NEWSLETTER

10th February 2023

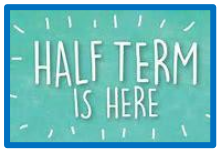
My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15: 12-13)

OUR CHRISTIAN THEME THIS HALF-TERM IS

COURAGE

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

Wow we have come to the end of the first half of Spring Term already!



We do hope that you all have a very enjoyable Half Term Break. On Monday 20th February 2023 the school will be closed for a non-pupil day therefore the children return to school on Tuesday 21st February 2023.

Today, after school, the PTFA are holding their annual Valentine Disco. We very much hope that all the children attending have a fabulous time!

A massive thank you to our PTFA members and all their helpers for their hard work to enable this event to happen. Any profits raised by the PTFA are used for the benefit of all our children.

Today in our Celebration Assembly we said Goodbye to Mrs Argyle.

We would like to thank her for all her hard work and patience whilst she has been at Latchingdon C of E Primary School. She will certainly by missed – especially by all of Red Squirrels!

We would also like to wish her every happiness and success for the future.

PARENT FORUM

Thank you to Mrs Perry, Mrs Harkett, and Mrs Dennis who attended a Parent Forum meeting this morning with Mrs Peacock and Mrs Bishop.

Today's meeting was to discuss ideas on how monies raised by our PTFA could be spent to enrich and benefit all our children.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, then please speak to one of our Parent Forum members or, if you prefer, directly to the School Office.

We are currently experiencing children bringing in and chewing gum during breaks.

We would very much appreciate your assistance in ensuring that your child/ren **do not** bring chewing gum into school.

Thank you for your co-operation.

We are very lucky at Latchingdon CofE Primary School to have some fabulous volunteers who come into school to help out.

We currently have Mrs Gent and Mrs Minster who come into listen to the children read.

We also have the very talented Miss Furley who comes in every Tuesday to take all the children for group singing lessons as well as running an afterschool Choir Club.

This week we have been joined by Mrs Carr who is very kindly volunteering 2 mornings per week to help out in the classes.

As a school we are very grateful and would like to thank them for volunteering their time to us!

6 of the Best

Well done to Abigail from Hedgehogs class who has read all the books in the '6 of the Best' list for Year 2 children.

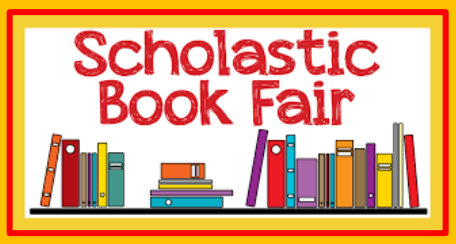
She has read **Traction Man** by Mini Grey, **Martin's Mice** by Dick King Smith, **Flat Stanley** by Jeff Brown, **The Rainbow Bear** by Michael Morpurgo, **The Planet full of Plastic** by Neal Layton & **George's Marvellous Medicine** by Roald Dahl.

Today in our Celebration Assembly she received a Certificate – Well done Abigail we hope you enjoyed reading these books!

Deputy Headteacher Stickers

This week Mrs Peacock has given stickers to the following children:

Ralph - Otters
Elijah - Otters
Skyla-Rose - Badgers
Anais - Badgers
Erin - Otters



The Scholastic Book Fair will be visiting us between 17th March and 22nd March 2023.

We will be holding a Book Fair on:

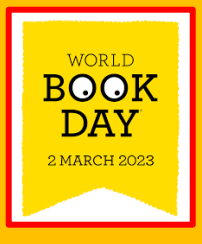
Monday 20th March 2023 at 3.10pm to 3.45pm

and

Tuesday 21st March 2023 at 3.10pm to 3.45pm

The children will, also, have opportunity to browse the books during school time before these dates and details of how to access on-line will be issued nearer the time.

Watch out in future Newsletters for a competition, open to all pupils, with prizes of Book Tokens to spend at the Book Fair!

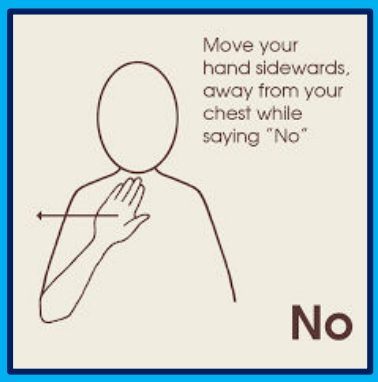


We will also have £1 World Book Day Tokens which can be used towards any purchases made at the Book Fair.

