



Autumn term CARE values:

Every term we focused on 4 of our CARE values across school. I mention these in assemblies and the children and staff try to use these values throughout the term.

Our new CARE values are; COMPASSION, ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITY AND ENDEAVOUR

KEY DATES

FEBRUARY

half term holiday break up 20th return 2nd March

MARCH – CAREERS MONTH

3rd wellbeing festival

5th **World book day (Come to school in PJ's)**

10th Basketball competition and festival tbc

11th Class 4 parent assembly 2pm

18th Nursery ladies day

Week of 23rd March – Open Nights and egg competition

26th Class 5 parent assembly 2pm

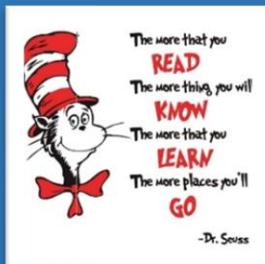
27th **'When I grow up day' (Come to school: Dress up as a career you could ASPIRE to be)**

APRIL

2ND April – Colour run AM

Easter holiday – break up Thursday 2nd return 20th

Week of 27th Mock SATs Y6



ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Remember that our Artist will change in March. If anyone feels inspired to completed something creative linked to our February artist. Please do. From Mrs Reed

Reading fever has taken over the school! Thank you to all the parents and carers who have so attended Reading Cafes, For some of you with 2 or more pupils I know it is a huge commitment to do this. From the positive responses the events held have been extremely beneficial for pupil and adults.

EVENTS IN MARCH

To continue our encouragement of reading, we look forward to **World Book Day** which will be on **THURSDAY 5TH MARCH**. We will be coming to school in **PJs** this day and taking part in lots of book themed activities. We will also host our annual 'Everyone read event after school on this day' With pupils being able to stay and share a book/story with their friends or an adult until 4pm.

CAREERS Month

March is also a month where we delve deeper into careers, Staff explain about their career journey and Pupils attend Careers related educational visits (as explained in last weeks newsletter). On **27th MARCH** we will host our **'When I grow up Day'** where will encourage pupils to come to school dressed as a career they could aspire to be involved in.

Online safety talks for Classes 7,8 and 9

As part of our commitment to ensuring our pupils are safe online, we invited the Police to school to explain about online safety. Classes 7, 8 and 9 received these safety messages last week. The police covered topics such as sharing images, information and sending messages to one another. The topics lead to some interesting discussions and a deeper understanding of how to keep safe online. The pupils also got to see Jet and Ben Durham constabulary friendly police dogs.

Class 7 assembly:

Last Friday, parents and carers were invited to school to see Class 7's Curriculum Learning assembly. To say that they were amazing is an understatement. Class 7 shone as a class- for their togetherness and enthusiasm. We also saw how individually each pupil is able to shine and boy did they! The singing solos from many of the pupils were breath taking. There was dancing, speaking, acting and humour. It was wonderful to see and the energy and happiness from you all shone out. You made us all smile.

Find out what Class 1 got up to at the soft play and also what enrichment activities were experienced this week in whole school civic pride workshops from Nursery to Year 6.

Have a wonderful; half term and school will reopen (with some exciting developments) on Monday March 2nd.
 Mrs Scothern



THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



	WE 20/02/26
Class 1	91.9
Class 2	83.6
Class 3	90.4
Class 4	93.1
Class 5	95.2
Class 6	88.8
Class 7	94.2
Class 8/9	94.7

Attendance Update

We will continue to use our Attendopoly board with the classes to encourage great class attendance. Your child's class rolls the dice if they collectively have an attendance over 96% (which is our school target).

The pupils really enjoy participating with the game and finding out what space they will land on and what extra treat that might be for the class!

This week none of our classes reached 96% or above.

We hope to get there next week!

Our whole school attendance for WE 20/02/26 is 93.3%

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.3%

Our target for this half term is **96%** we are currently at 95.4%

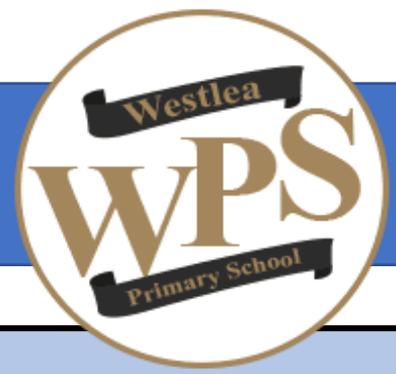


SAFE GUARDING AND ATTENDANCE TEAM:

Mrs Scothern is our Designated Safe Guarding Lead with Mrs Davey and Mrs Simmons as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads. Please get in touch with any queries or concerns.



THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



Head Teacher's Chat

We had a double week of head teacher chat this week so Mrs Scothern's office was very full!

The children all told each other their plans for the week holiday and how they will be relaxing and playing with family and friends. Zainab told us about the festival of Eid.

We hope everyone enjoys the half term break, we will see you all back in March.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

	WE 20/02/26
Class 1	Rosie
Class 2	Archie
Class 3	Reuben
Class 4	Clara and Harrison
Class 5	George
Class 6	Daisie
Class 7	Evan
Class 8 and 9	Eden and Zainab

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS

	WE 20/02/26
Class 1	Shanai
Class 2	Niyah
Class 3	Deana
Class 5	Sienna
Class 6	Oscar F
Class 7	Ava E
Class 8 and 9	Isla C and Taylor

Next week's Right of the week- article 31 – You have the right to relax and play

Character values: CARE

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Community	Compassion	Cooperation
Ambition	Actions	Achievement
Respect	Responsibility	Resilience
Enjoyment	Endeavour	Empowerment



In other news...

Reader, Writer and Mathematician of the week



Reader of the week:

- Class 1 – Ollie F
- Class2 - Elliot
- Class3 – Danni-Leigh
- Class4 - Heidi
- Class5 - Harper
- Class6 - Daisy
- Class7 - Carter
- Year6 – Amelia and Kenzi

Mathematician of the week:

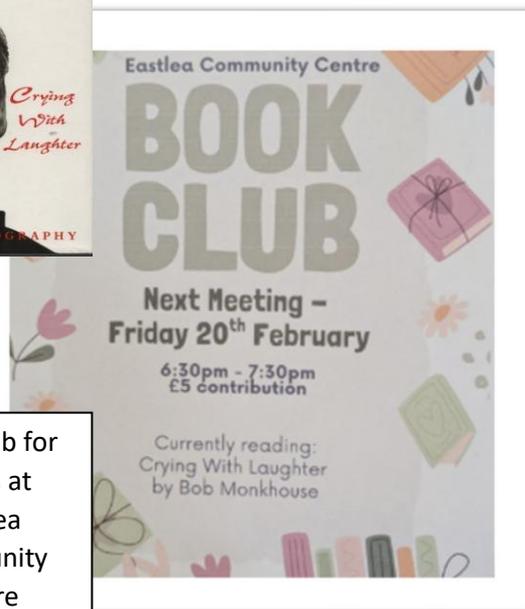
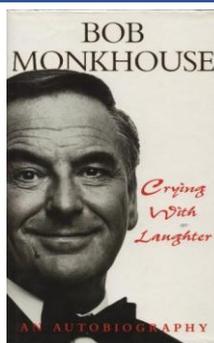
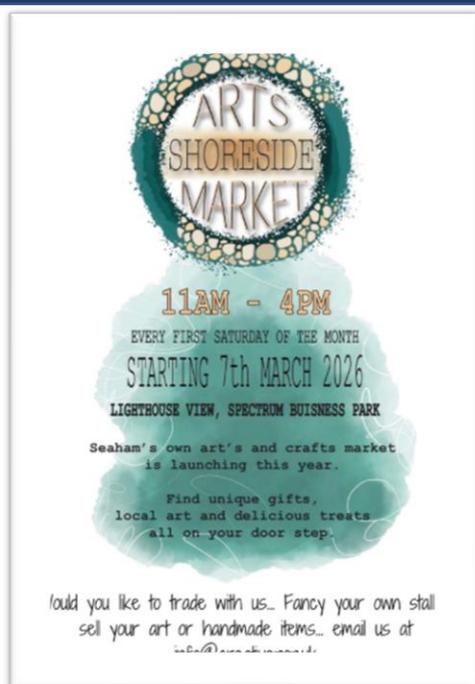
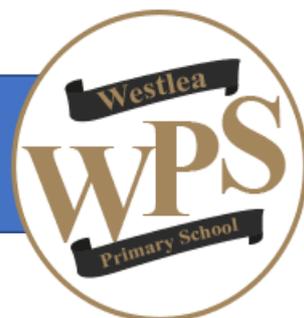
- Class 1 - Arthur
- Class2 - Kayden
- Class3 - Jackson
- Class4 - Hallie
- Class5 - Frankie
- Class6 -India
- Class7 - Kray
- Year6 – Mya and Gracie

