

Newsletter 8 – Autumn Term



Wistaston Academy
Primary and Nursery School
Together We Learn • Together We Achieve

This Week's Events

Date	School Events	International Events
Monday 8 th November	Y6 dodgeball club	
Tuesday 9 th November	Y5 dodgeball club & Y2 dance	
Wednesday 10 th November		World Science Day
Thursday 11 th November	Y4 dodgeball club	Armistice Day/Remembrance Day
Friday 12 th November	Y1 dance club & Y3 dodgeball club	
Advanced Notice:	Year 2/3 Phonics screening check – w/c 06.12.21 and 13.12.21. Please ensure your child is in school every day during this period. Anti-Bullying week 15 th -19 th November Children in Need non-uniform 19 th November	
Polite Notice:	Please note the school office opens at 8.30am each morning and is manned until 4.30pm. Before and after these times, there will be no access to the Main Reception area.	

We are Brilliant Winners

KS1: Freddie, Serif, Mason L, Alexia

KS2: Jessica, Brooke, Alyssa, Kairon, Imogen

Nursery

This week at nursery we have had a surprise autumn visitor! The children found a hedgehog in our outdoor play area. After carefully looking at it we moved it to a safe space and then the children made it a house with straw, leaves and sticks. We then drew some pictures and wrote signs for our Hedgehog House.



Reception

This week we have been learning about the tradition of Bonfire Night. We have talked about the things we hear, see and taste to celebrate this annual event. We have learnt the firework and bonfire safety rules and know what we need to do to keep ourselves safe.

We explored our forest school area and enjoyed learning how to safely toast bread on a camp fire.



Year 1

For our Autumn art work, we have created autumn trees. First, we found out about autumnal colours and how they can be arranged on a colour wheel. Then we ripped paper to make the trunk and branches. Finally, we printed the leaves using bubble wrap or broccoli to create different effects.



This week, we have also celebrated Pens Down Day through our new topic 'Travel and Transport'. We learnt about different landmarks in London and created adverts to share which one we thought was best. We then used the London skyline to inspire our art work.

Year 2

To begin our new topic, 'Houses and Homes,' we read the story 'Home' by Carson Ellis. We looked at lots of different types of homes and then tried to create our own home in the style of the illustrations in the book.



Year 3

Our theme for Pens Down Day was 'Planet Earth'. In Literacy, we learned about how humans are damaging the Earth and what we need to do to save our planet. We created news reports to educate others about this issue. In Geography, we learned about the 7 continents and the 5 oceans. We created paper plate globes and carefully stuck the continents and oceans in the correct places. We talked about the position of the continents and oceans and the distance between them. Finally, we learned about the Equator and the Northern and Southern hemispheres. We used string to represent this on our globes.



Year 4

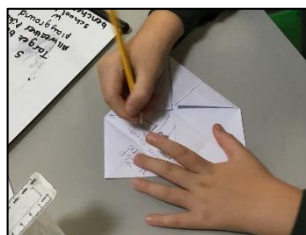
On Tuesday, we visited Chester as part of our Pens down History learning on the Romans. We took part in a soldier patrol, learning commands and how to chant in Latin for our marching! We were armed with battle shields and we were under strict instruction of an experienced legionary, discovering what it took to become part of the greatest fighting forces the world has ever known. We learned how the soldiers would attack and defend in battle and how they were such an effective army. We also explored the Roman Museum, starting out in the hull of a war ship, entering a Roman Town replica and learning all about how the Romans lived in Britain. We were also able to look at the levels of the ground in Chester and link this to our knowledge of archaeologists from last half term. When we were coming back, Harly announced that the trip was "Ten million out of ten million." And we agree too!



Year 5

On Monday, we became designers and planners! We designed a new building for school both inside and out. We made a 3D plan on Purple Mash and we were then able to create the model from the net. We thought about how we could make it sustainable to help our changing world.

In the afternoon, we looked at a map of our school and found North using a compass. This helped us to plan an orienteering route and make a fortune teller showing what is in each direction (North, South, East and West) when we stand in the middle of the playground.



Year 6

For our Pens Down Day, Year 6 were lucky enough to have a history workshop with Jason King. As always, it was absolutely fantastic. The children were able to explore a huge range of artefacts from WW2 and they even participated in air raid warden training. We had a wonderful time and the workshop created a lot of excitement and interest for our new history topic.



Social Media Alert



OMEGLE is advertised as 'a free online chat website that allows users to socialise with others without the need to register. The service randomly pairs users in one-on-one chat sessions.' The website also allows users to connect to webcams so they can be seen by the stranger they are talking to. It has an age rating of 18+ or 13 years + (with parental permissions).



DISCORD is an App that lets people chat via text, voice or video in real-time. It is very popular with gamers, and with the right privacy settings and monitoring it can be used safely. The safest way to use Discord is to only accept friend requests and participate in private servers with people you know. Avoid open chat functions. Discord has an age rating of 13 years +. There have been reports that significant numbers of children within local schools have disclosed to teachers or parents that they have seen really distressing material on these sites and have been asked by strangers to share pictures and videos of themselves. One setting alone has identified 24 children who have been affected.



A new app has recently launched that has led to many child protection services working together to safeguard children who are using it, due to the concern that the app is being used as a platform for child sexual exploitation.

The 'Face Cast' app - although designed for those over 18 - allows children who state they are 13+ to access it and use live video mode, chat to strangers and earn in app coins. The reviews for this app are incredibly concerning and it is clear that the app is being used to exploit children, having significantly affected members of our own school community.

The focus must be on prevention rather than cure, once children have seen these images they then can't be unseen. Please can you ensure that your child's phone is regularly checked and, if these apps are found, we would strongly advise you remove them and report anything of a concern to the police.

The ThinkuKnow website which, amongst other things, offers advice on what to do if you come across inappropriate material involving children. Please visit <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk> for further information.

British Values

Picture News
1st November 2021
UN Rights of a Child

Climate change is something that affects us all. We have the right to give our opinions about how we can help tackle climate change and adults should listen and take us seriously.



British Values

1st – 7th November 2021

Rule of Law

Most countries have rules and laws that have been put in place to tackle climate change. The COP26 climate summit brings world leaders together as although their rules and laws may vary, their aim is the same.



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 is 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.netflix.com/fr-and-nor/2022/oct/the-english-council-urges-parents-to-allow-children-to-watch-squid-game>
<https://www.net.com/en/news/5611> <https://www.mind.com/files/0209400/parents-eg-usa/WakeUpWednesday>



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