NEWSLETTER

10th May 2024

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

SERVICE

We hope all our families had a wonderful extra-long Bank Holiday weekend!

Although it has been a short week, life at Latchingdon C of E Primary is as busy as ever!

This week **Hedgehogs** class have had the first of two extra Forest School lessons. Next week they will have one more lesson before it is the turn of Badgers class. A letter regarding Forest School will be sent out to Badgers class next week.

Last week we issued a letter to each of our families asking for contact & email details to be updated in order that we hold all the correct information to launch our new Parent Portal & App. If you have not, as yet, returned the form then please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

Next Monday **13th May 2024** our PTFA are holding a **meeting at 3.10pm**. All are welcome to attend.

Also, next week is a very important week for our Year 6 children as they will be sitting their SAT's exams. We would like to wish them all the very best we know they will all try their hardest & we are very proud of all their efforts to prepare for their assessments.

Thank you to Miss Spicer, Mrs Berry & Mrs Ashforth for all their hard work preparing them for the week not only with extra lessons & encouragement but also building their resilience & belief in themselves.

To ensure all our Year 6 children are relaxed & ready for their day we have invited them into school every morning next week at 8am for breakfast. We will provide them with toast, cereal & squash in the school hall!

Maldon District is being transformed into a giant playground and you and your family are invited to play! Earn points, get active and win prizes and awards for Latchingdon C of E Primary School in this free, fun, walking, cycling or wheeling game.

The game runs from 15th May until 26th June 2024. Visit the website https://beatthestreet.me/maldondistrict/ to find out more.

A letter enclosing a map and a family game pack has been sent out today.

In order to encourage as many of our children as possible to participate we would be delighted if you could forward a picture along with the number of the Beat Box visited to admin.latchingdon@dcvst.org. We will publish these pictures in our weekly newsletter as well as a display board in the school hall to see how many of the 75 Beat Boxes our pupils visit!

Throughout the game, you can also win Lucky Spot prizes, including vouchers and Beat the Street goodies as part of different weekly competitions – if you are lucky enough to earn any of these prizes then please let us know.

We look forward to receiving lots of lovely pictures of our children exploring the Maldon District – good luck!

House Teams

All the children and staff have been allocated to one of the new House Teams:

Yellow, Orange, Red, Blue and Green

The children will be awarded team points in class and each week the winning team will be awarded a teddy displaying the winning colours in Celebration Assembly.

Winning House Team

Week 7th May 2024 to 10th May 2024

BLUE

Hot Chocolate Friday with Mrs Hall

The following children have been on the gold star and randomly chosen to have Hot Chocolate with Mrs Hall.

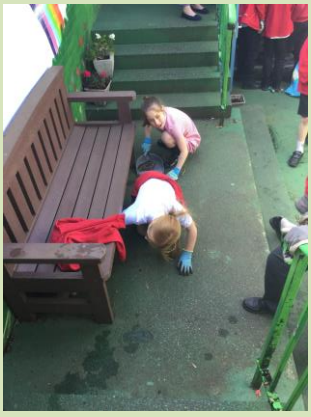
Yasmin – Red Squirrels
Chloe – Hedgehogs
Esme F – Foxes
Reuben – Otters
Girush - Badgers

Congratulations to you all!

Gardening Club

The members of Gardening Club have been very busy keeping our Wellbeing Area clean & tidy, planting & working on the Wildlife Area.

They really enjoy being outside with nature!



FOREST SCHOOL

This week & next week Wednesday 15th May 2024 the children in Hedgehogs class are having 2 extra Forest School sessions.

They thoroughly enjoyed their time this week!

Helping Hands Box

We are delighted that so many of our parents/carers are using our Helping Hands Box which is located in the school office foyer.

If you have any items in your cupboards which are in-date & you are able to spare then we would be very grateful for any top ups – please just add them to the box.

We all need to look out for each other & we really appreciate any contributions received.

Thank you for your continued support.

6 of the Best

Well done to James from Hedgehogs class who has read all the books in the '6 of the Best' list for Year 1 children.

