

HILTINGBURY HIGHLIGHTS

Issue 07
18th October 2024

Headteacher's message

Dear Parents and Carers,

We all had a fantastic time at our 'Rock to Read' disco last night! It was wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves so much. A special thanks to our resident DJ, Gobind, who put on a fantastic live set that the kids absolutely loved. For some great snapshots from the evening please visit our school blog. I'm delighted to announce that we raised a remarkable £1,440, which will go a long way towards redeveloping our school library. A huge thank you to all the staff who generously volunteered their time to make the event such a success!

The next steps in our library development, we are awaiting help from the children through our creative design competition. Please do encourage your children to submit their entries by either bringing them into school or emailing them to the school office by Tuesday 22nd October. The children's creative ideas will be invaluable in shaping the design process.

Congratulations to our football teams for their fantastic efforts this week against The Crescent! The girls' team celebrated a well-earned 2-0 victory and the boys' team played brilliantly despite a narrow 1-0 loss. Mr Cross shared how proud he was of both teams—not only for their skills on the field but also for their excellent sportsmanship. A big thank you to the children who led our assembly on Monday, teaching everyone about Diwali. It was a very informative and engaging presentation, and we all learned so much.

We had a great turn out at our Connected Parent meeting this week - thank you again to everyone who was able to join us and to our two guest speakers; Mrs Boardman and Dr Webster. Next week we will be sharing some of the outcomes of this event focused on the movement 'Smartphone Free Childhood' and also of our recent survey too. We are looking forward to welcoming Aaron PIPPS, a Gold Medal winning Paralympic Champion, to school on Monday. I have had the privilege of hearing his inspiring assembly before and I'm certain the children will be captivated by his incredible personal journey and achievements. Year 6 students will have the added benefit of exploring these themes further during their workshops throughout the day.

Next week, our teaching team is excited to meet with you all during Parents Evening to discuss your child's progress and achievements so far this year. Please remember to use the school's main entrance when arriving to make your way to your child's classroom. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.

We hope you all enjoy a lovely weekend together.

Best wishes,

Zoe Loosemore



Dates for your diary -

Please check the school website calendar for more events and information

Monday 21st October - Parents evening 3.30-6.30pm / Raffle ticket winners Birch clas non-uniform day

Tuesday 22nd October - Y6 Theatre trip / Y4 Bolderwood Trip

Wednesday 23rd October - Parents evening 3.30-6.30pm

Half Term - 28th October - 3rd November



Weekly Year group highlights



Year 3

[Link to our Weekly Highlights & Gallery](#)

Year 4

[Link to our Weekly Highlights & Gallery](#)

Year 5

[Link to our Weekly Highlights & Gallery](#)

Year 6

[Link to our Weekly Highlights & Gallery](#)

Highlight Wellbeing



Ofcom's latest Media Use and Attitudes Report states that most children can watch streamed films on a mobile device both in and out of the home, with 80% of UK children watching films on phones, tablets or laptops.

That's a lot of youngsters who might be using their own gadgets to watch something suitably spooky this Halloween season or perhaps, something a little too frightening.

With older children in particular, it can be difficult knowing how to manage their increasing interest in more mature content – including horror films, in many cases – let alone knowing how best to safeguard them from inappropriate material.

This guide offers expert advice not only on the risks of exposure to horror films and other potentially upsetting content, but also on preventing young viewers from seeing this material or protecting them from being too deeply affected by it if they do.

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:
- G Suitable for all ages
- PG For children aged 8 and above, this content shouldn't unsettle them
- PG-13 Children under the age of 13 should not watch without an adult, this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references
- R Suitable only for 18-year-olds and above
- TV-MA 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 ill-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, messages 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 doctors, consider residues 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.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror games test on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – as 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.

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.

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 time into the home, going up to age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd recommend for a child – and if parents, you actually see the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

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 at any time at parental discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

REMEMBER - IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them. 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.

Meet Our Expert

John Inley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with projects in schools for over 30 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.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/parental-guidance-to-horror-films-and-age-ratings>

Wake up weds /www.thenationalcollege @wakeup.wednesday @wakeup.weds

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HALLOWEEN HALF TERM

Spooky Storytime - Monday 10.30

Rotten Rhymetime - ~~Tues+Thurs~~ 10.30

Creepy Construction Club - All Week

Petrifying Paper Craft - All Week

Mythical Monster Colouring - All Week

BOO!