

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

MARCH – CAREERS MONTH

- 10th Basketball competition (y6) and festival (y3)
- 11th Class 4 parent assembly 2pm
- 13th Class 3 Great Fire of London workshop
- 16th Cricket coaching day
- 18th Superbowl competition
- 18th Reception vision screening
- 18th Nursery ladies day
- 19th Year 2 trip – unipres
- 20th – year 3 beacon of light trip
- 20th – Red Nose Day – red accessory**
- Week of 23rd March – Open Nights and egg competition
- 26th Class 5 parent assembly 2pm
- 26th – World Maths day
- 27th ‘When I grow up day’ (Come to school: Dress up as a career you could ASPIRE to be)**
- 30th Year 5 hancock museum trip

APRIL

- 2ND April – Colour run AM
- 3rd – bank holiday school closed
- Easter holiday – break up Thursday 2nd return 20th
- Week of 27th Mock SATs Y6
- 30th – year 4 trip – life centre



Hello Everyone,

What a fantastic first week back after half term. The pupils have returned to school settled and displaying great learning attributes. There have been some developments over our week away from school with a beginning of a new **Wellbeing Garden** that has been developed using £5000 grant successfully applied for and awarded to the school for National Nature Parks. Many thanks to the School’s Eco team and Mrs James for your efforts. As the weather improves, we will be planting and beginning to maximise the potential of this welcoming space.

Playground developments:

The staff have been carefully considering the needs of all of our pupils in school and sometimes by making the smallest, measurable changes, we can make a huge impact. The wooden kitchen will now be available for pupils to use at play times as well as new enhancements to playtime, making our playtimes purposeful and playful. Key Stage 2 class rotas have also been reviewed and the pupils have responded positively to the changes, particularly at lunchtime.

Wellbeing Festival:

A group of Y3, Y4 and Y5 pupils enjoyed a morning of well-being activities at Murton Glebe centre. Find out more in this week’s newsletter. With photos!

EVENTS IN MARCH

On Wednesday, our Nursery pupils enjoyed World Book Day so they could share this lovely day with most of their friends. Meanwhile on Thursday, pupils from R-Y6 continued encouraging reading by celebrating WBD in our **PJs** and comfy clothing. The pupils experienced lots of book related activities for all the pupils to take part in across the day. Every pupil got to select a classroom to enter and a story was read to them. The pupils got to vote with their feet as to which book they would prefer to listen to.

We also hosted our annual ‘Everyone read event after school.’ 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/occupation they could aspire to be involved in. **Please look at our new careers page in this week’s newsletter to find out more.**

Further information about lots of activities and events can be read about inside.
Mrs Scothern

New month and new Artist, Musician and Scientist for March...
I wonder who they can be?



HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

A student who reads 20:00 minutes per day	A student who reads 5:00 minutes per day	A student who reads 1:00 minute per day
will be exposed to 1.8 MILLION words per year and scores in 90th PERCENTILE on standardized tests	will be exposed to 282,000 words per year and scores in 50th PERCENTILE on standardized tests	will be exposed to 8,000 words per year and scores in 10th PERCENTILE on standardized tests

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE



	WE 06/03/26
Class 1	95.6
Class 2	98.6
Class 3	99.2
Class 4	100
Class 5	91.9
Class 6	99.2
Class 7	95.1
Class 8/9	96.3

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 5 classes reached 96% or above.

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 06/03/26 is 96.7%

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.4%

Our target for this half term is **96%** we are currently at **96.7%**



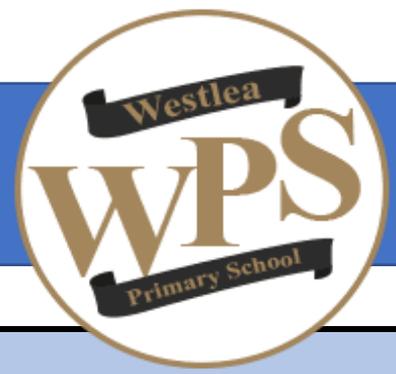
SAFE GUARDING AND ATTENDANCE TEAM:

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.