Who will be the next Maths Champions – could it be you?

Makaton

Sign of the Week – No



Letters sent home / info on website for w/e 10th February 2023

The following letters have been sent out and/or put on the school website (under Key Information/ Information Hub/ Letters Home).

- LETTER TO PARENTS YEARS 1-6: Gymnastics Club 22/2/23 to 29/3/23 (dated 8/2/23)

Helping Hands Box 2023

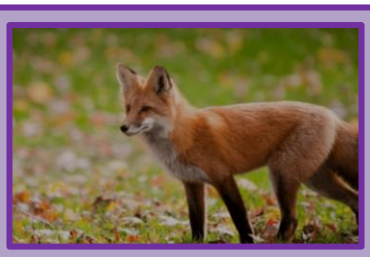
Life during 2023 is going to continue being expensive, with prices still rising!

We all have days where we need some extra help and so we have put a box of food etc in the foyer, if you can donate the odd item great, if you need something please come and take it.

We all need to continue to look out for each other.

Thank you to everyone that has added items to our Helping Hands Box.

The box is a helping hand to all our school community and is totally anonymous - please feel free to come in and take any items that you require.



FOXES

Following on from last week's lesson with Eliza from Christine Marks School of Performing Arts Foxes class have been creating their own dance routines.

Well done Foxes – lets hope you used some of these moves at today's PTFA Disco!

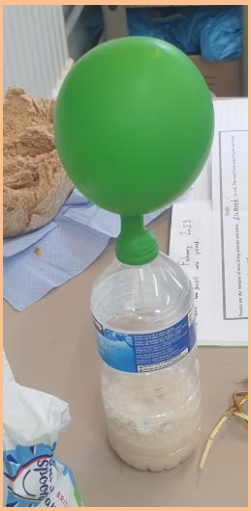
BADGERS

Badgers class are currently learning about Stone Age to Iron Age.

They have been making comparisons between Stone Age, Iron Age and current day and looking at the progression of bread making.

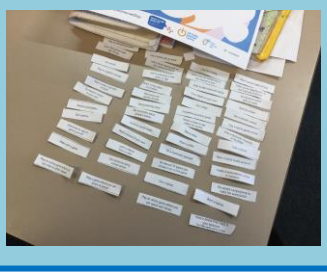
They have learnt about grinding flour and this week they have been making bread using a bread making machine!

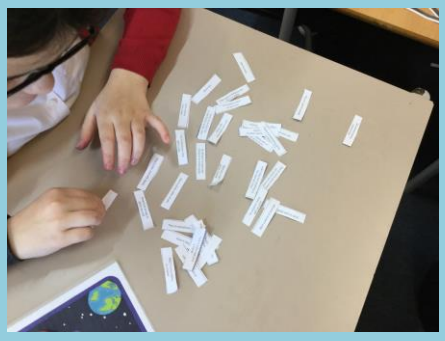
After one unsuccessful attempt they produced some lovely bread which they all tried – it tasted great – well done Badgers!

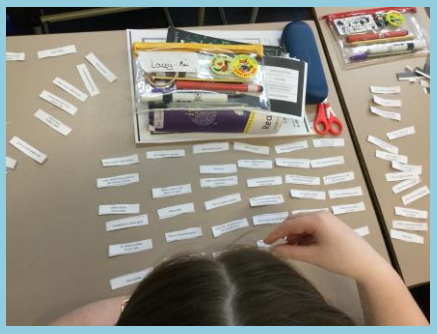


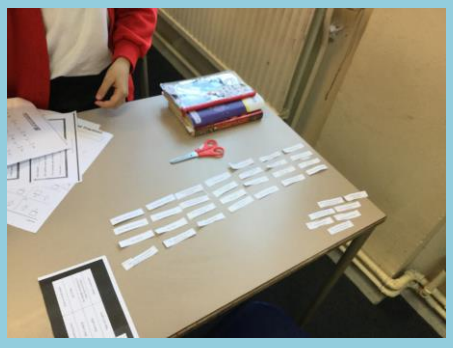
OTTERS

During Safer Internet Day the children in Otters class took part in a game to help them understand the importance of on-line safety – good work Otters!