He has read **Ruby's Worry** by Tom Percival, **Meerkat Mail** by Emily Gravett, **Mr Wolf's Pancakes** by Jan Fearnley, **Baby Brains** by Simon James, **The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch** by Rhonda & David Armitage & **Gorilla** by Anthony Browne.

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

#LatchingdonLovingtoLearn

6 of the Best

Makaton

Sign of the Week – Baby

Book Swap

We have a rack of books in the school office foyer for our parents/carers to take a book to read and, if able, to replace with a book you have already read and no longer have need of.

Happy reading!

Head of School Stickers

This week Mrs Hall has given Headteacher Stickers to the following children:

Ruby – Otters – for finding the correct words to use in sentences during a grammar lesson

Erin, Lacey-Mai, Archie, Freddie, Rylee & Tristan – Badgers – for helping to move new chairs & tables

James – Hedgehogs – for fantastic writing

Jaxon – Hedgehogs – for an excellent explanation about the book the class is reading

Catalina, Ralph & Phebe – Otters – for brilliant expanded noun phrases in grammar

Jason – Otters – for being a really kind friend

Stanley, Rory & Elsie-Mae - Hedgehogs – for super vocabulary when writing about "The Lucky Dip"

Letters sent home / info on website for w/e 10th May 2024

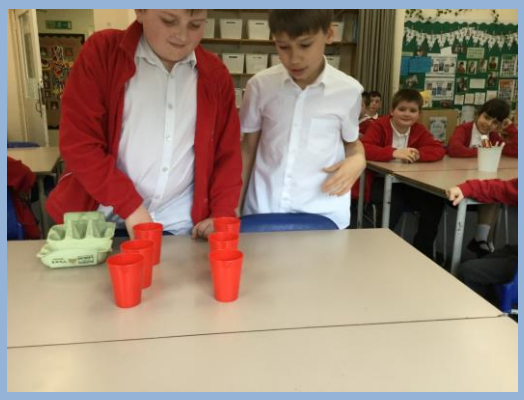
The following letters have been sent out and/or put on the school website (under Key Information/ Information Hub/ Letters Home).

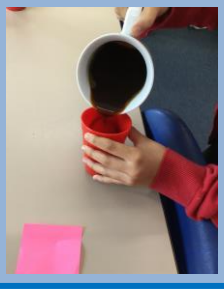
- PTFA FLYER TO ALL PARENTS: Leaver's Prom – 19/7/24 (issued 7/5/24)
- LETTER TO YEAR 6 PARENTS: SAT's Week (dated 8/5/24)
- LETTER TO ALL PARENTS: Beat the Street – 15/5/24 to 26/6/24 (dated 10/5/24)

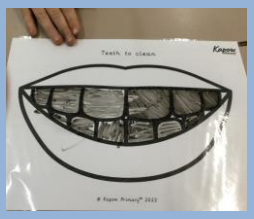
OTTERS

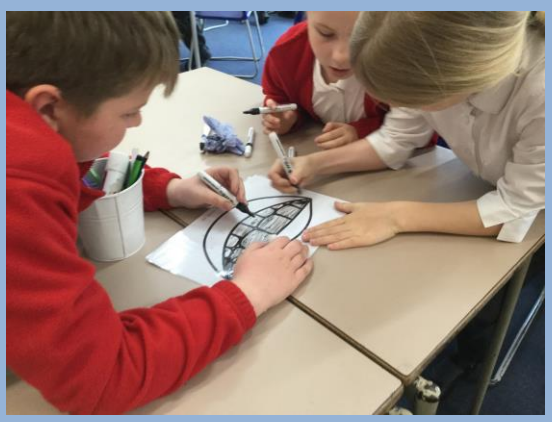
This week during science lessons Otters class have been learning all about dental hygiene.

