

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 21

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we approach the end of this half term, I would like to reflect on the fantastic learning and experiences the children have enjoyed. It has been a term full of hands-on activities, exciting topics and engaging lessons that have brought learning to life for the children. Please take a look at SeeSaw to see these.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parents who attended Parents' Evening. It was a pleasure to discuss the progress and achievements of the children and your support is always greatly appreciated.

I am also thrilled to share that we have made exciting progress in our provision for children with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). We are delighted to have recruited a new SEND teacher who will be working with a number of our pupils across the school. This new role will enhance the support we offer, ensuring that the individual needs of every child are met and that all children have the resources they need to thrive.

Thank you again for your continued support. I look forward to the exciting learning opportunities that lie ahead for all the children.

Wishing you all a restful half term break.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year 5, we have been exploring all things Greek across English, Art, and History. As part of our learning, we have delved into Greek mythology and theatre, bringing history to life through creative projects. One of our highlights has been making Greek masks. The children have enjoyed designing and crafting their own masks, using bold expressions and intricate details to reflect the styles of the time. It has been a fantastic way to combine history and creativity.



NURTURING FUTURES

As we look ahead to the second half of the term, I would like to remind all parents of the importance of regular school attendance. After half term, all parents will receive a letter with your child's current attendance. Regular attendance plays a crucial role in your child's learning and development and we want to work with you to ensure every child is getting the best possible start in life. We understand that circumstances arise that may affect attendance, but regular school attendance plays a vital role in your child's progress and overall success.

If you are experiencing any challenges or barriers that may be affecting your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to reach out to Mrs Carpenter, our Family Support Worker. She is available to offer support and discuss any issues you may be facing.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

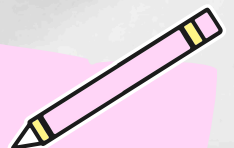


On Safer Internet Day 2025, celebrated on Tuesday, Boorley Park marked the occasion with a range of activities designed to raise awareness about online safety. This year's theme, "Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online," focused on helping children recognise and avoid online scams.

The children took part in an interactive assembly where they learned about different types of scams and how to protect themselves from falling victim to them. This was then followed up in class with a live online lesson and activities teaching the children to protect their personal information.

By engaging in Safer Internet Day activities, Boorley continues to highlight the importance of creating a safe and respectful online environment for the children. If you require any support or assistance with helping children to be safe online at home, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Thank you for supporting non-school uniform day on Wednesday 12th February. We appreciate your generosity and support, a total of £262.30 was raised towards supporting the PTA.



SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

We are writing to bring to your attention an important safeguarding matter. Exposure to age-inappropriate content is a serious concern for our children. Such content can affect the games they play and the behaviours they exhibit at school, potentially leading to inappropriate actions or language. As a school, it is crucial for us to monitor and address this issue promptly. If we become aware that children are discussing or viewing age-inappropriate material, we will inform parents and carers and may make referrals to children's services if necessary.

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our students is our top priority, and we greatly appreciate your cooperation in safeguarding their development.

Thank you for your understanding and support.



KEY DATES



February 2025

Friday 14th February INSET day - School closed to all pupils

Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February Half Term

Monday 24th February – First Day of Term

March 2025

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day

Friday 7th March 2:30pm Year R Afternoon tea for someone special - In the hall

Thursday 13th March Year 3 Trip to Staunton Country Park

Wednesday 19th March 1:30-1:45pm Listen2Me Violin concert for Wren Class – In the hall

Thursday 20th March 2:30-3:15pm Year 1 Parent Workshop–Sewing - Year 1 classrooms

Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day

Wednesday 26th March Year 1 Trip to Marwell Zoo

Thursday 27th March 2:30-3:00pm Year 2 Parent Workshop-Life Cycles – Year 2 classrooms

Monday 31st March Choir Performance (Time TBC)

April 2025

Tuesday 1st April Year 3 & 4 show - 9:30am

Tuesday 1st April 2:45-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop - Food Tasting - In the hall

Wednesday 2nd April Year 3 & 4 show - 2:00pm

Thursday 3rd April PTA Easter Disco (Time TBC)

Friday 4th April – Last Day of Term

Monday 7th April – Monday 17th April Easter Holidays

Tuesday 22nd April – INSET day - School closed to all pupils

Wednesday 23rd April – First Day of Term

Friday 25th April – Year 2 Trip to Sea City Museum

PTA CORNER

A Chocolatey Treat for World Book Day!

On World Book Day, come one, come all,
The PTA's got a treat that's sure to enthrall!
Delicious chocolate bars, wrapped up tight,
But wait—there's more to make your day bright!

A few lucky bars hold a secret so sweet,
Golden tickets with prizes that can't be beat!
Book vouchers, Smyths, and Playshack galore,
Exciting rewards you'll adore!

So grab a bar, don't hesitate,
And taste the fun—before it's too late!
Support our cause, it's chocolate and cheer,
With a golden surprise drawing near!