ATTENDOPOLY OUTCOMES THIS WEEK

Classes who rolled the dice this week won;
 Class2- Extra PE
 Class3- Mindfulness session
 Class4- Mindfulness session
 Class6- Extra PE
 Year 6- Extra PE

THIS WEEK'S AWARDS



Head Teacher's Special Mention:

In celebration assembly we encourage our pupils to bring in and celebrate their talents and interests from outside of school. This week we were able to find out about Reuban and his achievement in Squirrels, Ebony and her gymnastics certificate, Ben B's trainer of the session trophy, Layton's Fishing trophy, Jackson's visit to Hartlepool beach and the sea glass he found, Ava E' hobbies linked to horses, Grace's holiday to Egypt and some Egyptian artefacts and Estelle and Luna's dancing achievements! What a huge range of interests and talents our pupils have!

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS

	WE 06/03/26
Class 1	Miller
Class 2	Denny
Class 3	Imogen
Class 4	Anthony
Class 5	Kianna
Class 6	Autumn
Class 7	Carson
Class 8 and 9	Seth and Layton

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS

	WE 06/03/26
Class 1	Evalyn
Class 2	Riah-Daisy
Class 3	Layton
Class 4	Jessica
Class 5	Elliot
Class 6	Olivia
Class 7	Myles
Class 8 and 9	Abbi and Oscar

This week's Right of the week- Careers Month – Article 29

We have the right to become the best we can be – next week article 13 the right to information.

Character values: CARE

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



Pupil discussions: Pupil discussions this week was book related. We discussed what pupils enjoy about books, fiction and non-fiction and discussed. The pupils explained about the reading opportunities they have at school and how reading teaching and practise helps them learn.



Head teachers awards: Our CARE values this term are... COMPASSION, ACTIONS, RESPONSIBILITY AND ENDEAVOUR

These are given to pupils in school who have shone outside of the classroom. It maybe they have shown excellent manners and held a door for a visitor or a friend or have shown our WESTLEA CARE values in some way. Perhaps they have cooperated with each other to play a game or complete a group activity or shown resilience to keep going when a task or a learning activity has been a challenge. Visitors and other members of staff can nominate these students so it is very special if you are recognised for your efforts or for just being you!

In other news... Reader, Writer and Mathematician of the week



Well done to these students. They will all be entered into the end of term draw.

Reader of the week:

Class 1 – Misty
Class 2 - Archie
Class 3 - Jackson
Class 4 - Lydia
Class 5 - Eshaal
Class 6 - Autumn
Class 7 – William
Year 6 – Zuzanna + Gracie

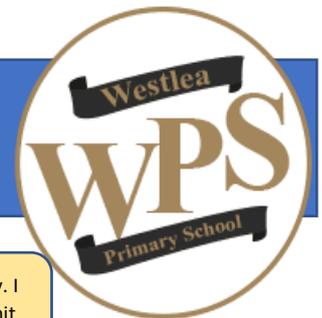
Mathematician of the week:

Class 1 – Matthew T
Class 2 - Niyah
Class 3 - Blake
Class 4 - Heidi
Class 5 - Elliot
Class 6 - India
Class 7 - Millie
Year 6 – Isla + Kobe

Writer of the week:

Class 1 – Eleanor
Class 2 – Ava
Class 3 - Ayla
Class 4 – Holly E
Class 5 - Katalaiya
Class 6 - Poppy
Class 7 – Jacob
Year 6 – Nirvana + Theo

In other news... Community news and beyond!



Seaham Town Council news

Call out to our budding actors, singers, dancers, comedians, musicians, jugglers, magicians. Why not give this a try?

Congratulations to Magnus for leading out his team recently. I like to think that the leader emoji is about YOU! I think Granit Xhaka would agree. A brilliant experience.

Seaham's Got Talent

Do you have a hidden talent? We will be hosting Seaham's Got Talent this year. The competition will be open to youths aged 18 and under.

It is intended for auditions to be held at the community centres and youth centre over the coming months before the shortlisted entrants make it to the final in June.

