

Friday 5th November 2021

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. I hope that you all had a lovely break with your families. This half term in school is always a busy one with the lead up to Christmas. I always count myself so lucky to work in a primary school at this time of year. As busy as it is, it is such a wonderful and exciting place to be. As you will see from our diary dates, we are hoping to have two Christmas performances this year. One for Class 1 and 2 and the other for Class 3 and 4. To avoid disappointment, we would like to inform you now that plans may need to change if we have an increase in Covid cases in school or in the community. This could be at very short notice. We understand that this may be disappointing to those of you who have booked time off work which is why I want to mention this now.

If the events do go ahead, we will be asking parents who wish to attend to take a Lateral Flow Test in the morning and to please wear a face mask. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

As well as the Christmas events to look forward to, we are excited to welcome parents back into school for other events also. Miss Towner will be in touch about some open phonics sessions in the coming weeks.

Finally, I want to remind all parents that, whilst we do not currently have an open-door policy, we are still all here for a chat if you want one. If you feel that you would like to speak to your child's class teacher then please do. They are all available for brief conversations at the start or end of the day and happy to make appointments with parents if a longer conversation is needed. I am also often on the door in the mornings so please do feel free to speak to me then if you have anything you would like to discuss.

Mrs Hooper, Head of School

Poppy Appeal

Poppies will be on sale every morning next week: 8th to 12th November - see donation price list below

Poppy Appeal

Zip Pull
SUGGESTED DONATION: 50p

Reflector
SUGGESTED DONATION: 50p

Silicon Wristband
SUGGESTED DONATION: £1

Snap Band
SUGGESTED DONATION: £1.50

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Hub Councillor

For those of you who are not aware, we would like to introduce Holly Hocking, our parent hub councillor for Whitemoor. Many of you will know Holly as she has two boys in the school - one in Class 2 and the other in Class 4. If you would like more information about governance across

Aspire, please click this link: <https://www.aspireacademytrust.org/193/governance>

Coats

We please ask that all children bring a warm waterproof coat to school every day. The weather is getting colder and wetter but there are still some children without coats.

We do try to get outside everyday so sensible coats are a must.

Children In Need

We are planning to do a Bake off and cake sale. Watch this space for more details to follow.

****Important: Meals and Early Start Club Using ParentPay ****

We are very pleased to announce bookings went live on Wednesday 3rd November for parents/carers to book cooked school meals.

We politely ask Parents/Carers to book meals before 8am cut off time. Early Start Club MUST be booked one week in advance. All bookable events on ParentPay have an 8am cut off time each day.

Please note: Early Start Club NOT applicable to Nursery pupils.

Our Autumn/Winter menu is on ParentPay for booking and paying (**unless Free School Meals and/or Universal Infant Free School Meals entitled.**)The Autumn/Winter menu can be viewed on our school website.

Here is the link for parent guides on using ParentPay: [Parents - Get Started with ParentPay](#)

Cooked school lunches can be booked either daily or in advance, click link to follow guidance on booking: [How-to-make-meal-or-event-bookings.pdf \(parentpay.com\)](#)

It is important pupils meals are booked by 8am before attending school each day so kitchen staff know meal numbers. If your child is going to be absent from school please unbook their meals on ParentPay before the cut off time to ensure a meal is not cooked.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Class 1

This week in Class 1 we have been looking at cornish tin miners. We started the week making a miners lunch (pasties) and then looked at digging holes to find the coal and tin, The children have worked hard to play together and sharing the toys.

We are asking all parents to bring in some wellies as the weather is changing and this will allow the children to go out when it is wet. Thank you

Class 2

Class 2 have been writing superstars this week, creating fantastic firework poems using onomatopoeia. They have begun work on addition and subtraction in Maths and learnt about Stephenson's "Rocket" in history. We really enjoyed labelling body parts in Science, linking different body shapes with animal movements in PE and have learnt some fun new action songs in music. Great work, everyone!

Class 3

Class 3 have been learning how to convert units of measure and add and subtract two-digit numbers.

In English, we have been looking at how to write a diary from an Anglo-Saxon perspective. In P.S.H.E. we discussed how to stay safe in and out of school.

