ISSUE 63
6th November 2026
#SUSTAINABLEEXCELLENCE



Hello Everyone,

Welcome back to everyone, this week has been another busy and productive week in school, with lots of exciting learning opportunities for our children and valuable professional development for staff.

This Week

Staff Training

This week, a number of staff completed **Team Teach Level 1 training**, further developing our consistent approach to supporting children across all ages, phases and abilities. The training strengthens our positive behaviour support strategies and helps ensure safe, supportive interactions for all learners.

Several colleagues also participated in **Fire Marshal training**, helping us to maintain the highest standards of safety across the school.

Fire Service Visit - Bluebells

Our youngest learners in Bluebells enjoyed a special visit from the **Fire Service**. The children learned about the important role firefighters play in our community, explored some of the equipment they use, and had the opportunity to see a fire engine up close and learn how it works.

Y5/6 Tag Rugby Competition

Well done to our Year 5 and 6 pupils who represented the school at the **Tag Rugby Competition** held at Peterlee Rugby Club. We are always proud of the teamwork, determination and sportsmanship our children demonstrate.

Thrive Programme

We are pleased to be continuing the **Thrive Programme** for all Reception pupils, supporting their social and emotional development and helping them to build confidence, resilience and positive relationships.

OASES Project - Year 4

Year 4 pupils have continued to take part in the **OASES Project**, developing new skills and engaging in a range of enriching activities.

Chance to Shine Cricket

Some of our Key Stage 2 classes have begun their **Chance to Shine Cricket sessions**, delivered in partnership with the Durham Cricket Foundation. The sessions are providing excellent opportunities for children to develop their cricket skills and enjoy being active.

SEND Coffee Morning Reminder
Tuesday 11th November

We would like to invite all parents and carers to our **SEND Coffee Morning**. Join our SENDCo, **Mrs Davenport**, alongside visiting professionals, to find out more about the support available for children and families. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions, meet other parents and learn about services, community groups and professional support available in education, health and beyond.

Everyone is welcome.

Mrs Scothern

KEY DATES

2nd November – INSET school closed
11th November – SEN Coffee morning

WEEK BEGINNING 16TH-20TH ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

16th November – Odd socks day
13th November – Children In Need Day
19th November – England Rocks Day!

Week of 24th November – Book fair and open nights

2nd December – Festive Run AM
3rd December – Xmas Fair
8th December – KS1 Xmas show (pm)
9th December – EYFS Xmas show (pm)
10th December Y3/4 Xmas show (pm)
11th December Y5/6 Xmas show (pm)

15th December – Xmas Jumper/dinner day
16th December – Xmas Party
16th December – Y5/6 Xmas party
17TH December – Y3/4 Xmas party
17th December – KS1 Xmas Party
18th December – Xmas PJ Day

Autumn term CARE values.
Community, Ambition, Respect and Enjoyment

NEXT WEEK

Odd Socks Day-MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

Children are invited to wear odd socks as part of our celebration of individuality and inclusion during **Anti-Bullying Week** MONDAY- FRIDAY 16TH-20TH NOVEMBER

Anti-Bullying Week

We will be taking part in a range of activities designed to promote kindness, respect and positive relationships across our school community.

England Rocks Day: THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

Children will have the opportunity to take part in exciting maths-based activities as part of **England Rocks Day**, helping to develop confidence and fluency in times tables.

Children in Need: FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

We will be supporting **Children in Need** and look forward to taking part in activities that help raise awareness and funds for this worthwhile cause. Further details will be shared with families shortly.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting week of learning and opportunities for all of our children.

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

	WE 06/11/26
Reception	97.9%
Year 1	92.9%
Year 2	97%
Year 3	97.7%
Year 4	98.1%
Year 5	99%
Year 6	90.5%

Attendance is one of the key indicators of success for children. Being at school every day - on time- ready to learn- really does make that much of a difference. Let's work together to make this happen. Please contact school if you have any attendance queries or concerns. Regards, Mrs Scothern, Mrs Davey and Mrs Simmons

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!

Keep up the great work!

Our whole school attendance for WE 06/11/26 is 96.1%

Our attendance for the year to date is 95.7%

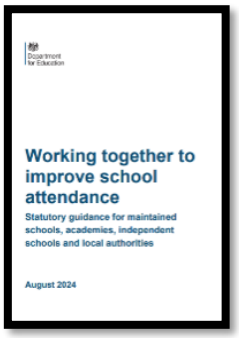
Our target for this half term is **96%** we are currently at 95.7%



Ever wondered where school gets guidance for supporting families with attendance?