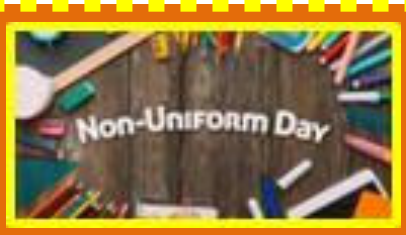




RED SQUIRRELS

On Tuesday 7th February 2023 it was Safer Internet Day.

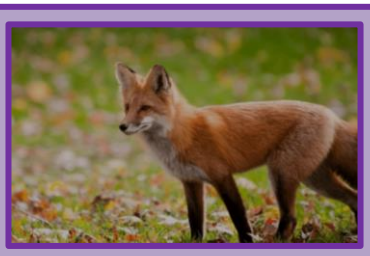
Well done Red Squirrels for learning all about how to stay safe on-line!



Non-Uniform Day

As it was the last day of half term we thought it would be a lovely idea to allow the children to come into school in non-uniform.

The children always love the opportunity to dress-up!



FOXES

As part of the Spring Term theme of Extreme Earth during their Design Technology lesson Foxes class have started making volcanoes!

BADGERS

Like in the Stone Age Badgers class have been learning how to use a flint to make a spark!

HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehogs class have been using salt dough to make their own dinosaur fossils – what fantastic work!

SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS

STREET DANCE CLASSES

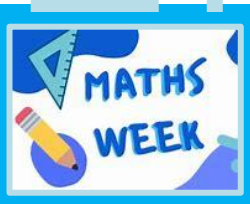
Christina Marks School of Performing Arts are offering our students the opportunity to attend an afterschool Street Dance Class.

The club will commence on Monday 27th February 2023 for 5 weeks from 3.10pm to 4.00pm.

The classes are open to all children in Years 1 to 6.

The cost will be £27.50 for the 5 weeks (non-refundable)

Please contact christinamarksschoolofperformingarts@hotmail.com or 07525850232 to book a place.



27th February to 3rd March 2023

During the week 27th February to 3rd March 2023 we will be enjoying a 'Creative Maths Week', where the children will be learning about a range of mathematical concepts.

Parents/carers are invited into school at 2pm on Friday 3rd March to see the wonderful work that the children will be completing during the week – we hope you can join us.

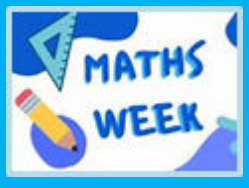
Maths Dress-Up Day

As part of our upcoming maths week, children are invited to come into school in 'maths dress-up' on Friday 3rd March 2023.

Ideas could include dressing as a number, a maths concept, such as 'odd/even', a mathematical tool such as a calculator or a clock, a character from a number rhyme or any other creative idea that they may have.

There will be a prize for the best dressed child in KS1 and KS2.

We cannot wait to see all the imaginative costumes!



Message from Essex County Council

Show some love to your library this Love Your Library Day

Love Your Library Day will be making its 2023 debut on Saturday 18 February, with a focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing.

All our libraries across Essex will have lots to offer from colouring and creating to crafts and storytimes. We'd love for as many of you to join us as possible as we celebrate together as a community.

If you aren't able to make it into one of our libraries, don't worry, you can still be involved! We have booklists for adults, young adults and children, which you can find here.

We'll also be uploading a special Mental Health and Wellbeing focused Rhymetime to our YouTube channel, so make sure you're subscribed to be the first to see it.

For all the latest on Love Your Library Day, make sure you're following @EssexLibraries on Instagram and Twitter, and search 'Essex Library Service' to find us on Facebook.

Attendance – w/e 10/2/23

The winning class for the week ending **10th February 2023** is Badgers class.

Year	Attendance %
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	94.95%
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	93.65%
3 / 4 (Foxes)	95.79%
4 / 5 (Otters)	96.03%
5 / 6 (Badgers)	95.24%

Each Friday we hold a raffle for all pupils in school, on time all week. This week the raffle was drawn and the winning pupil was Dylan from Hedgehogs class.

If your child is not in school, please remember to phone each morning before 9 am and leave a message. **We must have a reason to enable us to authorise the absence.**

If you receive a text message, please contact the school to explain the absence. If we do not hear from you telephone calls will be made.

Safeguarding requires the school to know why a child is not in school. Every child legally must attend school and parents/carers have a duty to notify the school.

