NEWSLETTER

3rd October 2025

Firm Foundations; Rooted in Love.

Rooted in love, we grow and learn together, supported by our firm foundations. We nurture and respect the individuals within our community, so that all can flourish and succeed, with aspirational hope.

"Do everything in love" 1 Corinthians 16:14

It is certainly beginning to feel like Autumn!

Please remember to ensure that any coats, jumpers, fleeces, drink bottles etc are named to assist staff in getting discarded items back to their owners.

Thank you for your co-operation.

On Thursday 2nd October 2025 some of our Year 1 & 2 children attended an iSingPop Event held at St Leonards CofE Primary School.

The event enabled children from not only our school & St Leonards but also children from St Cedds & St Nicholas schools to join together.

Our children really enjoyed learning songs & playing singing games with the wonderful iSingPop team.

Thank you to Miss Keaney & Mrs Harkett who supported the children whilst at St Leonards.

We would, also, like to thank all the parents /carers who arranged to transport the children to & from this event.

Also on Thursday this week Nourish, our catering company, held a special 'Mr Nourish's Birthday' meal with a competition to make a birthday card for Mr Nourish!

Well done to everyone who entered & to Jessica from Red Squirrels & Esme from Hedgehogs who each received a prize!

This afternoon we welcomed the NHS Mental Health Support Team into school.

They held a Coffee & Questions event & we do hope that all the parents/ carers who were able to attend found the information provided useful.

Next week is only 4 days as Friday 10th October 2025 is a Non-Pupil Day.

All next week, from Monday 6th October 2025 to Thursday 9th October 2025 we are raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. During the week the children will be walking/running to raise awareness of this fantastic cause.

EYFS will be walking/running 2K across the week

KS1 & KS2 will be walking/running 5K across the week

Can we please ask that you ensure your child/ren bring a pair of trainers in school all next week.

On Thursday 9th October 2025 we will be dressing in colourful clothes to celebrate all what the children have achieved throughout the week.

Please could children wear their normal PE kit but instead of the red school t-shirt wear a bright t-shirt instead.

To donate and support this worthy cause please use the following link:

https://race.gosh.org/fundraisers/louisehall/race-for-the-kids-school

Next Wednesday 8th October 2025 the whole school will be attending Christ Church in the afternoon for our Harvest Festival.

This year we are, again, collecting for the Dengie Food Pantry, based in Southminster & Burnham. If you are able to contribute any items please send them in with your child/ren. Each class has a box for donations.

Thank you for your support for both these causes.

Wishing you all a lovely Weekend!

GREAT ORMOND STREET
HOSPITAL CHARITY

Great Ormond Street RBC Race for the Kids at School
Ready, Set, Race for Childhood!

*Join our really fun, fun run **RBC Race for the Kids** at School. From walking and wheeling to running and scooting, take on 2k or 5k for charity your way. Big or small, every step will help beat childhood cancer.*

We're joining the race to help beat childhood cancer

We're taking part in Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity's family festival and fun run, RBC Race for the Kids, to raise money to help build the new Children's Cancer Centre at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH).

GOSH already cares for children with the hardest to treat cancers, and new treatments are giving hope to children and their families. But these advances have outstripped GOSH's current cancer facilities.

Across the week of the 6th October 2025, the children in our school will be raising money for Great Ormond Street Hospital. Please ensure that children have a pair of trainers in school this week to use.

EYFS will be walking/running 2K across the week
KS1 and KS2 will be walking/running 5K across the week

On **Thursday 9th October 2025** we will be dressing in colourful clothes to celebrate all we have achieved throughout the week. Please could children wear a bright t-shirt with shorts and trainers to enable them to join in with PE comfortably.

To donate and support this worthy cause please use the following link:
https://race.gosh.org/fundraisers/louisehall/race-for-the-kids-school

Please consider sponsoring us. Together, we can build it. Together, we can help beat childhood cancer.

CHRISTCHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Christchurch C of E Primary School
The Street, Latchingdon
Chelmsford, Essex CM3 6JS
Telephone 01621 740328

Part of the Diocese of Chelmsford Vine Schools Trust

Tours for Prospective Parents

We are a small, friendly church school. We are very proud of our children and their achievements and we would be pleased to show you around our school at our open day.

