

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 20

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

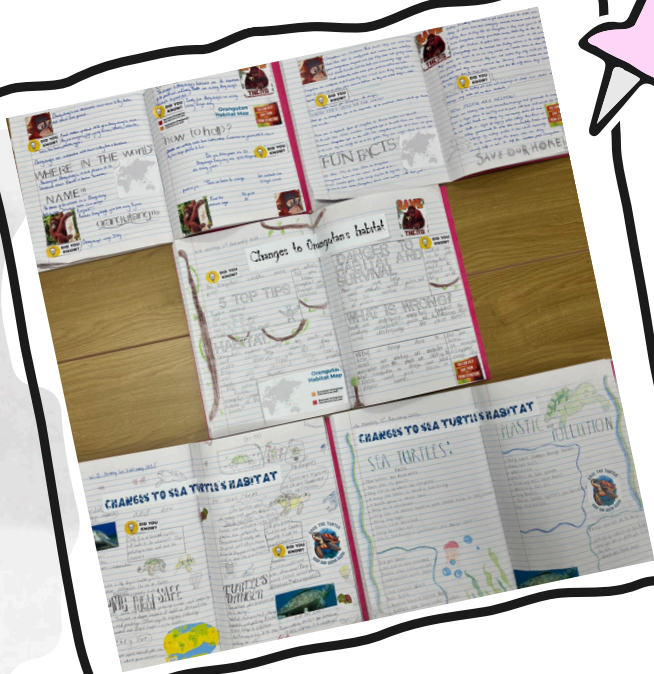
As part of Mental Health Week, we have come together as a school to focus on the importance of mental well-being and to raise awareness of the ways we can all take care of our minds. The children participated in a special virtual assembly workshop where they learned about the significance of mental health and how we can support ourselves and others. This week has provided our pupils with valuable tools and ideas to help them build emotional resilience and nurture their mental health in a positive way.

Throughout the week, the children engaged in a range of activities designed to support their mental health in a fun and interactive way. On Mindful Monday, we focused on mindful yoga, breathing exercises, colouring and journaling to help everyone start the week feeling calm. Talking Tuesday encouraged open conversations within each class, where the children shared what they enjoy, while also promoting the benefits of movement and spending time outdoors. Wellbeing Wednesday saw the children take a sensory walk around the school grounds, helping them stay present and connected with their surroundings. Thursday Thoughts allowed the children to reflect on their personal goals and aspirations, fostering a sense of purpose. Finally, on Friday Feelings, we talked about the importance of recognising and managing different emotions, reinforcing that it's perfectly okay to feel a wide range of emotions. This week has been a wonderful opportunity for all of us to reflect on our mental well-being and to start building lifelong habits for a positive mindset.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year 4, we have been inspiring minds by thinking about global issues, particularly those where animals are impacted by human activity. Linking to our science enquiry, the children researched endangered animals and how their habitats have been negatively impacted by the likes of pollution and deforestation. The children have been so proud of this learning and we have been blown away by their thoughtful responses to this topic.



NURTURING FUTURES

As part of our ongoing commitment to nurturing the futures of the children at Boorley, we recognise that mental health plays a crucial role in a child's overall development. Mental Health Week has provided an excellent opportunity for us to explore ways in which we can support our children in building resilience, emotional awareness and well-being. At home, parents and carers can continue to positively support children's mental health by creating an open environment where they feel safe to talk about their feelings, celebrating their achievements, and encouraging regular physical activity. Simple activities such as having a calming bedtime routine, engaging in mindful moments together, or spending time outdoors can all contribute to a child's emotional well-being.

We encourage our parents to continue the conversations started this week, helping children to recognise their emotions and understand that it's okay to feel a wide range of feelings. Together, we can help our children grow into confident, emotionally balanced individuals who are equipped to face the challenges of the future.

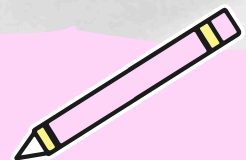


STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Mental Health Week has highlighted the strength of our school community, with acts of kindness being demonstrated by our children throughout the week. From helping a friend, to offering words of encouragement, the children have shown that looking out for one another is at the heart of what we do. This sense of care and support aligns with our school value of strengthening community, as we recognise that mental well-being is nurtured not just individually but collectively. The thoughtful gestures observed this week, whether through sharing, listening, or simply offering a smile, remind us all that small acts of kindness can have a big impact. By fostering this supportive environment, we are not only enhancing the children's emotional resilience, but also building a close-knit community where everyone feels valued and cared for.



WWW.BOORLEYPARKPRIMARY.ORG



SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

Exposure to age-inappropriate content is a significant safeguarding concern for our children. Such content can influence the games they play and the behaviours they exhibit at school, potentially leading to inappropriate actions or language. It's crucial for us, as a school, to monitor and address this issue promptly. If we become aware that children are discussing or viewing age-inappropriate material, we will engage with parents and carers to inform them and may make referrals to children's services when necessary. Ensuring the safety and well-being of our students is our top priority, and we appreciate your cooperation in safeguarding their development.

KEY DATES

February 2025

Monday 10th February 3:30pm-7.00pm Parents' Evening
Wednesday 12th February - Own clothes day (all day)
Wednesday 12th February 3:30pm-5:30pm Parents' Evening
Thursday 13th February Year 4 Trip to Winchester Cathedral

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

Hello!

Why not have a clear out this half term and donate your unwanted children's costumes to the PTA?



All donations are welcome and will be included in our World Book Day costume sale.

Come and grab your child a World Book Day bargain in our preloved costume sale on Friday 28 February at 3.20pm.

Also, don't forget our PTA non-school uniform day on Wednesday 12 February. We kindly request a donation of £1 (or whatever you are able to give) made payable by cash or through Parentpay.

Have a great weekend and, as ever, thank you for your continued support.

The Boorley Park PTA Team

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 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. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what *Squid Game* is all about.

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.

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 metro of publications including *Forbes*, *TechRadar*, *Tes*, *The Metro*, *uSwitch* and *WIRED*.



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Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2021/oct/17/english-council-urges-parents-not-to-allow-children-to-watch-squid-game>
<https://help.netflix.com/en/node/2641> <https://www.mind.com/life/110919420/parentalguides/advisory-violence>