Writer of the week:

- Class 1 - Shanai
- Class2 – Indy
- Class3 - Laynee
- Class4 - Amber
- Class5 - Alana
- Class6 - Reuben
- Class7 –Ella A
- Year6 – Seth and Kobe

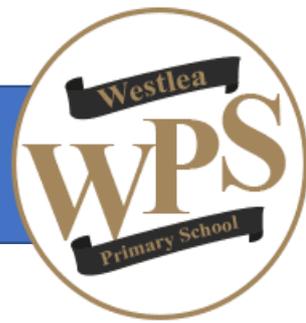
In other news...

Community news and beyond!



Book club for Adults at Eastlea Community Centre

In other news...
Community news and
beyond!



"The Darker Side Of Midnight"

A celebration of our now lost but never forgotten
Coal Mining Industry

An exhibition of atmospheric and moving
Coal Mining artwork

By

NIGE GORE

*Coal Mining Art
That Touches The Heart!*



A tribute to generations of Coal Miners who risked their lives daily
in the hunt for the "Black Diamond"

February 23rd to 27th 2026

Easington Social Welfare Centre
47 Seaside Lane South (Back)
Easington Colliery
Peterlee
County Durham
SR8 3PL

Contact Nige @
07523742085
gorey64@icloud.com
www.nigegoregallery.com



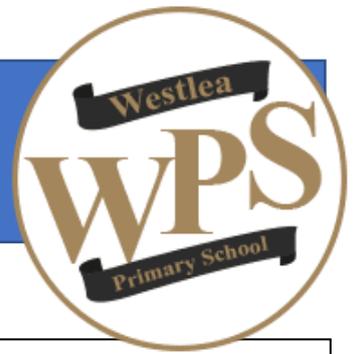
Keep our
heritage alive
and take the
pupils to see
this Art
Exhibition.

Our mining
Industry
remembered
in artwork.

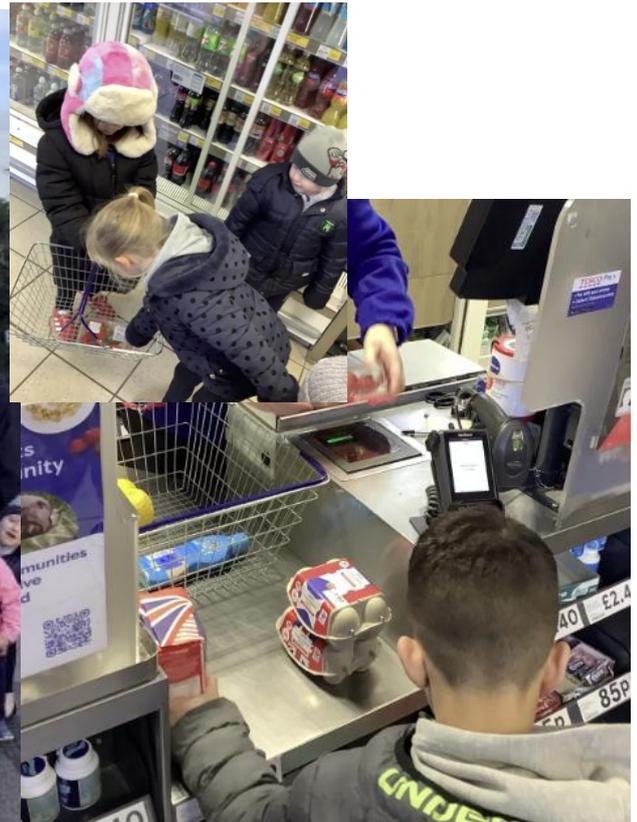
Interested in Local History and Art?

In other news...

