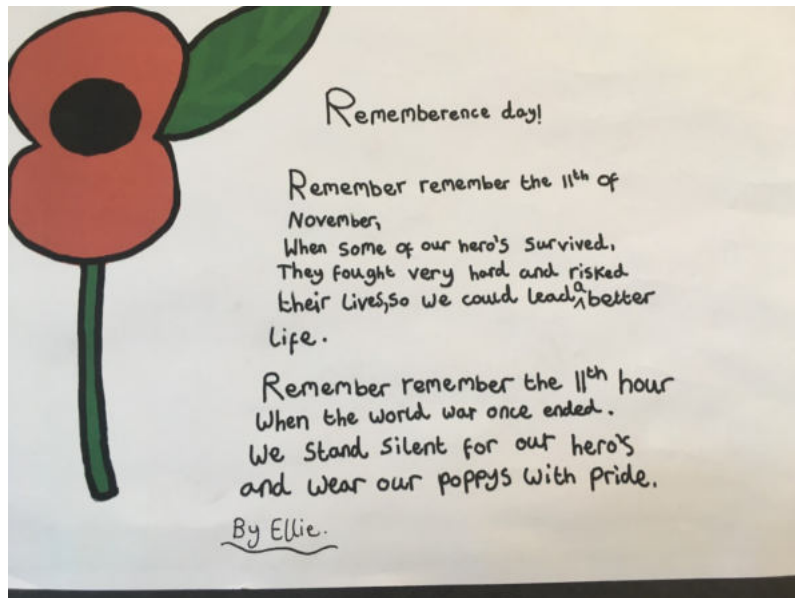
We also had the pleasure of listening to the choir perform 'Colours of Day' led by Mrs Cooper.



We ended our Mass with celebrating more successes in Year 6. Mr Nutting announced the new Head Boys and Head Girls. He also announced the children chosen as House and vice captains. Congratulations to all the chosen year 6 children, we wish them every success in their new roles.

Other News

Remembrance Day



We all gathered together as a whole school on 11th November 2021 to commemorate the those who had fallen in the world wars. We assembled in the playground with Mrs Dawes leading us in prayer.

The sun shone as we held 2 minutes of silence, reflecting and thinking about everyone, from all over the world, who fought for the rights and freedoms that we enjoy today. It was beautiful. The children were still, silent and reverent. Thank you to Ms Sime for organising the poppy displays in the classroom windows and the Last Post & Reveille music.



Other News

HTL Football team takes the game and brings home an 8-0 victory!



On Tuesday the HTL football team took on Pelham School at Goals Bexleyheath. Unfortunately, as Mr. Nutting was unable to make it, Mrs. Nutting stepped in as Head Coach! She did an amazing job and the boys played an absolutely fantastic game.

After only minutes on the pitch the goals came flying in. Freddie scored a blinder with an assist from Kiso!

Along came another from Aydean. Pelham School didn't stand a chance! Freddie and Aydean were on a roll with another 5 between them! The last goal was a shot on target from Kiso, however, it hit a defender, making it an own goal. "Well done to all the boys", said Mrs. Nutting. "It just goes to show, team work makes the dream work!"

"I'm delighted", panted Freddie. "This is the first game we've won. We've made a come back and redeemed ourselves from our loss with Birkbeck". "I'm so happy" added Aydean.

We are looking forward to another win at their next game on 10th December. However, we do have to ask...Is a change of Head Coach in order...? Hmmmmm!

PTA

PTA Fireworks Night



Preparations started at 10am on 5th November, with the food delivery, and then things just kept falling into place after that. Burger and sausage delivery, fireworks display company, the band. With the smell of barbecuing burgers, the gates opened at 6pm and in poured the crowd. It was wonderful to see so many people from the HTL community and beyond, both past and present, having fun, enjoying the food along with the cakes supplied by the scouts. The mulled wine finished very quickly! Then, at 7:30pm the event began. It was amazing. Lots of oohs, aahs and wows! Twenty minutes later, what a finale! The total cleared profit

made was £3122! Thank you to Laura and the team. We are now in a position to be able to purchase screens for at least 2 classrooms.

FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER
YR R & KS1: 4- 5.30PM
KS2: 6-7.30PM

**HTL PTA
CHRISTMAS
DISCO**

Entry, Hotdog & drink wristband: £5
Entry wristband: £3.50

WWW.HTLPTA.CO.UK

Pocket money stalls include:
sweet treats/glow/face
painting/ trinkets

The poster is festive with a red and black background, featuring a Christmas tree, snowflakes, and a disco ball. The text is in various fonts and colors, including white, yellow, and red.

**HTL PTA
SECRET SANTA GIFT SHOP**

THURSDAY 9TH DECEMBER

Let your excited little ones choose their special adults the perfect present, as they browse a large array of lovely gifts at the HTL PTA Gift Shop!

