

The Orchards

BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Newsletter

4th February 2022

Bug Club Phonics

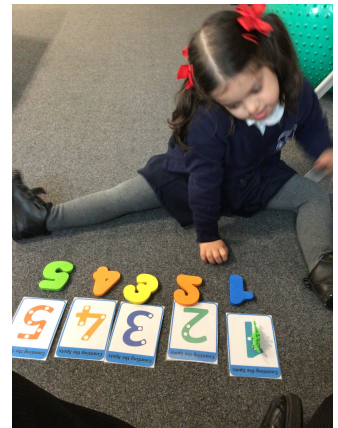
Staff had a twilight training session on Bug Club Phonics and reading this week. This is our new school reading scheme that we will be launching after half term. The staff were blown away by how exciting and engaging the resources and books were and we can't wait to get the children going.

For those children who are in the earliest stages of reading there are some fantastic sound matching, ordering and visual readiness activities.



Energy Price Rise

We are all worried about the cost of living rises that we are currently facing but know that warm and safe houses are especially important for children with disabilities. Scope are running a helpline for families with children who have disabilities - <https://www.scope.org.uk/disability-energy-support/>. There is also support available through Trafford assist. These services can be accessed directly by families or by calling school and asking for family support.



SCOPE = Equality for disabled people



What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

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.

AGE RESTRICTION 15+
Suitable for most 15 years and over.

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 the theme 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.

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 it 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 website The Independent, 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 Mirror, iStock and Wotif.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 27.10.2021

Our family team continue to be available to support families with a variety of different things from housing to DLA to sleep tight referrals.

If you would like to make an appointment or to speak to one of the team please give the school office a call.



Diary Dates

Please see below lots of upcoming dates for your diaries. Some of these will be subject to change due to COVID but we will let you know this as much in advance as we can.

09/02/2022 - Riding the rapids course

10/02/2022 - Orthoptist in school

14/02/2022 - Valentines day

01/03/2022 - Pancake day

03/03/2022 - World Book Day



Class Awards



Brambles 1 - am class - Ali for being happy, content and engaged in class..

pm class - Chrissy great communication and counting in maths

Brambles 2 - Jenson for a brave start back to school and trying healthy foods

Brambles 3 - Che for fantastic engagement and attention.

Meadows 1 - Lochlan for fantastic transitioning around the school, always sitting beautifully in the dinner hall and for amazing work this week in our creative art sessions!

Meadows 2 - Gabby for great communication skills

Meadows 3 - Tyler for managing his emotions very well this week

Riverside 1 - Lara for balancing on a beam in PE!

Riverside 2 - Kayani for using a full sentence when requesting a preferred item.

Woodland 1 - Jake for trying really hard and persisting with his now and next routines.

Woodland 2 - Nathaniel for amazing work in Maths and working hard on his addition skills

Woodland 3 - Khion for making great choices and for being such a kind and caring friend and so helpful to both his peers and staff.

Woodland 4 - Mujtaba for his amazing bravery and perseverance during his first Hydro pool session - he was a natural!

Woodland 5 - Lucas for being a fantastic head chef and cooking a stir fry for his peers on Chinese new year. Your cooking skills are amazing!

Hilltop - Ambika for FANTASTIC communication; using her voice to respond to her friends and holding her head up while chatting!

Head Award - Kabelo for ALWAYS trying his absolute best with everything he does! You are a shining star Kabelo.

Sign of the week

The sign of the week is 'CONFUSED'



Working flat hand (palm in, pointing forward) rests on palm of supporting flat hand (palm up, pointing in) and wavers from side to side.

THE ORCHARDS SCHOOL

Audley Avenue Stretford Manchester M32 9TG

CHAMPIONING REMARKABLE CHILDREN