Cash prizes are available with 1st place receiving £500, 2nd place receiving £300 and 3rd place receiving £200. The final will take place as part of the Seaham Youth Festival event at Seaham Town Park on Sunday, 28th June.

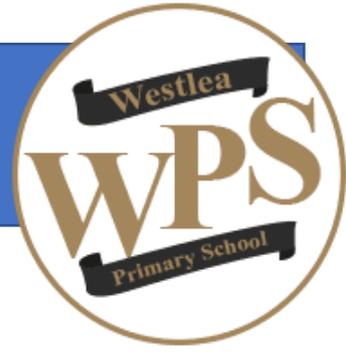
If you are interested in taking part email us at info@seaham.gov.uk with a description of your act and contact details to be kept up to date with audition announcements.



Leader 🏆



In other news...
**Personal Development,
Inclusion: Wellbeing festival**



Well done to pupils from Year 3, 4 and 5 how attended a well-being festival at Murton Glebe Centre, ran by the School Sports Partnership.

The pupils performed yoga, danced in a silent disco, completed team building skills and activities and planted seeds to then take home.

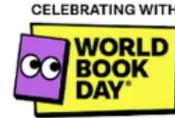
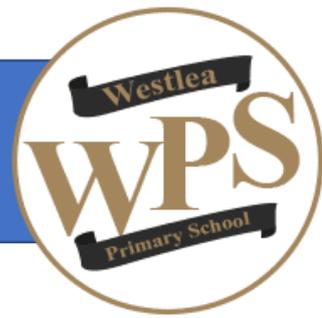


They had a great time and were a credit to our school. Their manners, excellent behaviour and have a go attitude was excellent to see and hear about.



In other news...

World book day events in school and after school!



Take a look at the activities from our special day in school.

We champion reading for fun. That's because it seriously improves lives. In fact, it's the biggest indicator that a child will grow up to enjoy a happier and more successful future. Young children are more likely to read if they see it as fun, entertaining and a social thing to do. That's what World Book Day is all about, inspiring children to see reading as a fun thing to do. Together, let's help every child enjoy the life-changing benefits of reading for fun.



Storytime with...

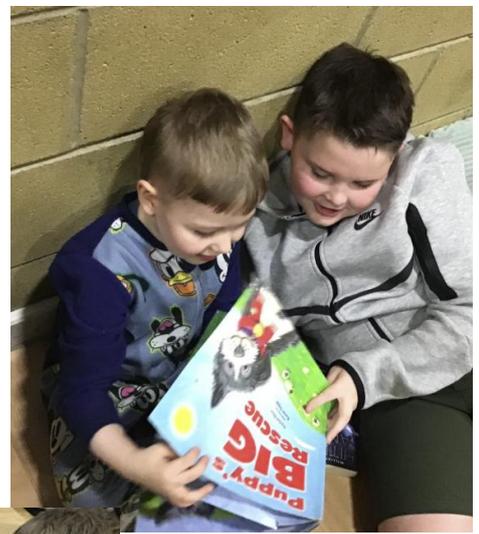


Reading buddies

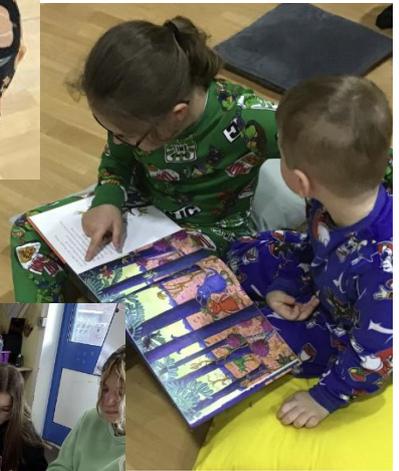


Reading assembly





Reading assembly



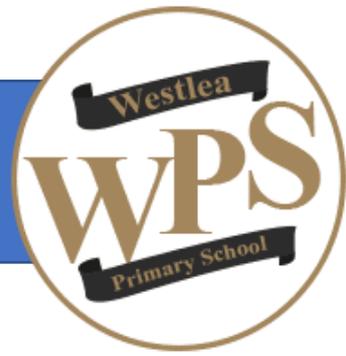
Everyone reading after school event.