Class 1 visit – Soft play visit and Tesco pancake shopping trip

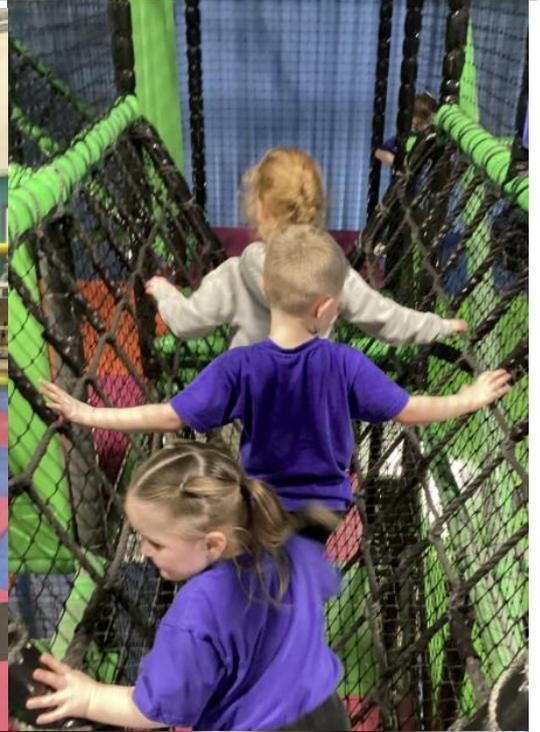


Class 1 went on two adventures this week. The first was to shop for ingredients for pancakes. The class wrote me a lovely letter asking permission to go shopping and they also wrote out the ingredient they needed. How could I say no? When asked how much money do they need, £5, £10 or £20? They agreed £20 would be the best to go shopping with!



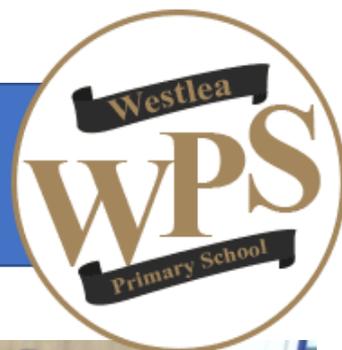


A Soft play experience- a special treat for all of their efforts this term in trying extra-curricular clubs, attending assemblies and building in confidence every day! These mighty learners are reading, writing and are amazing with numbers. We are so proud of these pupils and know that they are making a strong start to life at school and future learning.



In other news...

Class 7 Assembly



All You Need Is Love

Class 7 performed in their learning showcase assembly to our school community, parents and carers. These pupils demonstrated confidence, happiness and HUGE talent.



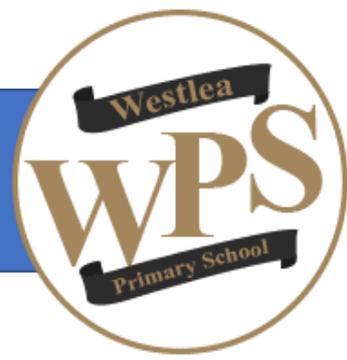
The message from the assembly is that learning in fun at school and with LOVE and acceptance for each other we can achieve great things.

Many thanks for all of the support from family and friends.



In other news...

Attendopoly prizes



Congratulations to class 3,4, 6 and year 6 . They collectively achieved our target attendance figure of 96% or above for a week's attendance. They then rolled the dice and landed on a range of enrichment activities.



Forest activity: Team orienteering.
Fabulous communications Class 4.



Year 6 enjoyed hot chocolate this week



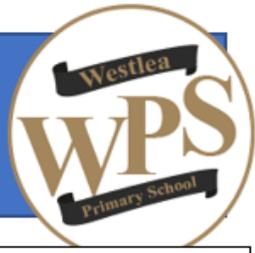
Dance/yoga experience for Class 3



Eyes down for a full house! A spot of bingo in Class 6.

In other news...

Quality of Education

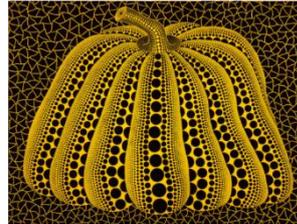


Every month we will be sharing information about recognised artists, musicians, and scientists through our newsletter and also during lessons and assemblies. This is one of many strategies used to enrich the curriculum and broaden student horizons, building cultural capital and representation.



Yayoi Kusama (草間 彌生, *Kusama Yayoi*, born 22 March 1929) is a Japanese [modern artist](#). She mostly creates [sculpture](#) and [installation art](#). She also works in [painting](#), [performance](#), [video art](#), [fashion](#), [poetry](#), and writing. Yayoi Kusama is known as one of the most important living artists from [Japan](#). She is also one of the world's most famous and successful living artists. Her unique art style influenced other well-known artists like [Andy Warhol](#)

Yayoi Kusama (1929- to present)



Don't adjust your screens or rub your eyes...the dots you are about to experience are art! Welcome to the weird and wonderful world of Yayoi Kusam!