Tuesday 4th November 2025 - 9am to 11.30am & 2pm to 3pm

By appointment only – please call our School Office on 01621 740328 for an appointment.

Firm Foundations; Rooted in Love.

- At Christchurch C of E Primary we value positive relationships and caring attitudes between all in our school community.
- We aim to provide a stimulating environment, in which high standards of achievement are fostered and where all pupils are challenged and encouraged to reach their full potential
- Our school is driven by our Christian values of friendship, love, respect, hope and perseverance; which guide all our plans and actions.
- We are passionate about promoting and safeguarding the welfare of our children and are committed to providing a happy, safe and welcoming atmosphere, in which children can learn and develop. Our core values are Safe, Ready, Respect.

Applications for Primary (Reception) school place starting September 2026 can be made between 10th November 2025 and 15th January 2026.

Please visit https://www.essex.gov.uk/apply-for-a-primary-school-place for full details.

Head of School Stickers

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

Ruby D – Badgers for her brilliant number lines to a million during a Maths lesson

Albert – Hedgehogs for his fantastic phonics work

Carmel – Foxes for her amazing work on Pyramids during Guided Reading

Newspaper Donations

As you can imagine art can be very messy (especially in Red Squirrels class) & we use lots of old newspapers to protect the tables.

If any of our parents/carers or their families currently purchase a daily or weekend newspaper we would be most grateful if, when you have finished with them, you could pass them to us!

Please send into school with your child/ren or hand in at the school office.

Thank you in advance!

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 to all those who have topped up our box your continued support is very appreciated.

Hot Chocolate Friday with Mrs Bishop

w/e 26th September 2025

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

Steven-John - Hedgehogs
Elsie-Mae- Foxes
Thomas - Badgers

Congratulations to you all!

PUPIL PARLIAMENT

This week Mrs Hall has announced our new Pupil Parliament!

Congratulations to you all we know you will be fantastic in your new roles!

Our new Head Pupils received their badges & the other Pupil Parliament roles will receive their badges next week.

Head Pupils

Harrison & Ruby S

Deputy Head Pupils

Elliot & Rosie

Letters sent home / info on website for w/e 3rd October 2025

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

- LETTER TO ALL PARENTS: Essex & Suffolk Water – Planned Works (emailed 2/10/25)
- LETTER TO PARENTS RECEPTION & YEAR 6: NCMP Screening – Year 6 Height/Weight & Reception Height/Weight/Vision (emailed 2/10/25)

PE DAYS – Autumn Term 1 2025

Please can children come into school wearing their PE kits on the following days:

EYFS – Thursday
Hedgehogs (all Year 1 & Year 2) – Monday & Thursday
Foxes – Monday & Thursday
Badgers – Tuesday (Year 6 only) & Thursday (Year 5 & 6)

Children should come to school wearing their PE kits on these days. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in their PE lessons, they should come to school wearing their normal School Uniform and bring a letter explaining why they are not participating. Please note all long hair **must** be tied back during PE lessons.

Lost Property

We will be keeping any items which we are unable to return to the children in a **Lost Property Basket** which is **located in the School Office Foyer.**

If your child/ren have lost any items then please have a look through the basket to see if you are able to locate.

Please remember to name items to assist with returning them to the children – thank you!

FUNDRAISING

On 11th October 2025, Thomas-James from Foxes & Steven- John Brew from Hedgehogs will be taking part in a 5k run in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital – a charity very close to their hearts. 💙

They are forever grateful to the incredible doctors and surgeons who saved Steven-John. Now it's their turn to give something back.

If you'd like to support and donate to this amazing fundraising please follow this link: Stephanie Brew

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Year 6 to 7 Secondary Admission Round for September 2026

As you may be aware, the new secondary school admission round opens on Friday 12 September 2025, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026.

The statutory national closing date for applications is:

31st October 2025

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. 99% of parents in Essex applied online last year.

All the application information is available on the website above.

The website also has a copy of the Secondary Education in Essex 2025-26 booklet which contains details of all secondary school admission policies.

Harvest Festival

On Wednesday 8th October 2025 the whole school will be attending Harvest Festival at Christ Church.

