



# Newsletter 20 – 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025

*Knowledge begins with respect for God (Proverbs 1:7)*

This half-term's value is 'Courage' (Deuteronomy 31:6)

## Age Ratings on TV Programmes

Please remember to check that the TV programmes your child watches are appropriate for their age. We have had a number of children saying that they have been allowed to watch programmes which have an age rating of 15 or more.



One example of this is Squid Game, which has been given a rating of 15 by the BBFC (the authority that rates films released in the cinema) due to the scenes of brutal violence it contains. If in doubt, the BBFC website is a good place to check. I've attached more information to this newsletter.

## School Year 2025-26

The school holiday pattern for the school year 2025-26 is now available on the school website (Parents/Term Dates and School Holidays).

Please consult this when booking holidays and trips abroad to avoid your child missing vital learning time.



## Hawks' Class Assembly

Our Hawks' class will be leading our assembly next Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> February at 8.40am in the school hall. Parents and carers of children in the Hawks' class are very welcome to join us.

## Children's Mental Health Week

This week is Children's Mental Health Week. Every year, the week is organised and run by the children's mental health charity, Place2Be. It is all about helping children to speak up and feel empowered to talk about mental health.

Each year the week has a theme; this year's is 'Know yourself, Grow yourself'. It's all about how children can build and grow their resilience by understanding themselves and recognising their emotions.



Children have been told that if they are finding it difficult to talk about how they are feeling, there is lots of support available. The first thing they should do is speak to an adult that they trust about it. That might be a parent or family member, a family friend or a teacher at school. They have also been told about ringing Childline (0800 1111) who will be able to help them with how they are feeling, or visiting [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk).

Best wishes

Julian Rogers  
Headteacher

## Online Safety

This month's online safety newsletter is now available on our school website on the 'Parents' tab, 'Online Safety'. It contains information about messaging, Snapchat and setting up parental controls.

## This week's Amazing Achievers!

### You've Been Spotted!

Children who have been demonstrating one of our school values:

Diwa Sharif – Robins Blue  
 Yusuf Kayani – Robins Green  
 Unaysah Sohail – Woodpeckers  
 Jan Bawah – Kingfishers  
 Mikail Hussain – Swallows  
 Zakei Ullah – Doves  
 Aizah Hussain – Owls  
 Aisha Hussain – Kestrels  
 Fatima Noor – Hawks  
 Ammar Tahir – Falcons  
 Jinan Bawah – Eagles

### Headteacher's Award

Children chosen for a special achievement:

Aqsa Mahmood – Robins Blue  
 Zainab Hussain – Robins Green  
 Sumayyah Aswat – Woodpeckers  
 M. Arham Atiq – Kingfishers  
 Zara Malik – Swallows  
 Ziyah Ditta – Doves  
 Hussain Ali Shah – Owls  
 Zinedine Zaman – Kestrels  
 Ibrahim Ullah – Hawks  
 Zoya Noor Chaudhry – Falcons  
 Mohammed Asim – Eagles

### Recent Reading Badges

#### Hawks

Ali Khaled – Bronze  
 Yusuf Mahmood – Sapphire  
 Imaan Zohaib – Gold  
 M.Zayn Faiz & Haniya Shaikh – Pearl  
 Yara Salah – Topaz  
 Nazia Farid & Adam Lorgat – Gold Star  
 Ayesha Nadeem – Bronze Star

#### Eagles

Sarrinah Khan & Harris Hussain – Silver Star  
 Maryam Hassan – Sapphire Star

### Authors of the Week

Key Stage 2 children who have excelled in their writing recently:

**Doves** – Zayd Patel

**Owls** – Zulekhan Aswat

**Kestrels** – Sulaiman Kheratkar

**Hawks** – Hamza Abdrabou

**Falcons** – Yahya Saleh

**Eagles** – Bayane El-Mansori

**Mrs Martin's Class of the Week:**  
 Kestrel's

**Mrs Fenton's Star:**  
 Jesse Shabani (Robins)

**Mr Richardson's Lunchtime Awards:**  
 Aarsal Khan (Kingfishers) & Amelia Jahangir (Eagles)

## Last Week's Attendance

	Best attendance	Best punctuality
Infants	<b>Swallows</b>	<b>Robins Blue</b>
Juniors	<b>Hawks</b>	<b>Doves &amp; Falcons</b>

# 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.

## 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.



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