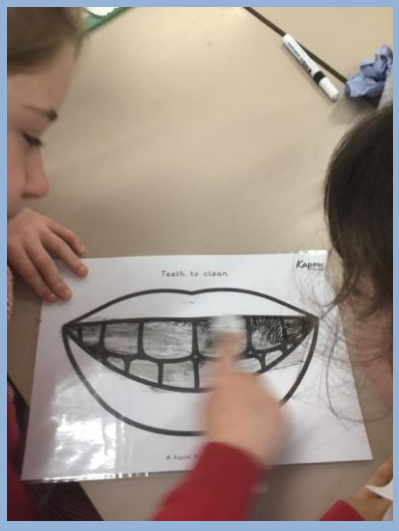
They have carried out an experiment with eggs The eggshell represents the enamel on our teeth. They have soaked the eggs in vinegar & coke to see how the enamel on our teeth can be damaged by acid & sugar.









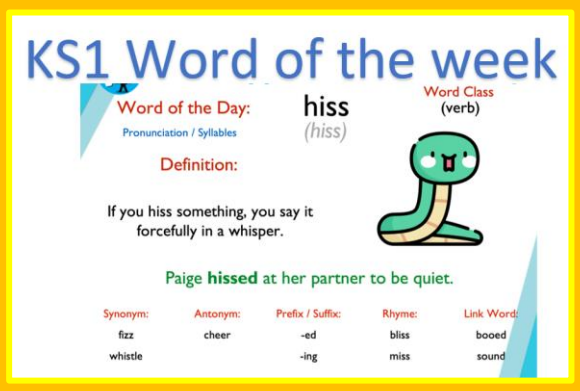

Teeth to clean

Word of the Week

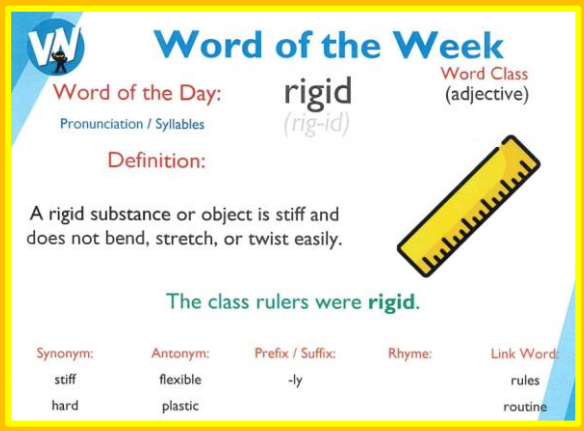
Wednesday 8th May 2024 to

Tuesday 14th May 2024

KS1 (EYFS – Year 2)



KS2 (Year 3 – Year 6)



Please promote the use of the word of the week at home with your children by talking about the word, its meaning and other similar words. If you hear your child using any of the words correctly at home please do let their teacher know, on Seesaw, so we can celebrate this in school.

Thank you for your continued support.

Maths Challenge

Maths Problem of the Week

Answers Problem dated 3rd May 2024

KS1 Answer = 35 pence - WINNER -
KS2 Answer = 1.61m & 1.65m – WINNER –

Well done to you both!

KS1 (EYFS – Year 2)

The Problem

Emma has 87 Easter eggs.

She has some baskets to fill.

She fills each basket with 10 eggs.

How many baskets did she fill?

How many eggs did she have left?

If each basket held only 5 eggs, how would your answers change?

KS2 (Year 3 – Year

The Problem

Filip buys 4 strawberry cupcakes and 1 chocolate cupcake.

Filip paid £3.70

A chocolate cupcake costs 25 pence more than a strawberry one.

How much does a chocolate cupcake cost?

If you would like to solve your KS problem, please put your completed answer, labelled with your name and class, in the **'Maths Challenge' box in the main School Office Foyer by 8.40am on Friday 17th May 2024.**
A 'Maths Champion' of the week, will be announced in Celebration Assembly each week. Good luck!

Leaver's Prom

We are pleased to announce that we will be holding a **whole school** including **pre-school** Leaver's prom disco on

Friday 19th July 2024

4:30 - 6:30 PM*

***Parents are required to stay with their child/ren**

We have the wonderful **BAMBAM** as our DJ and entertainment for the night.

£5.00 per child and £4.00 per sibling

Price includes Hot Dog or GF/Vegetarian option available.