In other news...

Quality of Education: Class 5 Michael Rosen



We're going on a bear hunt? Chocolate cake? Many more amazing stories. Class 5 joined Michael Rosen, author and poet to find out more about how to use your imagination to create stories, bring characters to life and compose poems with a punch!

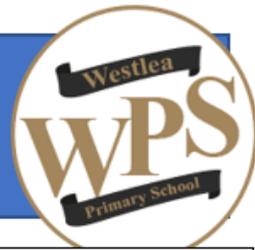
This interactive livestreamed session featured mysterious treats, tempting wonders and magical morsels. They discovered how diverse cultures have used food to spark imagination, build worlds and bring characters to life.

The experience, supported reading for pleasure and writing for pleasure, the session featured animated storytelling, creative prompts, and draw-alongs. Students were inspired to write food-themed tales of their own and create small storybooks.



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.

Banksy is a famous street artist from England who creates clever and funny artworks that often make people think about important issues.

Banksy is an anonymous Artist- he is known for keeping his identity a secret. No one knows exactly who he is, but he has been creating art since the 1990s.

He paints on walls, buildings, and bridges all over the world, using a special technique called stencilling. This means he cuts out shapes and sprays paint over them to create his art quickly.

Banksy



Banksy's factfile

Date of birth:	Unknown
Place of birth:	Unknown
Type of art:	Graffiti / stencilling
Known for:	Art in public places



Artist of the Month

March

Ever wondered who invented the X-Ray machine?

Marie Curie (born November 7, 1867 – died July 4, 1934) was a brilliant [Polish](#) and French [physicist](#) and [chemist](#). She is famous for her ground breaking work on [radioactivity](#). Marie Curie was the first woman to become a [professor](#) at the [University of Paris](#). She was also the first woman ever to win a [Nobel Prize](#). Even more amazing, she was the first person to win *two* Nobel Prizes! She won one in physics in 1903 and another in chemistry in 1911. Her physics Nobel was for her research into [radiation](#), which was first discovered by [Henri Becquerel](#). Sadly, Marie Curie died because she was exposed to too much radiation in her [laboratory](#). At the time, scientists didn't know how dangerous radiation was, so she had no protection.

Scientist of the Month

March

Marie Curie (1867-1934)



Musician of the Month



Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Classical Music

March

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born in Salzburg, Austria, where his father Leopold was a violinist and composer. Wolfgang (or Wolfertl, as his family called him) was a child prodigy. He composed his first piece of music at age five; he had his first piece published when he was seven; and he wrote his first opera when he was twelve. By the time Wolfgang was 6, he was an excellent pianist and violinist. He and his sister Maria Anna (known as Nannerl) traveled all over Europe performing for royalty.

When he grew up, Mozart moved to Vienna, and tried to earn a living as a pianist and composer. But he had a lot of trouble handling the fact that he was no longer a child prodigy. Mozart was still a musical genius, but after he stopped being a cute kid, people stopped making a big fuss over him. Back then, musicians were treated like servants, but Mozart did not, and could not think of himself as a servant.

Mozart was only 35 when he died. During his short life, he composed in all different musical forms, including operas, symphonies, concertos, masses, and chamber music. Today, he is still considered a genius!

In other news...

Wellbeing garden and school improvements

The beginning of improvements and creation of a well being garden at Westlea. Can we make it a community effort?



Anyone willing to help out with sanding or painting or can donate plants suitable for shaded areas please get in contact with the school office.

The improvements in the space will eventually see a planted area for pupils to use during lesson time and at play and lunchtimes. There have been various seating arrangements designed to encourage talking to friends or quietly reading a book. Pupils will use the space in groups for lessons or after school clubs. It is an accessible space for all of our learners.



Still to do: Planting, sanding and painting of tables, power hosing flooring. Signage for our breakfast club entrance and wellbeing garden will also be added.

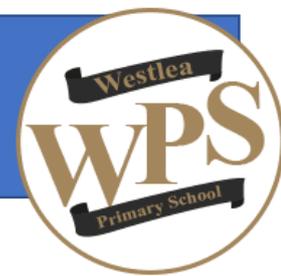


The scooter park space will also be developed over time. Already the pupils can see the potential and benefits of the space and can't wait to help out with the next phase.