Find out more?
[Who is Yayoi Kusama? | Tate Kids](#)

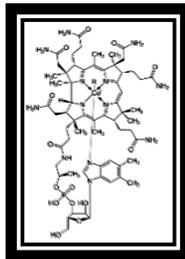
Artist of the Month

February

Dorothy Hodgkin was a brilliant British chemist. She won the [Nobel Prize in Chemistry](#) for her amazing work. She made a special technique called [X-ray crystallography](#) much better. This helped her figure out the exact shapes of important molecules in living things. This was very important for understanding how living things work.

She discovered and confirmed;

- The structure of [penicillin](#)
- The structure of [vitamin B₁₂](#) (see diagram)
- The structure of [insulin](#).



All of these are very important for medicine even today.



Dorothy Hodgkin (1910-1994)

February

Scientist of the Month

Musician of the Month



Will Smith and Hip Hop

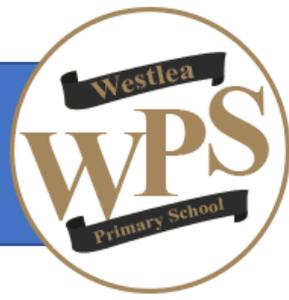
February

Willard Smith, born 25th September 1968 in USA. He is known for being an actor, rapper and producer.

He started his music career as part of the hip-hop duo DJ Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince. Their hit song; "Parents just don't understand" won a Grammy Award in 1989.



In other news...
Online safety visits – KS2
Online safety Day



 *We will build trust and confidence by:*

- Relentlessly Pursuing Criminals
- Providing a First-Class Service to Victims
- Being Determined to Protect Vulnerable People
- Being the Best at Preventing Crime & ASB

We will live our values of:

-  Courage
-  Respect and Empathy
-  Public Service

We help our pupils develop their online safety knowledge in many different ways. The Police with Jet came to school to speak to all of our Key Stage two pupils.

Averlyn - I really found the session helpful to make me (and my friends) aware of the dangers on social media.

Amelia - I loved the police woman Claire coming in to our class. She shared a lot of important messages about online safety. I also loved her dog Jet who was so cute.

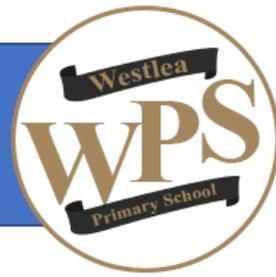
Lilly - I really enjoyed the lesson from the police lady. We learnt that being an **'upstander'** and telling the truth is always better than not telling anyone if something has happened.



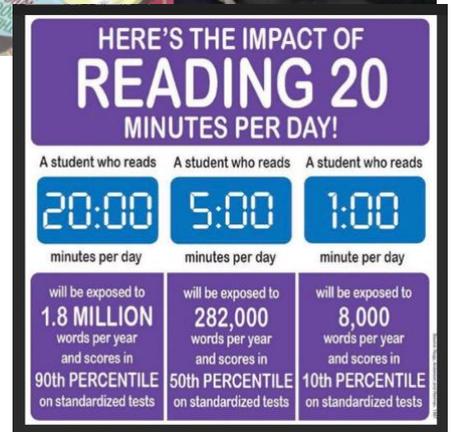


In other news...

Reading Cafes C1

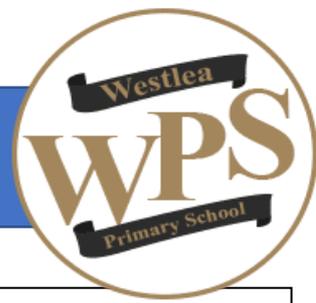


We welcomed parents and carers from Classes 1,7,8 and 9 to reading cafes. Look at the reading and English activities that were experienced.



In other news...

Reading Café Class 7



This week ends our Reading Cafes across school, we have had an amazing amount of support from parent/carers that have come into school to support their child or children. Many thanks for this.

Learning to read for your child is one of **the most important skills** that they can acquire. Reading development, no matter how much, will help with every area of the curriculum.



We've had a lovely morning with Paisley. She did some lovely reading.

I've enjoyed it all this morning, especially the cup of tea and a biscuit.

Lovely interactive activities with a lot of choice that I could work with Ava. Coffee and biscuits.

I really enjoyed spending time with my child in school. We have had a great time, lots of giggles and challenges.