Unfortunately, due to the number of children, we will not be able to ask parents/carers to join us at Church this year.

We are, again, collecting for the Dengie Food Pantry based in Southminster & Burnham.

If you are able to contribute any of the following items then please send them into school with your child/ren.

Biscuits, jars/packets of sauce, canned meat/fish (not hotdogs), fray bentos pies, sugar, jars of coffee, UHT milk blue & green, custard, tinned rice pudding, spaghetti hoops, tinned tomatoes, tins of ravioli, washing up liquid, bathroom spray, kitchen spray, toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant & washing powder

Thank you as always for your continued support.

Reading Raffle

Reading is an important life skill. We want to reward and encourage children to read at home. Therefore, we have launched our Reading Raffle!

For your child to be entered into the Reading Raffle each week, your child needs to read **at least 4 out of 7 times a week**.

They need to have their **Reading Diaries signed and shown to their class teacher on a Friday morning**.

The raffle will run from Friday to Thursday each week

If your child has read **at least 4 out of 7 times**, then their name will be entered into the raffle.

A name will be picked at random from each class. The winner of each class will win a book! This raffle will be every week and we hope to see all children entering every week!

Congratulations to this week's winners – we hope you enjoy reading your new books!

Amily – Red Squirrels

Layla-Grace - Hedgehogs

Hallie - Foxes

Katara – Badgers

Attendance – w/e 3/10/25

The winning class for the week ending **3rd October 2025** is Badgers class.

Year	Attendance %
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	90.29%
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	94.42%
3 / 4 (Foxes)	95.27%
5 / 6 (Badgers)	97.66%

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 Louie from Foxes 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 leaders were all Year 6.

Well done to you all!

Stars of the Week – w/e 3/10/25

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Beau & Carter
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Yasmin & Mia
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Ellie-Mae & Ivy
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Dounya & Bonnie

Good Manners – w/e 3/10/25

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Sophie & George
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Thomas & Pippa
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Scarlett & Adam
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Ruby & James

Lunch Time Stars – w/e 3/10/25

Beau – Red Squirrels

Isobel - Hedgehogs

Reading Challenge – w/e 3/10/25

Year Group	% of class who have read
R	80%
Year 1	44%
Year 2	42%
Year 3	50%
Year 4	53%
Year 5	80%
Year 6	45%

Hot Chocolate Winners – w/e 3/10/25

Year	Name
R / 1(Red Squirrels)	Charlie
1 / 2 (Hedgehogs)	Thea
3 / 4 (Foxes)	Ivy
5 / 6 (Badgers)	Lola

Mrs Bishop will be taking the Hot Chocolate winners on a Monday & their picture will be in the following week's Newsletter.

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 2025-2026

October 2025

6th Oct to 9th Oct – Gt Ormond Street Fund Raiser Week – letter emailed 20/9/25 refers
8th Oct 25 – 1.30pm – Harvest Festival at Christ Church – letter emailed 25/9/25 refers
8th Oct 25 – 3.30pm to 5pm – Dengie Football Match at Burnham Ramblers - Christchurch Football Team – letter issued 29/9/25 refers
9th Oct 25 – Gt Ormond Street Fund Raiser –children invited to wear bright t-shirt – letter emailed 20/9/25 refers
10th Oct 25 – NON-PUPIL DAY
13th Oct 25 – 8.45am to 9.30am – Year 1 Phonics Workshop – details to follow
15th Oct 25 – Dengie Dodgeball Match at Ormiston Rivers Academy – Years 5/6 – letter issued 3/10/25 refers
17th Oct 25 – 10am to 11.30 am – Life Support Roadshow – Year 5
17th Oct 25 – 1.30pm to 3pm – Life Support Roadshow – Year 6
27th to 31st Oct 25 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

November 2025

4th Nov 25 – 9pm to 11.30 – Tours for Prospective Parents September 2026 – Newsletter post refers
4th Nov 25 – 2pm to 3pm – Tours for Prospective Parents September 2026 – Newsletter post refers

December 2025

2nd Dec 25 – 9.30am – NCMP Screening – Year 6 – Height & Weight – letter emailed 2/10/25 refers
2nd Dec 25 – 9.30am – NCMP Screening – Reception – Height, Weight & Vision – letter emailed 2/10/25 refers
22nd Dec 25 to 2nd Jan 26 – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

