



26th November 2021

Dear parents and carers,

The week started with a surprise visitor on a cold Monday morning, a Robin in Young Oaks. Luckily, it managed to find its way out of a window after a little gentle persuasion and shooing! Since then the week has once again whizzed by and as always there has been lots going on. In assembly this week, we have been exploring the learning behaviours we would see when 'being brilliant'. We talked about the 4Rs - **resilience**, **resourcefulness**, **reflectiveness**, **reciprocity** (a word I struggle to say!) Focusing particularly on resilience and what that looks like, when we are learning. We will look at all of the 'Rs' in more detail over the coming weeks and how the children can use these ideas to support themselves and each other in and out of class. We watched a video called Boundin' to illustrate the idea of resilience in a fun way – you can watch it [here](#).



The children have already started to demonstrate resilience, when tackling some end of term assessments and quizzes. These are really important in helping us understand, where we need to focus are teaching and learning over the next term: we are really proud of how everyone has tackled these.

On Wednesday, we were really grateful to welcome some adult visitors to our Y1 Seedlings to help them with their history learning – exploring toys from the past and looking at the similarities and differences to the toys we have today. This was really exciting for our children and really brought history to life for them and so thank you to all those that came.

At the time of writing this newsletter, I am in Birmingham and so I look forward to getting back home and seeing everyone on Monday.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Hick

Christmas

Christmas is quickly approaching! We are working really hard to try and ensure that we can have as many parents/carers to our Christmas events as possible. Against the backdrop of COVID, this is not easy to arrange and many schools have decided not to do anything live. However, we really feel that this is important for our children and our community. There is not an ideal way to make these happen with the restrictions that we have to be mindful of but we have made as many tickets for performances available as possible. This is dependent on the number of children involved and the location. We really hope that you will recognise that this is not an easy task and understand that we have had to limit people that can attend. We understand that some family circumstances may be different and so please do speak to the office in this instance. Details of what is coming up below:



- Friday December 3rd – Christmas decorations afternoon for children and Christmas Tree lights switch on!
- Wednesday 8th – Christmas Jumper day and Christmas Lunch
- Monday 13th - Acorns Nativity. 1.30pm and 5.30pm at school (Tickets via Google form)
- Tuesday 14th - KS1 Nativity. 1.30pm and 5.30pm at school (Tickets via Google form)
- Wednesday 15th - KS2 Carol Concert at St Paul's Church. 6pm
- Thursday 16th - KS2 Carol Concert at St Paul's Church. 9.30am and 2pm

For our KS2 carol concerts we are limited on space in the church and therefore have added an additional performance on Thursday morning. To try and make this fair we have given each child one ticket for each performance (colour coded) that can be used.

All of our performances are dependent on there being no increase in COVID cases and if the situation does change we may have to cancel (we hope that this will not happen!).

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club has started and bookings can be made in the same way as we now do for Chatterbox, through Parent Pay (**last bookings by 3.15pm the day before**). The club runs from 7.45am through to the start of the school day and we are providing the children with a drink and a choice of cereal or toast (or both if they want!). It is being run by Mrs Dicker and Mr Smith and there is a session charge of £3.50 per day.



Currently, numbers are too low to make Breakfast club something that we can continue with. However, we will continue to run this for another half term and then review so please do book in the usual way.

Absences

Please ensure that all absences are reported to the school office at the start of each day's absence. We have a statutory duty to chase all unexplained absences.

Website

Hopefully you will have noticed that our website looks a little different. We are still in the process of updating content and making sure that everything is up to date. We are exploring the use of Twitter which feeds into our website – if you would like to follow us then please do!

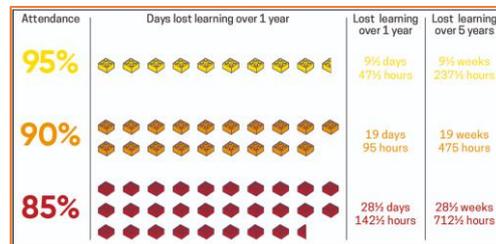
Class Emails

Our class emails are a great way to communicate with the class teacher and we will mainly make use of these in the event of a move to remote learning. Please be aware that class teachers will **not be looking or responding to** any of these emails outside of 8am and 5pm Monday to Friday.

If you have a concern about something then please remember it will always be better to phone or make an appointment to speak to the class teacher. This means that issues can be resolved much quicker.

Attendance

Good and punctual attendance at school is key to doing well at school. Children's life chances are greatly improved, if they have a good education both socially and emotionally. We regularly track attendance and work closely with the Education Welfare Officer to act where necessary.

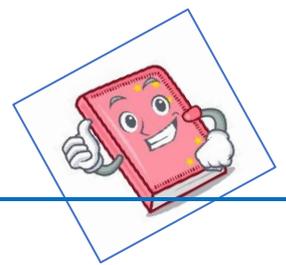


Squid Games

We have been aware of some increased conversation amongst some children about Squid Games. Please see the information poster below which outlines what parents/carers should know about this.

Headlice

We are still having reports of cases of headlice in school. Please check your child's hair regularly and we would ask that children with long hair have their hair tied back.



Dates For Your Diary

1.12.21	Mighty Oaks Maritime Museum Trip
8.12.21	Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day.
13.12.21	Acorn Nativities 1.30pm and 5.30pm
14.12.21	KS1 Nativities 1.30pm and 5.30pm
15.12.21	KS2 Carol Concert 6pm
16.12.21	KS2 Carol Concert 9.30am and 2.30pm
17.12.21	Last day of Autumn Term
4.1.22	First day of Spring term



GOLDEN AWARD WINNERS

ACORNS	Lily & Storm
SEEDLINGS	Dylly & Sophia & All the Parents/Grandparents who came to our History day.
BUDS	Daisy-May & Sonny
YOUNG OAKS	Ethan & Noah
BUR OAKS	Jago & Sasha
RED OAKS	Sebby & Isaac
MIGHTY OAKS	Molly & Will



Online Safety

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed to young audiences by the nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show, Squid Game. The series, rated 15+, 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 in various guises across online platforms, with a heightened risk of children and young people potentially viewing unsuitable content.

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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Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/oct/02/squid-game-children-to-watch-15-games>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56111491> | <https://www.inquirer.com/news/2021/10/02/squid-game-children-to-watch-15-games/>

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