Please fill in the form below and return to the PTFA post box (in the office) by Monday 12th July.

If paying by **cash** please put money in a sealed envelope with child's name and class written on into the PTFA post box

or

If paying by **PayPal** please use the friends & family option and put your child's name and class in the notes section (latchingdonprimaryschoolptfa@gmail.com).

Leavers Prom- please return this form to the PTFA postbox by 12.7.24

Name:..... Class:.....

Contact No:.....

Hot Dog ☐ Jam Sandwich ☐ GF Hot Dog ☐

Parent/Carer Signature:.....

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

Please note that all events are for the children/staff only unless specified.

Academic Year 2023-2024

May 2024

13th May to 17th May – Year 6 SATS
13th May – 3.10pm – PTFA Meeting
15th May – Beat the Street starts
24th May – PTFA Crazy Hair Day – Flyer issued 1/5/24 refers
24th May – 3.10pm – PTFA Tuck Shop – Flyer issued 1/5/24 refers
24th May – 3.10pm – School Council Stand with "Pre-Loved Uniform" – Details to follow
27th May to 31st May – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

June 2024

3rd June – 3.10pm – PTFA Meeting
3rd June to 6th June – PTFA – iSingPop practice – Flyer issued 1/5/24 refers
7th June – 2pm - PTFA – iSingPop Concert – Details to follow
8th June – 1pm to 4.30pm – PTFA Summer Fete & Inflatable Spectacular – Flyer issued 15/4/24 refers
10th June – 3.10pm – PTFA Father's Day Stall – Details to follow
11th June – 3.10pm – PTFA Father's Day Stall – Details to follow
13th June – Dengie Sports Training Day – Details to follow
18th June – 8.45am – Parent Forum Meeting
24th June to 28th June – CONTINENTS WEEK
24th June – 0.30am to 2.30pm - Year 6 Transition Day – Ormiston Rivers Academy
24th June – Year 6 Induction Day – William de Ferrers
25th June – Year 6 Induction Day – William de Ferrers
25th June – 3.30pm to 6pm – Parents Evening – Parents invited details to follow
26th June – 1.30pm – Year 6 Transition Workshop – Details to follow
26th June – Beat the Street finishes
27th June – Dengie Sports Day – Parents invited details to follow
27th June – 3.30pm to 6pm – Parents Evening – Parents invited details to follow

July 2024

1st July – 3.10pm – PTFA Meeting
2nd July – Bradwell Pilgrimage – Details to follow
3rd July – EYFS/KS1 (Red Squirrels & Hedgehogs) Trip to Southend – Details to follow
4th July – 12.30pm – Sports Day – Parents invited details to follow
11th July – 12.30pm – Reserve Sports Day – Parents invited details to follow
12th July – 2.30pm - KS2 (Foxes, Otters & Badgers) Animal Art Gallery – Parents invited –Letter 16/10/23 refers
19th July – Last day of Academic Year 2023-2024
19th July – 4.30pm to 6.30pm - PTFA Leavers Prom at Tractor Shed (Year 6 – 5.15pm to 7.30pm) – Flyer issued 7/5/24 refers
22nd & 23rd July – NON-PUPIL DAYS
24th July to 30th August – SUMMER HOLIDAY

Academic Year 2024-2025

2nd Sept 24– NON-PUPIL DAY
3rd Sept 24 – First day Autumn Term
4th Oct 24 – NON-PUPIL DAY

28th Oct to 1st Nov 24 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
8th Oct – 9.30am – Harvest Festival at Christ Church
17th Dec – 9.30am – Christmas Service at Christ Church

23rd Dec 24 to 3rd Jan 25 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
6th Jan 25 – First day Spring Term

17th Feb to 21st Feb 25 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

7th April to 21st April 25 – EASTER HOLIDAY
22nd April 25 – First day Summer Term
5th May 25 – BANK HOLIDAY

26th May to 30th May 25 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY
2nd June 25 – NON-PUPIL DAY
21st & 22nd July 25 – NON-PUPIL DAYS

23rd July 25 – SUMMER HOLIDAY

Attendance – w/e 10/5/24

The winning class for the week ending **10th May 2024** is Foxes class.