January 2026

5th Jan 26 – First Day Spring Term

February 2026

13th Feb 26 – NON-PUPIL DAY
16th to 20th Feb 26 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

March 2026

5th March 26 – World Book Day – details to follow
30th March to 20th April 26 – EASTER HOLIDAY

April 2025

13th April 26 – First Day of Summer Term

May 2026

4th May 26 – BANK HOLIDAY
25th May to 29th May 26 – HALF TERM HOLIDAY

July 2026

20th July 26 – NON-PUPIL DAY
21ST July 26 – SUMMER HOLIDAY

PLEASE NOTE BELOW CHRISTCHURCH C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM DATES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

Christchurch C of E Primary School

School Term Dates - Academic Year 2025-2026

September 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2026

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

= Schooldays
= School holidays
= Bank holidays
= Weekends
= Non-pupil days

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term:	Monday 1 September 2025 – Friday 19 December 2025 *Half Term 27 October – 31 October*	75 days
Spring Term:	Monday 5 January 2026 – Friday 27 March 2026 *Half Term 16 February - 20 February*	55 days
Summer Term:	Monday 13 April 2026 – Monday 20 July 2026 *Half Term 25 May – 29 May, and May Bank Holiday - 4 May*	65 days
		195 days

Please note:
The above dates may vary for individual schools, especially Foundation, Voluntary Aided schools and Academies.
You are strongly advised to check with your child's school before making any holiday or other commitments.

Free fitness hack!

MAKE IT A BIKE DAY!

FUEL YOUR BODY, NOT YOUR CAR RIDE TOWARDS A HEALTHIER YOU

#MAKEYOURMOVE

MAKE YOUR MOVE

Great prizes to be won!

HOLIDAY COURSES

Bikeability Level 1 & 2 and Learn to ride courses.

Venues: Witham, Harlow & Chelmsford

To book, please visit link

essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking

There is a £15 non-refundable booking fee

SAFER GREENER HEALTHIER

Essex County Council

Free fitness hack!

MAKE IT A BIKE DAY!

FUEL YOUR BODY, NOT YOUR CAR RIDE TOWARDS A HEALTHIER YOU

#MAKEYOURMOVE

MAKE YOUR MOVE

Great prizes to be won!

ESSEX&SUFFOLK WATER *living water*

Our Ref: Steeple Road
4 September 2025

The Occupier
Latchingdon Cofe Primary School
The Street
Latchingdon
Chelmsford
CM3 6JS

Dear Customer

We're planning some work in your area

We want to keep you up to date with work we are carrying out in your area.

You may be aware that we have been replacing 2.9km of water main alongside Steeple Road, from the junction with the B1018 Burnham Road in Latchingdon to the junction of The Drive/Woodland Park Chase in Mayland. The project is essential as it will replace an ageing water main that has historically led to interruptions in service to the area. Our goal is to ensure a reliable and uninterrupted water supply for you and the community.