WESTLEA OUTDOOR LEARNING OUTFITS



Check out these outdoor learning outfits! By using the funding from Tesco blue coins and the donation from Seaham Town Council our pupils from across school will now be able to access our many outdoor areas whatever the weather. They will feel comfortable, warm and dry. We now have 2 complete class sets of outdoor kits.



Careers Month at Our School – Inspiring Futures!

March is a very exciting time in our school as we celebrate **Careers Month**, a key part of the **careers-related learning** that we embed throughout the whole year. While our curriculum regularly helps children learn about different jobs, skills, and aspirations, Careers Month gives us the chance to shine an extra spotlight on the world of work in fun, engaging, and hands-on ways.

Throughout March, our children will take part in a wide range of activities designed to help them understand the huge variety of careers available to them as they grow up. We want every child to see themselves in the world of work—whether they love science, sport, creativity, technology, animals, or helping others.

This year we have an exciting programme planned, including **visits out of school** to experience real workplaces first-hand. Classes will be visiting:

- **Unipres**, where children can explore engineering and manufacturing
- **The Foundation of Light at Sunderland AFC**, learning about careers in sport, fitness, and community work
- **The Life Centre in Newcastle**, with opportunities to see science, innovation, and discovery in action

As well as our visits, we are delighted to welcome **a wide range of visitors into school**, including guest speakers for assemblies, hands-on workshops, practical demonstrations, and even **virtual visits** from professionals who can share their expertise online. These visitors help broaden children’s understanding of the many exciting pathways available for their futures.

All of these activities are designed to give children **multiple opportunities** to ask questions, explore interests, build aspirations, and understand the skills they’re already developing. Careers-related learning at primary level helps children begin to recognise their strengths, challenge stereotypes, and dream big about what they might like to do as adults.

We look forward to an inspiring month full of curiosity, creativity, and possibilities for every child!

If you have a job or career you’d like to share with our pupils, please get in touch.

Mrs Robson (Class 1)

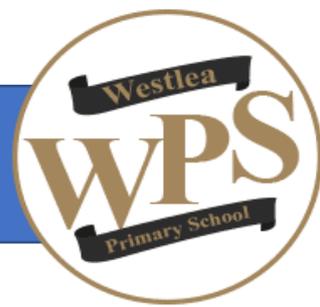


The video we watched is:

https://youtu.be/XpQgSqlW_EA?si=VP1n29KUzk6xo7G6

In other news...

Free breakfast club update



A reminder that our **free breakfast club offer launches after Easter**. This place must be **booked via parent pay one week in advance** –we cannot accept walk ins as we need to **organise staffing in advance**. Breakfast club starts at **8am** with entrance through the scooter park doors and there will be activities for children to do after breakfast is served.

One of the main stipulations of the free club are that pupils eat food on site – healthy low sugar options such as toast/crumpets/bagels cereal fruit and yoghurts.

In other news...

Football

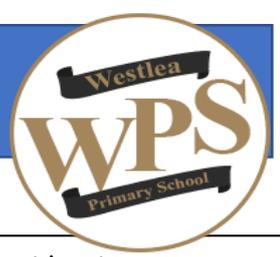


Year 6 cup match at Ribbon.

Our year 6 football team had their first games back after the winter break. They performed really well and we have high hopes for the end of the season.



In other news... Banksy at Westlea



Key Stage 1 Art Club enjoyed learning all about street art and our Artist of the Month, **Banksy**.

We had a great discussion on whether street art is art or vandalism.



The children created their own street art in the playground – some took inspiration from Banksy's works and some created their own.

We enjoyed looking at examples of his work and talking about the messages in the artworks.



The children were intrigued to find out that nobody knows who he is!



The children had very strong opinions and could give clear reasons such as "I think it is art because the pictures are really good." "I think it is wrong to paint on someone's house without asking them." "I think it is art because the pictures have a message."



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 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

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 personal 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.



The National College®