Year	Attendance %
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	93.12%
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	91.43%
3 / 4 (Foxes)	95.24%
4 / 5 (Otters)	92.82%
6 (Badgers)	93.76%

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 Tristan from Badgers class.

If your child is not in school, please remember to phone each morning before 9 am and leave a message **for safe guarding reasons we must have a reason.**

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 and if we are unable to contact you then a home visit may be appropriate.

If you child arrives late then please could an adult accompany them into the office to sign them in. Anyone arriving after the registers close (after half an hour) will be classed as an unauthorised absence unless we are aware of the reason in advance.

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 Eddie.

Well done to you all!

Stars of the Week – w/e 10/5/24

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Sofia & Thomas
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Thomas-James & Logan-Jack
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Freddie & Travis
4 / 5 (Otters)	Lucas & Jason
6 (Badgers)	Amelia & Scarlet-Rose

Star Writers – w/e 10/5/24

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Mottassia
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Sonny
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Esme F
4 / 5 (Otters)	Phebe
6 (Badgers)	Zac

Good Manners – w/e 10/5/24

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Albert & Abdullah
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Chloe & Ellie-Mae
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Albert & Sophie D
4 / 5 (Otters)	Jason & Gowsh
6 (Badgers)	Rylee & Ashley

Lunch Time Stars – w/e 3/5/24

Leila – Hedgehogs
Yasmin – Red Squirrels

Reading Challenge – w/e 10/5/24

Year	% children reading at home regularly
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	54%
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	82%
3 / 4 (Foxes)	86%
4 / 5 (Otters)	87%
6 (Badgers)	68%

30th & 31st May - Elmwood Primary School (SWF): https://goteamup.com/p/6505390-ferdinand-football-maldon/courses/102432/

28th & 29th May - Heybridge Swifts FC:

https://goteamup.com/p/6505390-ferdinand-football-maldon/courses/101461/

30th May - Burnham on Crouch Primary School: https://goteamup.com/p/6505390-ferdinand-football-maldon/courses/101462/

Essex Fire Museum Open Days

Sunday 26th May 2024

Tuesday 28th May 2024

10.30am to 4.00pm

(Last suggested entry time: 2.30pm)

Visits must be pre-booked via:
museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

Address: Essex Fire Museum, Grays Fire station,
Hogg Lane, Grays, RM17 5QS

Sports & Play Camps May Half Term 2024

www.lsccoaching.com/book-online

Camp Venue Details 9:00–3:00pm

Funded spaces available each day at all sites in partnership with Active Essex and Essex County Council. No codes are needed and all bookings can be made directly with LSC.

£18 per day

4–12 years

MALDON PRIMARY
Wantz Chase, Maldon CM9 5DQ

Tuesday 28th May
Wednesday 29th May
Thursday 30th May

HEYBRIDGE PRIMARY
Rowan Dr, Heybridge, Maldon CM9 4TU

Tuesday 28th May
Wednesday 29th May
Thursday 30th May

MAYLAND
Lawling park Village Hall-Katonia Ave, Mayland, Chelmsford CM3 6AD

Wednesday 29th May
Thursday 30th May
Friday 31st May

BEAT THE STREET

Special event will also be taking place for children at Maldon and Heybridge Primary Schools for Thursday 30th May.