After selecting the gift they can then sit to write their own labels at the 'elf-wrapping station' and decorate with bows & ribbons.. all ready to place under the tree for the big day!

£4.50 per token

WWW.HTLPTA.CO.UK

The poster features a background of wrapped gifts and a white board with text. The text is in various colors, including red, black, and white. The overall theme is Christmas and gift-giving.

Community

Holy Trinity Lamorbey Church

Hurst Road, Sidcup



WINTER

FAYRE



on

Saturday 27th November

12-3pm in the Church Hall

Christmas crafts and decorations

Homemade cakes & preserves

Books Tombola Raffle

Lunches and drinks

Fun for all the family



Reminder

School Uniform

Our uniform is a worn as an identity to our school. We expect our pupils to wear the correct school uniform every day and with pride.

Winter:

- Grey trousers (boys)
- Grey pinafore/skirt (girls)
- Maroon school jumper
- School tie
- White shirt/blouse
- White/grey socks—grey tights (girls)
- Grey socks (boys)

PE:

- Plain maroon joggers or shorts
- School PE polo
- School sweatshirt

Summer:

- Pink and white checkered dress (girls)
- White short sleeve shirt (boys)
- School tie (boys)
- Boys may wear grey school uniform style shorts

Nursery

- Plain maroon joggers or shorts
- School PE polo
- School Sweatshirt



Please also make sure that pieces of uniform are marked with your child's name. This will make it easier to return items to the correct child if it is mislaid. Why not buy the labels from

www.namelabelcompany.com

You'll get 10% off orders placed and the company will rebate 10% to the PTA.

If your child has lost some uniform, please speak to the office where you should be able to check the lost property cupboard.

Reminder



Parent Volunteers



Do you have a skill that you would like to share with the children at HTL? Do you have 'green fingers' and would like to volunteer to do some gardening with the children, or are you more comfortable with a book and would prefer listening to children read? All parents are welcome to come into the school and help out

on a regular basis or simply as a helper on class outings. The assistance and involvement of parents is a valuable and worthwhile experience for parents, children and teachers alike. All volunteers will have to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Check.

Did you know?

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 platform of many 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

NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment. If they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quietly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection – making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite; the link, however, can also be distributed to people you don't know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time; this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.

CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's 'maturity rating'. Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.



CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.



SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally avoiding numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these PINs with anyone, including family.

SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 10-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.

CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting 'Viewing Activity' in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: www.help.netflix.com | www.cbsa.netflix.com | www.cbsa.org.au

Did you know?

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 app of many 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

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

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CENSORED

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&A**!

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become "TikTok famous". While most aspiring stars hoping to be "the next big thing" will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase "TikTok coins", which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 89p to an eye-watering £89 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 16s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 16s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert

Parveen Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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SOURCES TikTok.com

Did you know?

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 app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

AGE RESTRICTION
15+
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed for young audiences by the viral TV show, Squid Game. The nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show is rated 15+ and is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread across online platforms, and there is a great risk of young people being exposed to unsuitable scenes, meaning parents and carers have to be vigilant when allowing children to use devices.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that Squid Game contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children at face-value. The name 'Squid Game' may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like Squid Game.

VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, Squid Game has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the Squid Game trend, creating content such as 'How to Draw Squid Game Characters' videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the 'Red Light, Green Light' game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them. episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen Squid Game, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children 'playing Squid Game' in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable telling you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch Squid Game, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The INQUIRER*, Carly now works as the news editor for Computer Shopper and IT Pro and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The Metro, uSwitch and WIRED.



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Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/oct/27/parents-should-consider-not-allowing-children-to-watch-squid-game>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-58119111> | <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-58119111>

Dates for the diary

November	
Wednesday 24th November	Year 6 Class Mass
Thursday 25th November	Flu Vaccinations
Monday 29th November	Year 5 Trip—Royal Observatory
December	
Wednesday 1st December	Year 1 Parent's Coffee Morning
Thursday 2nd December	School Closed—Polling Day
Friday 3rd December	PTA School Disco
Tuesday 7th December	Year 2 Trip—Tower Bridge
Wednesday 8th December	Year 1 Class Mass
Thursday 9th December	Secret Santa Gift Shop / Christingle Service
Monday 13th December	10:30am—EYFS Nativity
Monday 13th December	2pm—KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 14th December	10am—KS1 Nativity
Tuesday 14th December	2pm—EYFS Nativity
Wednesday 15th December	Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 15th December	Christmas Dinner
Wednesday 15th December	9:30am—Christmas Carol Concert
Wednesday 15th December	2:30pm—Christmas Carol Concert
Thursday 16th December	9:30am Christmas Mass / Last day of term
Friday 17th December	Inset day—school closed to pupils
Monday 20th Dec-Monday 3rd Jan	Christmas Holiday
Tuesday 4th January 2022	Pupils return to school