Each week the Friday Assembly is led by members of Badgers Class. This week's leader was Lillie.

Essex County Council

HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

If you are need of any support with your household bills then please take a look at the following:

Essential Living Fund Money, debt and benefits: Household Support Fund - Essex County Council

Stars of the Week – w/e 10/2/23

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Gracie B & Mitsie
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Rory & Elsie-Mae
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Freddie & Reuben
4 / 5 (Otters)	Lucas & Sadie
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Rylee & Lewis

Star Writers – w/e 10/2/23

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Dolcie
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Ruby
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Katara & Oliver B
4 / 5 (Otters)	Ted
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Ruby

Good Manners – w/e 10/2/23

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Sonny & Gabriel
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Roman & Bonnie-Lee
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Jason & Matthew
4 / 5 (Otters)	Holly & Eddie
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Destiny & Scarlett-Rose

Lunch Time Stars – w/e 10/2/23

Isaac – Otters
Catalina - Otters

Reading Challenge – w/e 10/2/23

Year	% children reading at home regularly
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	40%
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	70%
3 / 4 (Foxes)	68%
4 / 5 (Otters)	57%
5 / 6 (Badgers)	44%

Well done to the following children who have all earned Times Tables Rock Stars Certificates.

HEDGEHOGS

(Year 2)

Emily

Sophie A

Abigail

FOXES

Humza

Jason

Esme

OTTERS

Holly

Elijah

Ian

BADGERS

Girush

Caitlin

Skylar

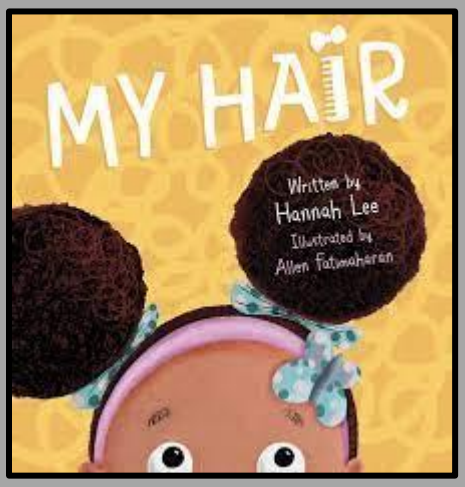
Essex County Council

To help families celebrate the Essex Year of Reading every month Essex County Council will be sharing a fabulous story video for families to share along with some activity ideas.

This month's story is from BookTrust and is My Hair written by Hannah Lee and illustrated by Allen Fatimaharan.

Watch the video here

You can borrow more books about hair from your local library.



Please see our website for full details of Dates to remember. Details of any events will be sent out nearer the time.

Academic Year 2022-2023

February 2023

13th Feb to 17th Feb – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
20th Feb – NON-PUPIL DAY
22nd Feb – 1.15pm to 2.45pm – Dengie Cross Country
23rd Feb – 3.10pm – PTFA Meeting
27th Feb to 3rd March – MATHS WEEK

March 2023

1st March – NEU Strike Day
3rd March – Maths Theme Dress-up Day
3rd March – 2pm – Parent Open Afternoon
15th March – NEU Strike Day
16th March – NEU Strike Day
20th March – 3.10pm to 3.45pm -Scholastic Book Fair
21st March – 3.10pm to 3.45pm – Scholastic Book Fair
28th March – 9am – Road Safety – Year 5 & Reception
31st March – REPORTS ISSUED

April 2023

3rd April to 14th April – EASTER HOLIDAY

May 2023

1st May – BANK HOLIDAY
8th May – BANK HOLIDAY (KING'S CORONATION)
9th May to 12th May – SATs Week
22nd May to 26th May – CAREERS & AMBITIONS WEEK
22nd May – Year 6 & Class Photographs
26TH May – 2pm – Parent Open Afternoon
29th May to 2nd June – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

June 2023

12th June to 16th June – Mersea Outdoor Residential Trip
22nd June – 3.30pm to 6pm – Parents Evening
23rd June – Year 2 Mini Games – Wickford Town FC
28th June – Pilgrimage Day
29th June – Ormiston Rivers Academy Year 6 Transition Day
29th June – 3.30pm to 6pm – Parents Evening