Had a lovely morning, staff were really helpful when kids were struggling with games. GREAT SET UP. Thank you.

One on one time with our children to help them learn. It was nice to be involved into school.

The reading café has been lots of fun. We've enjoyed doing all the different activities together.



Good to see what Ella learns in classes. The changes in the different reading station activities was good.

An interesting morning, very educational for the children. I have learned a few things I did not know.



Well laid out stands with different activities. Time allocations were good, not too short and not too long. Nice refreshment stand.

I've enjoyed all of the reading activities with my friends



I teamed up with my son and went through all the mini reading games. I thoroughly enjoyed my time today and will definitely come again.

It has been a very enjoyable morning. We found some new, fun ways to learn together that we wouldn't have thought of, helped along by coffee.



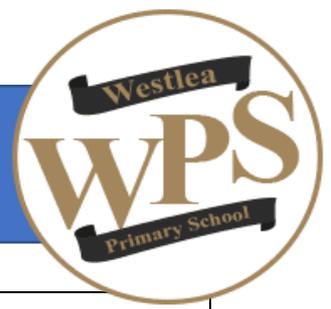
Spending time learning together. We really enjoyed the A-Z book find and the tile puzzle.



I enjoyed all the activities but doing the crossword was the best, all the boys helping each other.

In other news...

Reading Café Class 8 and 9



I had a lovely time looking at all the books and games with my daughter and her friends.



Really enjoyed taking part in different activities and spending time with my son I really enjoyed it!

Good to see what the children do in class

We had a lovely morning – it was a very relaxed atmosphere and very educational. It was very nice to spend extra time with my child at school



Fantastic time

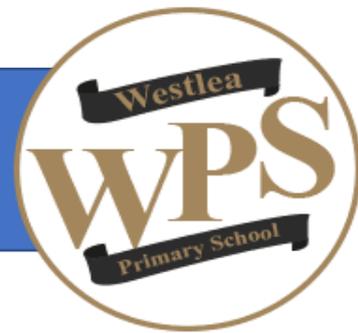
Interesting activities from English, reading and comprehension. Nice to see them look back at books they have read previously.



Very good and very educational!

Great opportunity to see our children engaged in English reading activities. The different resources kept the children engaged all of the children were active and I loved to see how much my daughter enjoys school.

In other news... EYFS News- how do we learn?



What can you see?
What do you notice?

They used magnifying glasses and drawing implements to draw their own stick insects with detail and excellent pencil control.



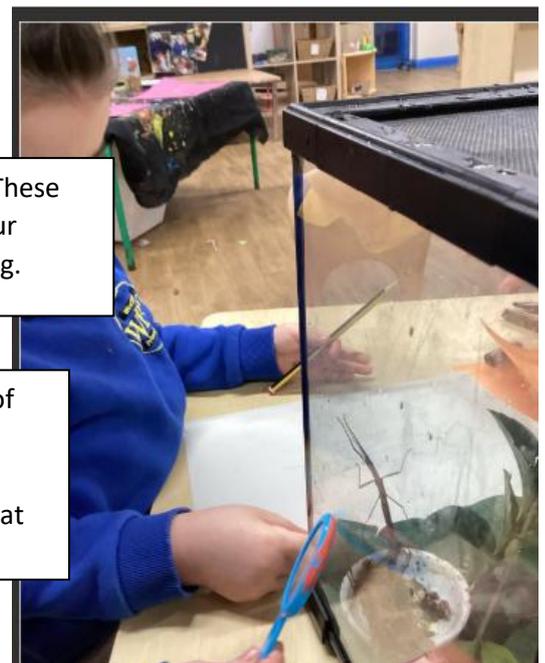
They showed care
and gentleness
when holding them.

They waited
patiently for their
turn. A big skill to
master!



Have you ever held a Stick insect? These insects are so interesting and for our Nursery pupils extremely fascinating.

They observed the movement of the insects and found words to describe what they saw. Adults helped them find new words that would attach to this memory.



Can we count how many legs a stick insect has? What about 2 insects? How many legs do they have altogether?

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, and 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.