Will you find a golden ticket?

Chocolate bars £2 each

The PTA has done its best to source a product (Galaxy Smooth Milk 100g) which it believes to be free from nuts. A dairy free option (Nomo Creamy Choc 85g) is also available. Please follow the QR codes for nutritional information.

On sale after school 6th & 7th March
(cash only)

Prizes include:

- 9 x £10 National Book Tokens
- 9 X £10 Smyths Toys Vouchers
- 2 x One entry (any age) admission to Play Shack
- A selection of books
- 10 minutes additional time on the play trail for your class
- Hot chocolate and biscuits with Miss Cunningham
- 15 minutes bonus Golden Time for your class
- An extra library session for your class
- 10 house points for your House team

Sponsored by:



Don't miss our first ever
Boorley Bars chocolate sale
on 6th and 7th March! Will
you find a golden ticket?

Prizes include free
Playshack entry, Smyths
Toys vouchers and much
more!

Also, why not have a clear out over half term and donate any of your unwanted children's costumes to the PTA? All donations welcome! Please bring all donations to the school office by Thursday 28th February.

Have a lovely half term from all of The Boorley Park PTA Team!

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

"Inappropriate" means different things to different people. What's acceptable for one age group, for example, may be unsuitable for a slightly younger audience. Online, young people can chance upon inappropriate content in various ways – from pop-up ads to TikTok videos. The increasingly young age at which children become active in the digital world heightens the risk of them innocently running into something that they find upsetting or frightening. Trusted adults need to be able to help children be aware of what to do if they're exposed to age-inappropriate content.

WHERE IS IT FOUND?

SOCIAL MEDIA

Age-inappropriate content is easily accessible through many social media platforms. TikTok, for instance, is hugely popular with young people but is arguably best known for clips featuring sexualised dancing or profanity. Some social media users also express hate speech or promote eating disorders and self-harm, which could cause lasting damage to a child's emotional and mental health.

GAMING

Gaming is an enjoyable source of entertainment, but many popular titles can expose children to inappropriate material such as violence, horror, gambling or sexually explicit content. Playing games unsuitable for their age risks normalising to children what they are seeing. Some games also include in-game chat, where other (usually older) online players often use language that you probably wouldn't want your child to hear or repeat.

STREAMING

The range of video streaming services available online means that users can find almost anything they want to watch on demand. Children are therefore at risk of viewing TV shows and movies which contain nudity, drug and alcohol abuse, explicit language and extreme violence.

ADVERTS

Online adverts frequently include age-inappropriate content: usually gambling and nudity or partial nudity, although adverts for alcohol or e-cigarettes are also common. Some search engines also feature adverts that are responsive to your search history: so if you've recently looked up a new horror movie, shopped for lingerie or ordered alcohol online, then the ads appearing on screen could reflect this the next time your child borrows your device.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK IT THROUGH

Embarrassment or fear of getting into trouble can make it difficult for children to talk openly about age-inappropriate content they've watched. Remind your child they can always come to you if they're troubled by something they've seen online, without worrying about consequences. Before offering advice, discuss what they saw, how they felt and how they came to find the content in question.

CONNECT, DON'T CORRECT

If your child's been particularly distressed by exposure to content that wasn't suitable for their age, it's important to offer guidance to prevent them from repeating the same mistake – but it's equally vital to help them deal with the emotions that the situation has raised. You could tell them about any similar experiences you might have had at their age, and how you dealt with it.

BLOCK, REPORT, CONTROL

After discussing the problem, you and your child can take action together. This could include blocking any inappropriate sites and reporting any content which violates a platform's rules. To further safeguard your child online, set up parental controls on internet-enabled devices that they use. This will significantly reduce the chances of your child being exposed to age-inappropriate content in future.

GET SPECIALIST HELP

Age-inappropriate content can potentially have a negative impact on a child's mental health, which is sometimes displayed through changes in their behaviour. If the problem becomes more severe, you might consider reaching out to a mental health professional or an expert in this field who can provide you and your child with the proper support.

STAY CALM

Even though it is obviously difficult to stay rational in a situation where your child has been put at risk, it's essential to think before you react. Your child may well have hesitated to open up to you about watching inappropriate content for fear of the consequences, so being calm and supportive will reinforce the notion that it would be easy to talk to you about similar issues in the future.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is a Registered Counsellor with The Health Professions Council of South Africa, and she runs a private practice offering counselling to children, teenagers and families. Her main focus is creating awareness and educating the community on the mental health pressures of today's world, as well as resources and techniques to understand and cope better.



Sources: <https://www.education.gov.au/documents/about/programs/bullystoppers/sminappropriate.pdf> | <https://www.safeschools.gov.au/educators/training-professionals/professional-learning-program-teachers/inappropriate-content-factsheet> | <https://www.revealingreality.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/childrens-media-lives-year-7.pdf>