July 2023

5th July – Latchingdon Sports Day
6th July – Dengie Sports Day
13th July – 7 pm - Year 6 Production
21st July – NON-PUPIL DAY
22nd July to 1st Sept – SUMMER HOLIDAY

Academic Year 2023-2024

September 2023

4th Sept – NON-PUPIL DAY
5TH Sept – First day Academic Year 2023-2024

October 2023

6th Oct – NON-PUPIL DAY
23RD to 27th Oct – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

December 2023

21st Dec to 3rd Jan 24 - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

February 2024

19th to 23rd Feb – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
26TH Feb – NON-PUPIL DAY

March 2024

29th March to 12th April – EASTER HOLIDAY

May 2024

6TH May – BANK HOLIDAY
27th May to 31st May – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

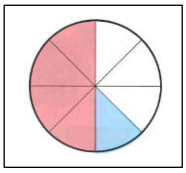
July 2024

22nd & 23rd July – NON-PUPIL DAY
24th July – SUMMER HOLIDAY

Maths Champion

Maths Problem of the Week

Answers Problem dated 3rd February 2023

KS1 Answer =  -WINNER – Enrico – Red Squirrels

KS2 Answer = She cycled 51km in the morning – WINNER – Amelia - Badgers

Well done to you both!

KS1 (EYFS – Year 2)

The Problem

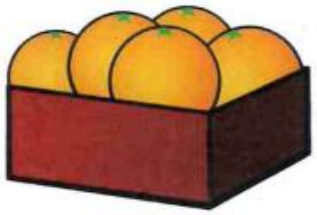
There are 12 people on a bus.
How many people are on the bus now?

- At the first stop 3 people get off the bus.
- At the second stop 5 people get off the bus and 8 people get on.

KS2 (Year 3 – Year 6)

The Problem

A box of 5 oranges costs £1.80.
How much do 80 oranges cost?
Show your method.



If you would like to solve your KS problem, please put your completed answer, labelled with your name and class, in the **'Maths Competition' box in the main School Office Foyer by 8.40am on Friday 24th February 2023.**
A 'Maths Champion' of the week, will be announced in Celebration Assembly each week. Good luck!

SW SWIMMING
lessons for life

HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES AT
SOUTHMINSTER
SWIMMING POOL

FUN SWIMMING

Monday to Friday

Starting 13th to 17th of February 2023

Session 1 - 13:30 to 14:30
Session 2 - 14:30 to 15:30

£4.50 per swimmer 8 yrs and over
£3.50 per swimmer under 8yrs*

* Under 8 year olds need to be accompanied by an adult over 18 years.
Maximum 2 under 8's to 1 adult.

Parking is by King George V playing field, Station Road, Southminster CM0 7EW

For more details contact:
07811 705084 or southminsterpool@swswimming.com
www.swswimming.com

NELFT NHS
NHS Foundation Trust
Best care by the best people

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT TEAM

These weekly virtual parenting groups will commence the 21st of February 2023 for Worry Management and 23rd February 2023 for Behaviour Management for six weeks. These groups will offer specific support for parents with children experiencing challenging behaviour and for parents with a child who experiences worry.

If you feel either of these would be of interest then please speak to the school office to arrange a referral.

MHST Parent- Led Worry Management Group

Starting Tuesday 21st of February 2023 at 10-11am Online for 6 weeks

What is it?
This virtual group is run by the MHST. It aims to educate parents & carers around their child's worries and teaches skills and techniques to support the parents & carers help the child.

Where: Online- Microsoft Teams
Length: Each session will be 1 hour long The group lasts 6 weeks. Parents & carers attend all 6 weekly sessions.
When: 6 consecutive Fridays at 10.00am. Starting Tuesday 21st of February 2023. Please ensure you can attend all 6 sessions.

Who can attend?
This is a targeted group, meaning it's for parents & carers with a child who experiences worries and the parents/ carer would like to learn more about supporting their child with those worries.

How can I attend?
To attend this group, please seek a referral via the school. Once the MHST has received this referral you will be invited to a virtual initial assessment where we will discuss your child's worries in more detail. From here we will invite you to the group or signpost you to more appropriate support if we feel the group is not the best service for you & your child.

