

English Martyrs Catholic Primary School

"where everyone is special"

Newsletter 4: 29th November 2021

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@EMCPrimary

Thank you all for your support and understanding during this tricky time when we have a lot of staff absences. I can't believe how quickly the year is drawing to a close and Christmas is coming ever closer. As we move into the season of Advent the class altars will change to purple and we will bring out our Advent wreaths. We are very busy in school, working towards our Christmas celebrations.



First Holy Communion



We had a wonderful celebration of First Holy Communion on Saturday 20th and 27th November. The children were a credit to the school, they behaved beautifully, read their readings well and really seemed to understand the importance of the occasion. I was so proud of them all.



COP-26

The older children in school have been learning about COP-26 and protecting our environment. They are keen to develop an 'Eco-School' and are full of ideas for how we can all do our little bit to live a greener life. Please take some time to read their magnificent letters and watch this space for how we develop this in future.



Christmas cards

We know children love to send and receive Christmas cards with their friends. Christmas cards can be bought into school from December 1st. We will have 7 different post boxes, one for each class, for pupils to post their cards into. They will then be given out at the end of the school day.

Christmas CD

The children were all ready with their angelic voices to record the Christmas CD on Tuesday, but unfortunately, COVID struck the recording crew and they could not make it. We hope to reschedule this and still produce a CD in time for Christmas. Please bear with us while we make this happen as staff organising this in school have now also been struck with Covid-19

Non-uniform day

It's time to dig out the Christmas jumpers for our Christmas themed non-uniform day on **Thursday 2nd December**. Please bring in £1 as a donation to go towards PTFA funds.



PTFA Outdoor Christmas Event



There will be an outdoor event on **Thursday 2nd December 3:30 – 4:00pm**. The PTFA will be selling hot chocolate, mulled wine, mince pies and cakes after school, at the bottom of the school drive. There will be carols around the new Christmas tree and a light switch on at 4:00. We really hope you can attend and support this event, giving us the chance to get into the Christmas spirit.

To support this event, please could you bring in cakes or mince pies into school on **Wednesday 1st December**.

*Homemade or shop bought, we really don't mind,
whatever you give will be very kind*

Reading books and general administration

We are now low on staff numbers due to Covid-19 and some of the general administrative duties like changing books might be delayed. Please keep a record at home of any books children have read along with their reading sessions so this can be added when the green book has been returned, please record this as soon as possible so we can continue to count books. Thank you for your patience at this time.

Messages on school phone

Please can we remind you to ring everyday if your child is absent from school. When leaving a message, please speak clearly giving your child's name, year group and reason for absence. Thank you for your cooperation.

Increased Covid cases and Government guidelines

Please can we ask that adults coming onto the school playground wear masks to keep everyone safe. The Government said that this will come into force on Tuesday 30th November. We would very much appreciate your cooperation with this as our cases in school are creeping up.

Remote Learning

Usually we do provide extensive remote learning while your child is off school with Covid. However, our staff are extremely ill suffering with Covid-19 symptoms and they are unable to provide work at this time. Please remember your child can access their Bug Club account at home along with School Jam and My Maths. There is a lot of information on the BBC Bitesize website

KS1 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/z3g4d2p>

KS2 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/levels/zbr9wmn>

Phonics on BBC - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcqqtr>

Maths White Rose - <https://whiterosemaths.com/homelearning/>

Writing – Oak Academy <https://www.thenational.academy/>

On this website children can access all subjects and it is particularly good with writing.

Squid Games

It is not appropriate for a child to watch an episode of Squid Games because it is rated 15+ and this is due to the violent content of the programme. There are viral spin offs on Tik Tok, Roblox and YouTube that your child may have assessed. We discourage playing Squid Games in the playground but this game has been based on a traditional playground game called "Grandmother's footsteps" or "What time is it Mr Wolf". If you feel you would like to know more about Squid Games and the potential treats it poses, then please read the information attached to this newsletter.

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 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 tablet the INQUIRY, 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.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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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

Diary Dates

December

- 2nd Outdoor Christmas event and non-school uniform day £1 donation
- 2nd Mass Y6/Y3
- 8th Hatton Trip - Year 1 and Reception
- 9th Mass Y4/Y1 (this is a change to previous newsletters)
- 10th Reception and KS1 Nativity performance **Year 2 parents attend 2pm**
- 13th Pantomime trip to The Belgrade – Beauty and the Beast Year 2 to Year 6
- 14th Reception and KS1 Nativity Performance **Year 1 parents attend 2pm**
- 15th Reception and KS1 Nativity Performance **Reception parents attend 2pm**
- 16th Mass Y5 / whole school mass (this is a change to previous newsletters)
- 17th 9:30am Carol Service/End of term presentations. Children finish at normal time of 3.30pm on this day

January 2022

- 4th Training Day – no children in school
- 5th School begins for the Spring term all children in school

June

- 29th to 1st Beaumanor Hall Residential for Year 5

School Improvement Suggestion

As a school we are always striving to improve, a good school listens to suggestions and opinions which can often lead to school improvement and positive change. If you have any suggestions you wish to share with the school, please fill the slip in below and hand it in to the school office or in the white letterbox in reception. Parents can also visit www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to complete the parent view questionnaire.

Signed: _____ Name: _____
Date: _____



