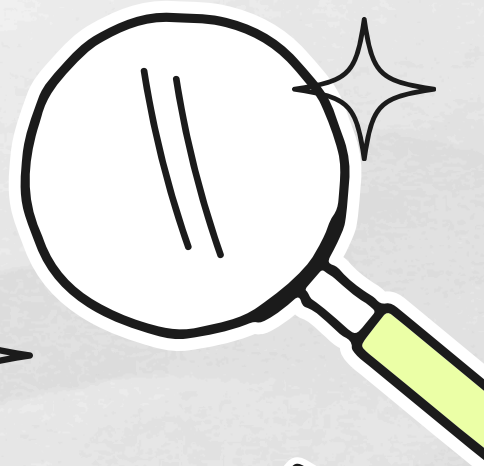


BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 8

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

As we reach the end of the first half term, I would like to reflect on what has been an exciting and productive time for Boorley. It has been wonderful to see our children re-engage with their learning, build new friendships and embrace new opportunities. We are also proactively addressing any arising issues, whether it be adapting our teaching methods and curriculum approaches to better support children or implementing strategies to enhance the children's well-being. Our dedicated staff team is continually working to ensure that each child feels safe, supported and engaged in their education. I am incredibly proud of how our school community works together to ensure positive outcomes for the children. We look forward to the continued growth and thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. We wish you a safe and happy October half term break.

We would also like to send our congratulations to Miss Kinchin who marries her husband-to-be in half term. I am sure you will join us in wishing her a magical wedding day. Miss Kinchin will return to school as Mrs Healy.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year 5, as part of our art unit, we explored the work of Peter Thorpe, an artist known for his dynamic use of colour and form. Throughout the unit, we practiced a variety of techniques, including marbling to create unique patterns, watercolour painting to capture subtle blends, acrylic painting for bold expressions, and sketching to refine our ideas.

After reviewing these skills in detail, we chose our favourites to incorporate into a mixed media final piece. This project allowed us to express our creativity while drawing inspiration from Thorpe's style.



NURTURING FUTURES

As part of our ongoing commitment to nurturing the well-being and positive development of our children, we want to address an important issue that affects many families today: the exposure of children to violence in online games and videos. In an increasingly digital world, where screens are an integral part of daily life, it's crucial to ensure that our children engage with content that promotes healthy values and positive behaviour.

Many popular online games and videos contain elements of violence which can influence children's thoughts and behaviours. Research indicates that prolonged exposure to violent media can lead to de-sensitisation, increased aggression, and fearfulness. As caregivers and educators, we play a vital role in guiding children toward content that encourages empathy, creativity, and cooperation.

Here are some practical steps you can take to help minimise your child's exposure to violence online:

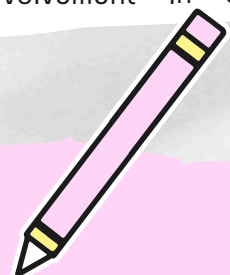
- 1. Set Clear Guidelines:** Establish rules about the types of games and videos your child can access. Encourage age-appropriate, educational and non-violent choices.
 - 2. Encourage Discussion:** Talk openly with your child about what they watch and play. Discuss the differences between real life and game scenarios, helping them understand the consequences of violence.
 - 3. Monitor Online Activity:** Keep computers and gaming consoles in common areas of the home where you can easily supervise what your child is doing online.
 - 4. Promote Positive Alternatives:** Introduce your child to games and shows that focus on problem-solving, teamwork, and kindness. Look for media that celebrates diversity and teaches valuable life skills.
 - 5. Set Time Limits:** Encourage balanced screen time by setting limits on how long your child can engage with screens. Encourage other activities like reading, playing outside, or engaging in creative projects.
 - 6. Be a Role Model:** Demonstrate healthy media consumption habits by sharing your own choices.
- By working together, we can create a safer and more nurturing digital environment for our children. Let's guide them toward the joys of creativity and learning while helping them build a foundation of empathy and kindness. Thank you for your continued support and collaboration in nurturing the futures of the children.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

This week, we strengthened community by welcoming parents/carers into school to share in your child's learning from this half term. There was a fantastic atmosphere as families engaged with children during various activities, showcasing their work and discussing their learning. We were delighted to see parents interacting with children, staff and other families, fostering connections that enriched our school environment. This event not only celebrated the hard work of our children but also reinforced the important partnership between home and school, reminding us all of the impact of community involvement in children's education.

BOORLEYPARK@BOORLEYPARK.ORG



SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

As Halloween approaches, it's important to prioritise safety while ensuring that everyone has a spooktacular time!

Encourage your children to wear bright, reflective costumes to ensure they are visible to cars and others.

Remind them to stick to well-lit roads and to walk in groups or with an adult.

Before munching on those delicious treats, parents / carers should take a look at the sweets to check for any unwrapped or suspicious items. It's also a good idea to remind your children to look both ways before crossing the road and to stay on the pavement whenever possible.

With these simple safety tips in mind, we can ensure a fun and safe Halloween for all!



KEY DATES

November 2024

Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November
Half Term Holiday

Thursday 14th November - Year 5 Trip to Winchester Science Centre

Friday 15th November - Year 3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm
Friday 15th November - PTA Lasar Show

Friday 22nd November - Year 1 Science Parent Workshop
2:30-3.15pm



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

U: Suitable for all ages

PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them

12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

PEER PRESSURE

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

TOO SCARED?

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them; this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

Meet Our Expert

John Inasley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>