Helping children and young people with MANAGING DEVICE STRESS AND ANXIETY

The internet and advances in the capability of digital devices have afforded us arguably the fastest period of technological and social evolution in living memory: creating opportunities for us to interact with people anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day. It's also, however, blurred safety boundaries and added new stresses for young people, who are often less aware of the hidden hazards. With almost half of 10-15-year-olds experiencing bullying online and algorithms pushing content in front of our children every day, it's important to know how to address some of these challenges.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

LIVING ONLINE

The internet is awash with sophisticated algorithms that learn from our online behaviour and try to predict our wants and needs. That's very helpful in some respects, but it can make the online world difficult for children and young people to negotiate. Content can be brought to them at any time – it may not always be appropriate, and children may not have the ability or the support to deal with it.

PUSHY NOTIFICATIONS

Content is also directed at us through notifications from our apps: letting us know we have a new message or social post to read, for example. While that's useful in some circumstances, it conditions us to keep going back online (and is designed to do so) and can be a near-constant demand on your child's attention. As such alerts become more common, are we experiencing an 'attack of the pings'?

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

There are now so many ways we can communicate online in real time (like instant messaging apps) or with a delay (such as on social media) that it's possible to be constantly in conversation. Young people often prefer quickfire exchanges of text – but using fewer words can cause distressing miscommunications through the lack of non-verbal cues like facial expressions or tone of voice.

DIGITAL DEPENDENCY

As devices allow access to immediate external help in challenging situations, it's a concern that children may not be developing the inner confidence to work things out for themselves. Likewise, group membership is hugely important to young people – both in digital and 'real' life – and being excluded from online conversations can cause damaging feelings of loneliness and isolation.

DISGUISED DISTRESS

Children often haven't yet developed the emotional resources to deal with many of the setbacks of everyday life, so identifying when it's specifically something online that's worried them can be tricky. A certain level of stress is a normal response to a problem: it spurs us into action to keep ourselves safe. If the stress is excessive, though, it can feel overwhelming and potentially lead to anxiety or depression.

ANTI-SOCIAL SOCIALS

Social media can bring people together in hugely positive ways. Sadly, it does also have a darker side, including 'flame war' arguments which can escalate quickly and have hurtful consequences. With so many people looking on, 'group shaming' situations are also common – while there are continual opportunities for young people to compare themselves negatively with other social media users.

Advice for Parents & Carers

LEARN THE BASICS

It's impossible to keep up with every online change or every new app. The best option is to make yourself aware of the fundamentals of how the internet operates, so you can help your child to grasp how – and why – content reaches them. Devices and the digital world can be confusing, so learning to understand them better will give you the confidence to talk to your child about them.

PUSH DISTRACTIONS AWAY

Notifications to our phones and tablets can be helpful, but they sometimes make one wonder who's really in charge: the person or the device? Checking our phone as soon as it goes off is an easy habit to fall into – especially for young people. Try switching off non-essential alerts on your devices and encourage your child to do the same: you should both feel less triggered and more in control.

KEEP CHECKING IN

Healthy emotional regulation balances three systems: threat, drive and grounding. Down the various rabbit holes of the internet, however, that balance can easily slip away – so it's important to help your child manage their emotions when they're online. Check in with them regularly when they're on their device, and remember that 'distraction' and 'relaxation' aren't always the same thing.

TALK IT OUT

If a child mentions a comment that's been directed at them in a text chat or on social media, it may sound minor but can actually have a much bigger effect than we realise. In our evolved brains, any perceived threat can get internalised while our body reacts as if we were in physical danger – raising stress levels. It's always worth encouraging your child to get any concerns out in the open.

LOOK FOR THE SIGNS

This is tricky – and may depend on the child's age – but any sudden change in behaviour is worth looking out for. If your child seems to be checking their phone or tablet more, doesn't want to be parted from them, or appears unusually secretive, anxious or withdrawn, it could be a sign that something is amiss in relation to their device – and, possibly, that they're in need of extra support.

BE KIND: UNWIND

Be kind to yourselves as parents and carers. Remember that we're all in the same boat, trying to safely guide our children through this complex, fast-moving digital environment. Getting into the habit of having natural, relaxed conversations with your child about their online life (and yours) can level the playing field and make it far easier for them to open up to you about any concerns.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Carole Francis-Smith is an experienced counselling psychologist who specialises in promoting safe and ethical online communications. She consults with and offers bespoke training to businesses and organisations, supporting positive and effective online communications – often by considering some of the more hidden aspects of the various mediums.



Source: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/report/the-big-ask-big-answers/>
<https://www.onis.gov.uk/people/population-and-community/crime-and-justice/bulletins/childrens-online-behaviour-trends-and-wales-year-ending-march-2020>

