

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 26

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

It has been wonderful to witness the hard work and progress of all our children this term. Their enthusiasm and dedication are truly inspiring. A special highlight was the fantastic performance of 'Pirates and Mermaids' by our Year 3 and 4 children this week. Their polished and engaging show was a testament to their hard work and the support of our dedicated staff. It was a joy to see them shine on stage!

This week our "Celebration Around the World" menu in the school kitchen has been a fantastic success. The children have had the opportunity to taste dishes from diverse cultures, sparking conversations and appreciation for different traditions. Thank you to Billy, Amy and Jacqui for developing this menu and experience for the children.

We also want to extend our thanks to the PTA for putting on a fantastic Easter disco and organising wonderful events for the children over the Easter holidays. Their efforts are greatly appreciated and contribute so much to our school community. We look forward to the fantastic events that the Summer Term brings and would like to wish all our families a happy and safe Easter break.



INSPIRING MINDS

Year 5 have been busy exploring the universe of Design and Technology by designing and creating their very own aliens! Each pupil let their imagination run wild as they sketched out unique alien characters, then brought them to life using fabric, thread and stuffing.

The children practiced sewing techniques, developing their fine motor skills and patience, before stuffing and finishing off their soft, squishy alien creations. The classroom was full of colour, creativity, and a lot of personality as their otherworldly designs came together.



NURTURING FUTURES


This week, we've embraced both celebration and awareness. We marked Easter, a time of renewal and hope, with various activities across the school and an assembly from Kings Community Church on Thursday.

Alongside these festivities, we also dedicated time to Autism Awareness, fostering understanding and empathy within our community. By acknowledging and celebrating these different aspects of the children's lives, we aim to create an environment where every child feels supported and valued, preparing them for a future where they can thrive and contribute meaningfully to society.




STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Last week, Boorley's first Inclusion and Diversity steering group took place. It was wonderful to meet with members of our community with a range of knowledge, experiences and interests to bring to the table, all with the aim of supporting the growth of our school. We discussed what 'Inclusion and Diversity' means to us and considered our vision for Boorley in this area so that as a group, we can support the strategic direction of the school to ensure all in our community feel safe, seen and heard. Conversation was already brimming with ideas as to how we can continue to work towards our vision and next time, we will be reflecting on and evaluating what is already successful at Boorley. Please do share your thoughts with us and if you would like to become a part of the group itself, please let us know via the office.



Strengthening
Community



A reminder that children return to school on Wednesday 23rd April 2025 due to an INSET Day on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.

The Zones of Regulation Parent/Carer Coffee Morning



**FRIDAY
25TH APRIL
9.00-10.15AM**

**Please sign in as you
enter the hall through
the side entrance.**

***Pre-school siblings
welcome!***

Come along for a cup of tea/
coffee and biscuits and meet
members of our inclusion team
including: Helena Darnley,
SENDCo and Ali Carpenter,
Family Support Worker/ ELSA.

**This session will include a
presentation from the
SENDCo about The Zones of
Regulation - a framework
designed to help individuals,
especially children, develop
self-regulation skills and
emotional control.**



**If you're interested in coming along drop the office an
email at boorleypark@boorleypark.org**

(you are still welcome to come on the day if you haven't emailed)

SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

We have recently become aware that some children have been watching content related to 'Choo Choo Charles' on YouTube. This game features a horror-themed storyline in which players are pursued by a frightening train character, and while versions of it vary in graphics and intensity, some children may find the content unsettling. The accessibility of such material depends on individual settings and parental controls. We encourage parents and guardians to review their child's online access and ensure that appropriate safeguards are in place. Thank you for your support in helping to create a safe and suitable digital environment for all children.

KEY DATES



Monday 7th April – Monday 21st 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

May 2025

Friday 16th May 2:30pm Year 3 Parent Workshop Summer Picnic– On the field/Hall
Monday 19th May 3-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop - Art Gallery - In the Hall
Tuesday 20th May 9:00-9:30am Year 1 Recorder concert - In the Hall
Tuesday 20th May 3:00pm Year R Book Look – Year R classrooms
Thursday 22nd May 3-3:15pm Year 4 Parent Workshop - Clay dragon eye art exhibit - In the hall
Friday 23rd May 2:30-3pm Year 2 Parent Workshop - Art Gallery - classrooms
Friday 23rd May – Last Day of Term

Half Term Holidays - Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2025

June 2025

Monday 2nd June – First Day of Term
Wednesday 4th June Year 1 Trip to Portchester Castle
Thursday 5th June Year 5 Trip to Warner Bros Studio
Wednesday 11th June Year R Sports Day (Time TBC)
Thursday 12th June Sports Day (Time TBC)
Wednesday 18th June Year R Reserve Sports Day (Time TBC)
Thursday 19th June Reserve Sports Day (Time TBC)

Friday 20th June INSET day - School closed to all pupils

Monday 23rd June at 2:30 Year R Parent Workshop – Planting - Year R Classrooms
Thursday 26th June Transition Day
Friday 27th June Year R Mill Farm Visit to Boorley Park School



PTA CORNER

Thank you to everyone who attended the PTA disco or purchased an Easter Trail booklet this week! Post your completed trail booklet into our PTA postbox located in Gather cafe. All entries will be entered into our prize draw!

Get ready for our next new event coming on Friday 25th April.

Fancy a clear out over half term? Why not sell your pre-loved clothes, toys, books and more at our first PTA Tabletop sale!

Rent a table for the small sum of £7 and keep all of the profits you make!

Email: boorleyparkpta@gmail.com or find us on Facebook to register your interest in booking a table.

Get Friday 25th April in your diary as the doors open at 3.15pm!

We hope to see you there!

Have an EGG-citing half term and enjoy the PTA Easter trail!

Thank you
Jade (Co- Chair)

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by 'preschool' (4 and under), 'younger' (ages 5 to 8) and 'older' (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you're like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



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