Finally in science we have been investigating how light travels.

Class 4

Class 4 have come back to school after the half term break, ready to work hard and enjoy being together again.

This week we have looked at Viking warriors and weaponry and have hot-seated on the topic of Viking home life, which proved very interesting!

We have had our first Key Stage assembly in the hall and were all extremely happy to be able to celebrate achievements with friends in both Class 3 and 4.

Important Upcoming Dates

- ♦ 12.11.21: Flu Vaccinations Reception to Year 6 pupils, consent letter emailed.
- ♦ 19.10.21: Children In Need
- ♦ 07.12.21: Christmas Fair TBC
- ♦ 13.12.21: Class 1 & 2 Christmas Performance
- ♦ 14.12.21: Class 3 & 4 Christmas Performance
- ♦ 15.12.21: Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
- ♦ 17.12.21: Last day of term: **Finish at 1:15pm**

Early Start Club

Early Start Club is on offer before school from 8am. The club is run by Mrs O'Mahoney and must be **booked online via Parentpay a week in advance.**

We currently charge a very reasonable £1 for the facility.

If you would like more information about Early Start Club then please speak to Mrs Dowd in the office or book using the guidance via ParentPay: [How-to-make-meal-or-event-bookings.pdf](#) (parentpay.com)

P.E days

We are still asking children to come dressed in their P.E kits on the days they have P.E:

Monday: Class 3

Tuesday: Class 4

Thursday: Class 2

Friday: Class 1

PE kit

The advice now on uniform and PE is that children can return to getting changed in school on PE days. Based on feedback from the parent surveys last term, we have made the decision not to change anything at this time

We have noted though that a lot of children are not wearing the correct PE kit. Please can you ensure that children wear a white polo shirt or blue Whitemoor t-shirt, black jogging bottoms (no logos or writing on them please) and their normal school jumper or a plain black zip up hoodie. Children can wear shorts for PE lessons but with the change in weather and the fact that children will be in this kit all day, we would recommend jogging bottoms to keep them warm.



Head Teacher Awards

Congratulations to the following children for achieving headteacher award this week:



Class 1: Luna

Class 3: Nyla

Class 2: Nancy and Zack

Class 4: Faith

Anti Bullying Week

This year, Anti-bullying week will take place on the week beginning the 15th of November. The theme of this week is One Kind Word. Kindness is something that we promote in school regularly. It features in our school rules and is part of our school ethos. The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of kindness can break down barriers and brighten the lives of people around us. This is the reason One Kind Word has been chosen as the theme of Anti-Bullying week.

To begin the week, we will be asking children and staff to come into school wearing odd socks. This is to celebrate the differences in all of us and the importance of differences. During school, the children will take part in the Princess Trust Anti-bullying assembly as well as taking part in activities in class throughout the week.

Bonfire Night Safety

Did you know that over 500 children are taken to A&E in the 4 weeks surrounding Bonfire Night due to firework related injuries? We have spent time this week teaching all children across the school about how to stay safe whilst still having fun at this time of year. This blog from Mini First Aid is worth a read before you head out with your children this weekend: <https://www.minifirstaid.co.uk/blog/firework-and-sparkler-safety>

*Warning - this article does contain an image of a burn on a young child and may be distressing to some readers.

Aspens
🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷



WE ARE HIRING!

We currently have a number of exciting opportunities for Catering Assistants to join the expanding Aspens team.

If you are interested, please send a copy of your CV to the below email address.

**CONTACT BECCY ROBINSON ON
BECCY.ROBINSON@ASPENS-SERVICES.COM**

**Kitchen assistant required Mon-Fri
11.30am-1.30pm. Term time only.**

**Reminder: please ensure
cooked school meals
are booked via
ParentPay ready for next
week.
Have a lovely weekend.**

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.theguardian.com/uk-and-ireland/2021/oct/27/english-children-warn-parents-not-to-allow-children-to-watch-squid-game>
<https://www.netflix.com/watch/2541> | <https://www.mind.com/news/2021/10/20/parents-should-wake-up-wednesday>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 03.11.2021