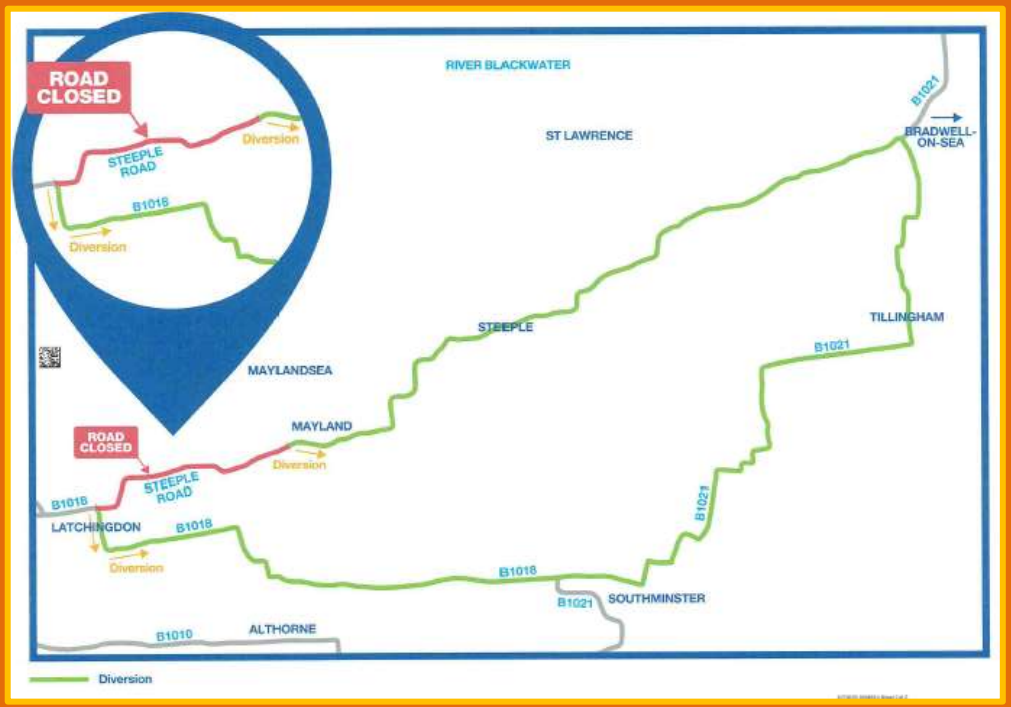
The work initially commenced on 21 July 2025 and we anticipate it will last until November 2025. While we aim to stick to this timeline, please understand that unexpected delays can happen in construction projects, and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we work to complete this vital project.

Most of the work takes place in the adjacent fields, minimising any disruption to the community. However, there is one section where we need to work within the road carriageway between the junctions of **B1018 Burnham Road to just east of Lawlinge Road in Latchingdon**.

For everyone's safety, we are required to implement traffic management in the form of a road closure whilst installing the new water main. The timing of the road closure has been purposely planned to commence towards the end of the peak summer season to reduce the impact on surrounding seasonal based businesses, particularly towards and adjacent to the River Blackwater.

This road closure will therefore commence on the **6 October 2025** for a duration of **4-6 weeks**. Every effort will be made for this work to be completed at the earliest opportunity within this timescale.

Working in conjunction with Essex County Council Highways Department, a diversion route has been planned to ensure that vehicles of all sizes are able to use a road category equivalent to the one that has needed to be closed. We want to clarify that



hcrg Care Group

Better Health Start for Life

NHS

Top tips for TEETH

Children aged 3+

Help them brush TWICE A DAY to keep decay away

Help your child brush **twice a day** from the moment their **first tooth appears** until they're at least 7 years old.

You should use a fluoride toothpaste. Just a **pea-sized** amount of toothpaste containing at least **1,000 parts per million (ppm) fluoride** is enough. You can usually find out how much fluoride is in the toothpaste from the side of the tube or on the packaging.

Open to uncover more top tips for protecting your child's smile

Better Health Start for Life

NHS

Brushing TWICE A DAY is just the start...

Healthy habits start at **home.** Don't rinse with water after brushing as it washes away the **protective** layer of fluoride left over from the toothpaste. As they get older teach them to **spit** instead.

Encourage them to SPIT, NOT RINSE

SKIP THE SUGAR they're sweet enough!

Too much food and drink containing **sugar** can harm your child's teeth. This can lead to **tooth decay**. To help protect their smile:

- **Avoid** adding sugar to meals
- **Swap** snacks and drinks containing sugar for healthier options like fruit, veg and water
- Choose **sugar-free** medicines where possible

Brushing **before** bedtime is important. **Don't** offer food or drink after brushing teeth at night to protect their smile.

At night, SNACKING STOPS when the brushing starts

PROTECT THEIR SMILE with regular visits to the dentist

Take your child to the dentist as **often as your dentist recommends.** Under 18's, or under 19's in full-time education, are entitled to **FREE** NHS dental treatment in England.

Search **Start for Life** for more tips and advice for taking care of your little one's teeth.

Turn over to get the most fun out of toothbrushing time

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 YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

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 it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction – especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic – a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember – the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING 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 message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and – in the worst cases – online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which 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 cause physical or emotional harm to children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' – where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin – is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

18 CERTIFIED

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from changing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.

TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their 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 a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for parental supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

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 a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.

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