

Boorley Park News and Updates



Boorley Park School

20th October 2023

Half Term

It sounds like something we always say but I can't believe how quickly this half term has gone and how much all the children have achieved in such a short space of time. They have worked so hard, settling into their new classes, getting to know their new teachers and rising to the high expectations we set for them.

Last Friday, I shared our Ofsted report with you. We were delighted with the outcome and feel that the overwhelmingly positive report reflects all the hard work of pupils, staff, governors and parents to make Boorley Park a good school. The report will be published on the Ofsted website and will be available to the wider public during half term.

After half term we will be sharing with you logins for some new online systems that we will be using for home learning. We have been reflecting on our current home learning systems and researching what has the best impact for pupil progress. We believe we have found some effective systems, used already by many other schools, to support you with supporting your child at home. These will be ready to go live in the weeks after the half term holiday.

We hope that you all have an enjoyable break, manage to do some fun activities together and also rest and relax.

Mrs Sillars

Spotlight On.... Our Curriculum

Shortly before the summer holidays, we had a day reviewing our curriculum and talking to the children about what they had learnt. Overwhelmingly we found that our concept-driven topic approach was confusing the children—they knew what concept they were learning about (e.g. imagination) but struggled to say what they had actually learnt in science or history for example. We therefore decided that from this half term, we would stop using a topic based approach and instead teach each subject separately. This means we are able to teach the very best and most engaging content for each subject rather than making links between the subjects.



By changing our approach, we are already seeing that the children have a better understanding of what each subject is (e.g. history is learning about things that happened in the past) and better retention of the knowledge they are being taught in each subject. In their discussions with children, Ofsted agreed that this changed approach was supporting pupil progress well.

We have also added an enquiry question as the title of each unit of work (e.g. Why did the Romans invade Britain?) The children then answer this question at the end of the unit—this is helping them to make links between the knowledge they are taught and to draw it all together.

You can find more information about curriculum on our website and we will continue sharing information about the children's learning throughout the year.

Our Assembly Theme This Week

This week was Harvest Festival. We talked about what a harvest is and why we celebrate Harvest Festival. We talked about where our food comes from and how people both locally, nationally and around the world don't always have enough to eat.

Thank you for all of your kind donations for the Harvest Festival—these were collected on Thursday by the Kings Community Church food bank and will be distributed to families in need within the local community.



School Lunches

Don't forget to log into ParentPay to order your child's school lunches. This can be done in advance—bookings are currently live on the ParentPay system all the way up until Christmas.

Please remember to do this even if you do not pay for your child's lunches.

Tours for new Year R 2024 families

Tours of the School for prospective Year R 2024 parents will be held on:

- Tuesday 31st October at 1:30pm
- Friday 3rd November at 9:30am
- Thursday 9th November at 1:30pm
- Tuesday 14th November at 9:30am
- Wednesday 15th November at 11am
- Thursday 23rd November at 9:30am



Tickets need to be booked for the tours by going to <http://bit.ly/boorleyparktours2024> or by following the link on the 'Admissions' page on our website. Please book one ticket per adult attending. Children are welcome to attend and do not need a ticket.

Dates for Your Diaries—2023-2024

Whole School

Autumn Term 2023

- Friday 20th October—Last Day of Autumn 1 Half Term
- Monday 23rd—Friday 27th October—Half Term
- Monday 30th October—First Day of Autumn 2 Half Term
- Wednesday 15th—Monday 20th November – Book Fayre in School
- Friday 17th November—Children in Need (Non-Uniform Day)
- Friday 24th November—INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
- Saturday 25th November—PTA Christmas Event
- Wednesday 6th December—Open Box Pantomime in school for all pupils
- Thursday 14th December—PTA Christmas Neon Disco (Year R and Year 1 4:15pm—5pm; Years 2-4 5:15pm-6:15pm)
- Friday 15th December—Last Day of Autumn 2 Half Term



Spring Term 2024

- Tuesday 4th January—First Day of Spring 1 Half Term
- Friday 26th January—After School—Messy Church in our school hall
- Thursday 1st February—4:30pm—6pm—PTA Film Night for KS1 Pupils
- Monday 5th February—3:30pm—7pm-Parents' Evening
- Thursday 8th February—3:30pm—5:30pm—Parents' Evening
- Friday 9th February—Last Day of Spring 1 Half Term

Year R

- Monday 6th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Year R Christmas Play—Tuesday 12th December—2:15pm
- Year R Christmas Play —Thursday 14th December—9:15am

Year 1

- Tuesday 7th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Wednesday 22nd November—2:45pm—Parent Event—Science Workshop
- KS1 Christmas Play—Tuesday 5th December—9:15am
- KS1 Christmas Play—Thursday 7th December—2:15pm

Upcoming Events and Reminders

Year 2

- Friday 20th October—2:45pm—Parent Event—sharing stories
- Wednesday 8th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Thursday 23rd November—2:45pm—Parent Event—Car Workshop
- KS1 Christmas Play—Tuesday 5th December—9:15am
- KS1 Christmas Play—Thursday 7th December—2:15pm

Year 3

- Thursday 9th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Friday 17th November—Year 3 and 4 trip to Butser Ancient Farm—**note change of date**
- **Deer Class** Wednesday 29th November—2:30pm—Fossil Painting Workshop with parents
- **Mouse Class** Thursday 30th November—2:30pm—Fossil Painting Workshop with parents

Year 4

- Thursday 9th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Friday 17th November—Year 3 and 4 trip to Butser Ancient Farm—**note change of date**
- Tuesday 28th November—2:45pm—Parent Workshop (Science)

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Carers

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

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CENSORED

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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