NELFT NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

MHST Parent- Led Challenging behavior Group

Starting Tuesday 23rd of February 2023 at 10-11am Online for 6 weeks

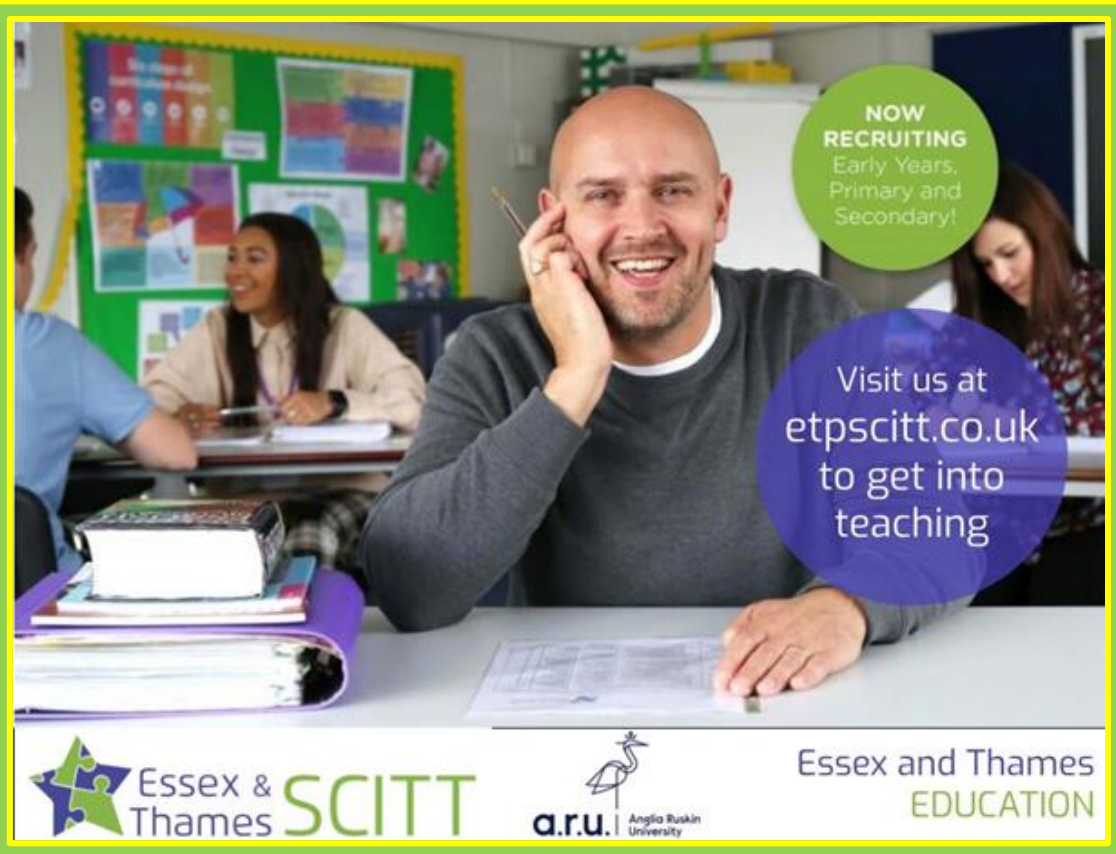
What is it?
This virtual group is run by the MHST. It aims to educate parents & carers around their child's behavior and teaches skills and techniques to increase positive behaviors.

Where: Online- Microsoft Teams
Length: Each session will be 1 hour long The group lasts 6 weeks. Parents & carers attend all 6 weekly sessions.
When: 6 consecutive Fridays at 10.00am. Starting Thursday 23rd of February 2023. Please ensure you can attend all 6 sessions.

Who can attend?
This is a targeted group, meaning it's for parents & carers with a child who presents with challenging behavior and the parents/carers would like to learn more about supporting their child with those behaviors.

How can I attend?
To attend this group, please seek a referral via the school. Once the MHST has received this referral you will be invited to a virtual initial assessment where we will discuss your child's behaviors in more detail. From here we will invite you to the group or signpost you to more appropriate support if we feel the group is not the best service for you & your child.

NELFT NHS
NHS Foundation Trust



Do you want to be a teacher?

Training with us could not be easier! We are currently training around 100 teachers a year in our dynamic partnership of schools.

Our school is proud to work in partnership with Essex and Thames SCITT, one of the country's leading providers of initial teacher training. Providing teacher training for almost 25 years and working in partnership with Anglia Ruskin University, the courses offer excellent value for money and an opportunity to train with some of the very best teachers in the area.