Essex ACTIVate Half Term

lsccoaching.com

Essex County Council

RED sports + play camp

Little Sportsters COACHING

Big Swim Little Swim™

Big Swim Little Swim™

Swimming Crash Courses

May school holidays

Monday 27th - Friday 31st May

5 day crash course at our private pool in CM4 0LA

5 x 30 minute 1.2.1 lessons

Build strength Gain confidence Learn to swim

All swim aids are provided, apart from goggles

Parents watch from poolside

All classes tailored to your individual needs

All teachers fully qualified and first aid trained

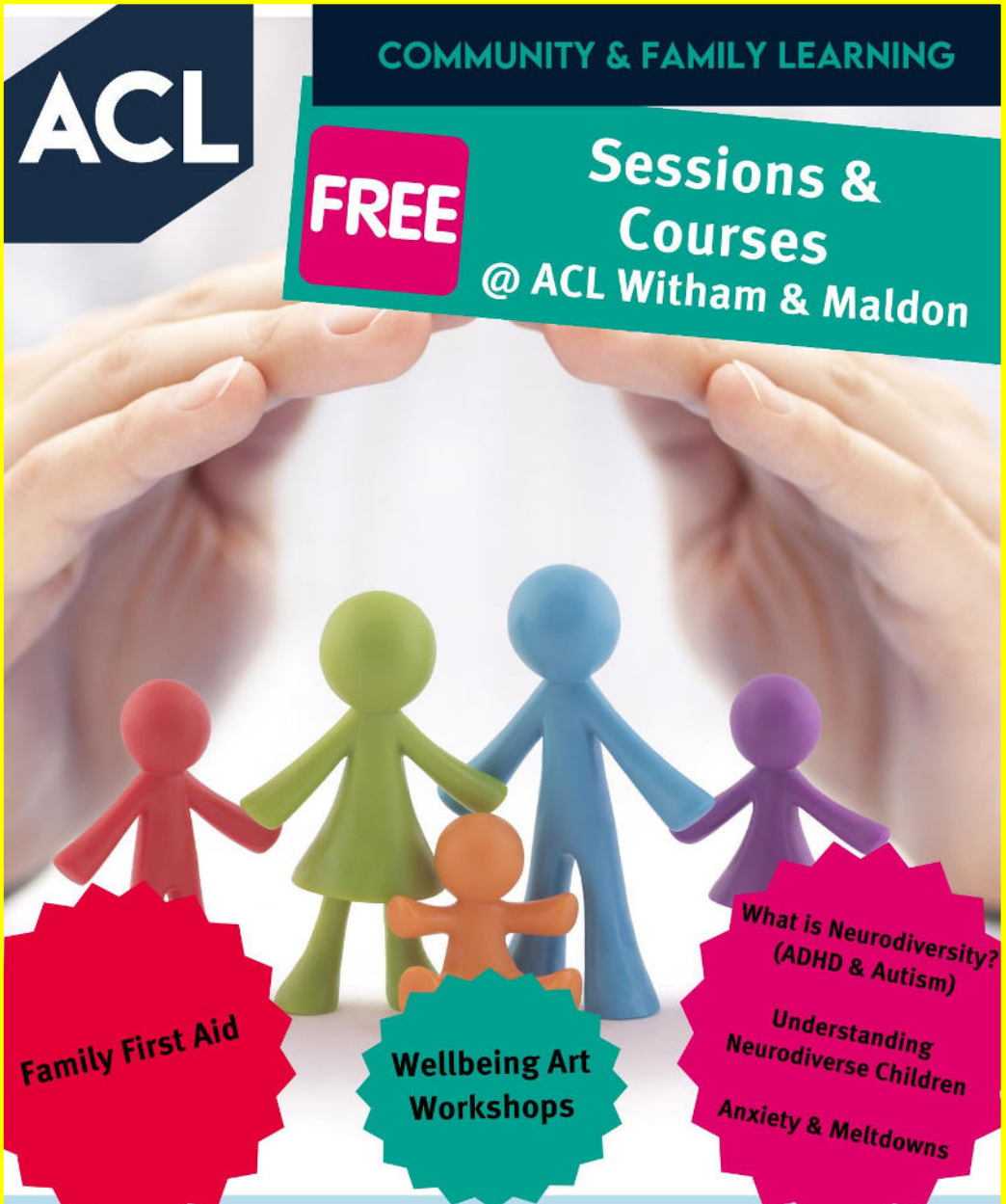
Please email liz@bigswimlittleswim.co.uk to book spaces

ACL

COMMUNITY & FAMILY LEARNING

FREE

Sessions & Courses @ ACL Witham & Maldon



Family First Aid

Wellbeing Art Workshops

What is Neurodiversity? (ADHD & Autism)

Understanding Neurodiverse Children

Anxiety & Meltdowns

Sign up via the website/phone number below.

