

Headteacher message

We have come to the end of our first half term of this academic year. It has been a busy half term and I am incredibly proud of the hard work, dedication and resilience that our children and staff have shown. There has been a great deal of progress made due to the children's enthusiasm and zest for learning. Your continued support makes a huge difference and enhances the work we do at the school. I hope you all enjoy a relaxing half term break and I look forward to welcoming you all back ready for another exciting half term.

Attendance



Classes with the highest attendance this week:

EYFS/KS1— Jasmine : 97.3%

KS2— Rose: 97.3%

Whole School Attendance: 93.8%

Our whole school target is 96%

Please ensure that your child returns to school on Tuesday 5th November. Return after this date may be recorded as extended holiday and result in the issuing of a penalty notice.

Parent Worskhop

We welcomed EYFS parents and carers to another workshop led by Miss Pitter. This time the focus was maths. Ideas and resources were shared to support learning of maths at home. Further workshops will be taking place next half term!



Dates for your diary



Friday 25th October

School closed Inset Day

Half term

Monday 28th October—Friday 1st November

Monday 4th November

School closed Inset Day

Tuesday 5th November

School reopens to children

Tuesday 12th November

Flu Vaccination catch up

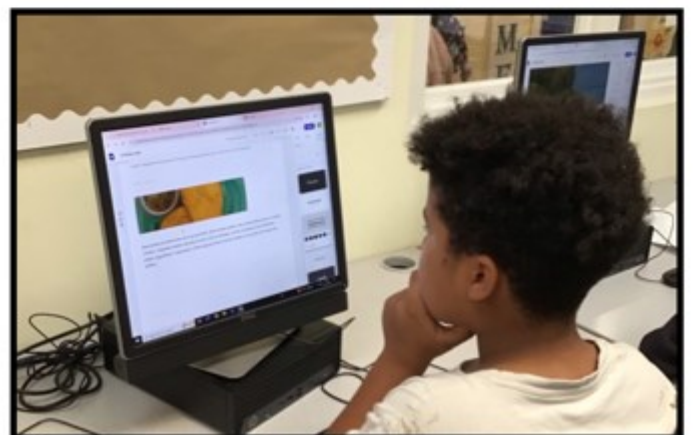
Thursday 14th November

EYFS Parents Workshop

Week commencing Monday 24th November

Parent's Evening

SUNFLOWER CLASS



Sunflower class have been collating all of their Caribbean learning knowledge, by creating websites. They have included their knowledge about physical and human geography. Their websites need a little bit of tweaking but will be available to access in the new half term.

Well done, Sunflower class for working collaboratively. Miss Williams

Online Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

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.

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 Insley 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>

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EYFS



"Smooth and looks like an apple."

This week the children have been reading the story pumpkin Soup. They spoke about friendship and ways to be good friends. The children then used their senses to explore the pumpkin. They used language such as hard, orange, cold and heavy.

The children used their hands to take the seeds out of the pumpkin. They said, "I like cutting," "Urgh it smells!" "I can't wait to taste it!" They asked, "What are we going to do with the seeds?"



They counted the seeds and put them in the bowl to dry out so they can be painted during the spring.

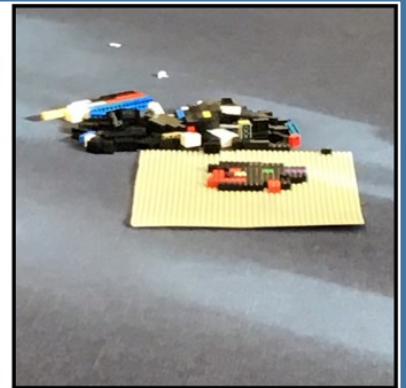


P4C

During P4C (Philosophy for Children) in our Year 5 class, we answer some really, BIG QUESTIONS, which affect us.

During this week's lesson, we all received 3 Lego pieces, which we used for "building upon" each new idea.

Our question was "Is skin colour important?"



In my opinion, in our day-day life and what the world is shaping into, I don't think skin colour is important. Why did I state this point?, Skin colour is never going to determine or make you a better person in life. This is just the way we are created into this world and of us have ~~it~~ inherited this colour from our parent or grand-parent. It's just your look and you being white, black, red or green doesn't make you better than anyone we call still all humans.

I just believe that in this world we live in we are all equal, and we are one altogether and we should stand in unity.

We were able to take some time to reflect on what our initial thoughts may have been. Then, we wrote our opinions down and shared with the class again.

Here are a couple of examples of how we have answered the question: "Is skin colour important?"

In my opinion, I think that skin colour is not important because every one is born with white, black or mixed race skin colour and if anyone makes you feel bad about you because of your skin colour, it can't change your skin colour and it doesn't change who you are. Also skin colour doesn't matter because it matters what's in the inside like your personality or who you really are. We are all human and skin colour can't change if you're smart or can't change your height or anything.