Visit www.etpscitt.co.uk for details of all our courses. We'd love to welcome you to our partnership to begin your new career. Just get in touch with us to discuss your options. Email us at saffron@ete.org.uk or ring us on 01268 988580. Or apply here.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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 issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

10 WAYS GAMING CAN SUPPORT POSITIVE OUTCOMES

in Children and Young People

Gaming, of course, is phenomenally popular with children and young people. In 2021, for instance, more than three-quarters of teenagers played online games, with almost 70% of primary school aged children doing likewise. If enjoyed in moderation and supported by a healthy routine (staying hydrated, good sleep habits, taking breaks and so on), gaming can actually benefit a person's mental health. As long as we stay alert for potential risks, games can be much more than what we see on the surface: they can be a way to socialise, an avenue for creativity and a route to solving problems. Check out our top ten tips on how gaming online can sometimes work to your child's advantage ...

THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

Gaming is so popular because at the base level, it's enjoyable for the player. Succeeding in any game or contest releases dopamine in our brains: the 'feel-good' chemical that makes us happy or excited. Those emotions can be incredibly beneficial for mental wellbeing – as long as young players don't become reliant solely on playing video games to make themselves feel happy.

ACHIEVEMENT & PRIDE

A sense of achievement is incredibly important to all of us and can be particularly valuable to someone who's feeling unhappy or distracted. It's easy to get caught up in our thoughts, which can sometimes take a negative turn. So even achieving something small – like finishing a difficult level in a Mario or Sonic game – can feel like conquering Everest and give us renewed optimism.

SOCIAL SALVATION

Gaming can be an incredibly social activity. When playing online with trusted friends, what usually start out as chats specifically about the game can often develop into conversations about school and life. Even if they've had a bad day, simply knowing that a friend is there, on the other end of their headset, can provide young gamers with a sense of security and some welcome laughs.

TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

In many online games, teamwork is crucial to winning. Often, people who are struggling with their mood tend to feel like they fail or let others down a lot. Working as a team with trusted friends or family in a game can reinforce a young person's self-importance: striving for a common goal and succeeding together can remind them that they're an integral part of something bigger.

REAL-WORLD RELATABILITY

Because many major releases are shooting or action games, when some people hear "gaming" they think of guns, explosions and violence. What's less recognised is how many titles explore relatable issues such as overcoming anxiety or coping with grief. These games allow young players to understand their emotions more deeply and realise they aren't alone in how they might be feeling.

A DIGITAL COMFORT

Video games can provide a reliable constant. No matter what happens in school or between friends, playing a favourite game is something that youngsters can look forward to all day and can help them de-stress. Let's not forget, games are fun – and, when approached safely, an interactive activity in which the player has a degree of control over what happens next can feel immensely reassuring.

PROBLEM-SOLVING PRACTICE

It can be difficult for young people to handle the feeling that nothing is going right or that their problems are insurmountable. Gaming can help alleviate that by presenting challenges to be overcome, either solo or alongside trusted friends. Defeating a powerful monster or solving a tricky puzzle reminds young gamers that even the most daunting obstacles can be faced and conquered.

THE GREAT ESCAPISM

A certain amount of escapism is fabulous – allowing us to temporarily park some stress while exploring a world other than our own. For children, gaming can be like reading a novel or watching a film: a moment in the day when the fantastical becomes real, firing their imagination and immersing them in a story. Who wouldn't want to venture to the stars? Or battle monsters to save the planet?

TRIED & TRUSTED

There can be reassurance in repeating tasks. It often promotes a controlled outcome, which is ideal when life feels overwhelming or out of control. Replicating an experience, such as playing the same level of a game over and over to perfection, gives the player a sense of control and familiarity: it's like listening to a favourite song that always makes you feel happy or confident.

ENCOURAGING CREATIVITY

Inventiveness is a huge part of many modern games: in Minecraft and Roblox, for example, players regularly dream up amazing structures or new ways to play. Using our imagination to create something (whether digitally or physically) is massively beneficial for the brain; that's why Lego is sometimes used in the medical sector as both a stress reliever and a brain injury rehabilitation tool.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer who specialises in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. Author of 15 guidebooks for children on games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft, his work has also been published in the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247.

Source: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0024/234609/childrens-media-use-and-attitudes-report-2022.pdf

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