Having trouble finding the session/course you want information on?
Email us at aclfamilylearning@essex.gov.uk & we can send you a direct link

'Family Learning'
aclessex.com

0345 603 7635

ACL

Essex County Council

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 HELLDIVERS 2

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 18+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Within weeks of release, Helldivers 2 had become one of 2024's biggest gaming success stories. The sequel to a top-down shooter from 2015 has smashed sales expectations, owing to its frantic gameplay and tongue-in-cheek humour. However, the game comes with several risks to younger players, as indicated by its 18+ rating.

PEGI 18 RATING

Due to its intense violence and the presence of in-game purchases, Helldivers 2 carries a PEGI 18 rating. While players are generally fighting fantastical enemies like giant bugs and robots, their characters can be killed in various gruesome ways, up to and including dismemberment. It's certainly worth considering whether such a game is appropriate for younger players.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

In Helldivers 2, players can use real money to buy in-game currency, with which they can unlock cosmetics and new weapons. At the time of writing, all the in-game items can be acquired without spending so much as a penny – but excited young players wanting to keep up with their friends may still feel the temptation to purchase new weapons more quickly, rather than laboriously earning the in-game currency through play.

VOICE CHAT AND MESSAGING

Helldivers 2 is always played online with others, who often use voice chat or in-game texts to coordinate, strategise or just joke around. This *does* mean that children who play without their friends will be put in contact with strangers. Unfortunately, this represents a roll of the dice, as the game can't control how people treat each other online. However, you can easily report other players for abusive behaviour via the game's 'Social' tab.

FRUSTRATION TRIGGER

The thrill of barely scraping through a dangerous mission in one piece is integral to Helldivers 2's appeal. To accentuate this feeling of achievement, the game includes some very difficult levels that could prove to be too hard for some players – even those who are legitimately old enough to play. Losing streaks can be incredibly annoying, so repeatedly failing in missions could easily provoke frustration or anger in younger players.

LACK OF ACCESS

The game is available on PC and PS5, but not (as yet) on other consoles. Some people will naturally be disappointed they can't get involved and might look for similar alternatives to play on their own console – alternatives which may contain similar levels of violence and gore but lack the same balanced approach to user misconduct and in-game purchases as Helldivers 2.

Advice for Parents & Educators

GIVE IT A GO FIRST

Helldivers 2 is a third-person shooter with intentionally humorous elements, but much of its comedy is rooted in satire which may go over the heads of some players. Consider playing the game first yourself – while shooting bugs and robots feels too unrealistic to be upsetting, seeing your character get torn to pieces may be too much for young players.

SET EXPECTATIONS

At the time of writing, Helldivers 2 costs £34.99. It could turn out to be an expensive and wasteful purchase if a player gets irritated and gives up shortly after receiving the game. If a young person tends to become frustrated easily, it's worth considering whether Helldivers 2 is really the game for them.

CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES

If playing on Xbox – where Helldivers 2 isn't available – consider something like Halo: The Master Chief Collection as an alternative. One of its game modes – Firefight – replicates Helldivers' mechanics to some degree. Alternatively, younger players may be better suited to the more light-hearted Deep Rock Galactic, which sees them play as fantasy dwarves in space, involving far less gruesome violence.

KEEP AN EYE ON PAYMENTS

Many titles offer in-game purchases, but Helldivers 2's are comparatively cheap. You'll still need to monitor your payment information (or use a prepaid card on the account), in case your child buys the in-game currency in bulk; on the whole, however, the game's selling methods are far less egregious than most similar titles on the market.

MONITOR COMMUNICATION & ADJUST SETTINGS

Thanks to an in-game "Ping" system (allowing players to highlight important details without speaking), communication isn't as integral to Helldivers 2 as it is in other games. You can turn off the chat options in-game on PC, or on the PS5's own settings, and feel more secure in the knowledge that your child won't be speaking to people they don't know.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon, and has been working in the games media industry for five years. As well as being an avid long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published on sites including IGN, TechRadar and many more.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 08.05.2024