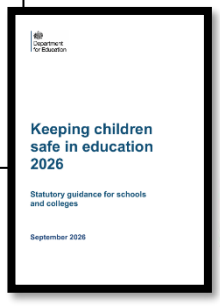
We use statutory guidance.

As a school we are also supported by the Local Authority and this week we met with a member of the Attendance Improvement Team to discuss the schools' attendance.





All Staff received updated training regarding updates to Keeping Children Safe In Education, that became statutory 1st September.



Attendopoly winners:

Reception – Just Dance

Year 2 – Extra Forest session

Year 3 – Ice Lollies

Year 4 – Extra free cookie club

Year 5 – Fruit platter

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 Award

INDIVIDUAL CLASS STAR OF THE WEEK AWARDS	
	WB 06.11.26
Reception	Theo
Year 1	Shanai
Year 2	Elliot
Year 3	Blake
Year 4	Harper
Year 5	Grace
Year 6	Kevin

RIGHTS RESPECTING AWARDS	
	WB 06.11.26
Reception	Yannis
Year 1	Eleanor
Year 2	Ava
Year 3	Layton
Year 4	Grace
Year 5	Ijaz
Year 6	Myles

Right of the week- Article 7
Your right to a name and a nationality

Character values: CARE		
Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Community	**C**ompassion	**C**ooperation
Ambition	**A**ctions	**A**chievement
Respect	**R**esponsibility	**R**esilience
Enjoyment	**E**ndeavour	**E**mpowerment



Pupil discussions: Reading
A selection of pupils from across Year R to Y6 read with Mrs Scothern this week. They discussed the class texts they are reading and the author of the term.
What is a favourite story? Why?
How often do you read at home? What do you read?



Head teachers awards: Our CARE values this term are…Community, Ambition, Respect and Enjoyment

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

Reader of the week:

Reception – Emily

Year 1 – Matthew S

Year 2 - Reuben

Year 3 – Reuben

Year 4- Clara

Year 5 -Alliah

Year 6 – Layla C

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

Keep up your great learning attitude.

Writer of the week:

Reception - Tymon

Year 1 - Amelia

Year 2 – Riah-Daisy

Year 3 – Frankie

Year 4- Kataleiya

Year 5 - India

Year 6 - Mason

Mathematician of the week:

Reception - Skadi

Year 1 - DJ

Year 2 - Laynee

Year 3 – Jessica

Year 4- Kianna

Year 5 - Emily

Year 6 - Cleo

Autumn Term CARE values

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

Every term we focus on four of our school CARE values. These values have been carefully selected to reflect, nurture, inspire and equip our pupils towards having a **strong personal character**. They are linked to **personal characteristics** and **British values** and will provide them with solid foundations to move onto the next steps of their learning and life's challenges.

The Summer term **CARE values** typically mean and how we help shape behaviour, character and the culture of our school community.

Community

What it means: We believe that everyone is an important part of our school community. Pupils learn the importance of working together, supporting others, and celebrating each other's successes. Through developing a strong sense of belonging, children learn empathy, teamwork, and how to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

How this helps our pupils:

- Builds positive relationships.
- Encourages kindness and inclusion.
- Develops teamwork and cooperation.
- Creates a sense of belonging and responsibility.

Ambition

What it means: We encourage all pupils to aim high and believe in their potential. Ambition means being willing to challenge yourself, work hard, and never give up when things become difficult. We want our children to have confidence in their abilities and aspirations for the future.

How this helps our pupils:

- Develops resilience and determination.
- Encourages a growth mindset.
- Increases confidence and self-belief.
- Inspires children to achieve their personal best.

Respect

What it means: Respect is fundamental to a happy and successful school. We teach our pupils to value themselves, others, and the environment. Children learn to listen carefully, accept differences, and treat everyone with kindness and consideration.

How this helps our pupils:

- Promotes positive behaviour.
- Develops understanding and tolerance.
- Encourages responsibility for actions.
- Builds strong and respectful relationships.

Enjoyment

What it means: Learning should be engaging, inspiring, and enjoyable. We want our pupils to be curious, enthusiastic, and excited about discovering new things. When children enjoy learning, they are more confident, motivated, and willing to take on new challenges.

How this helps our pupils:

- Develops a love of learning.
- Increases motivation and engagement.
- Encourages creativity and curiosity.
- Supports positive wellbeing and happiness.

Why These Values Matter at Westlea Primary School

Together, these CARE values help build a **positive school culture** where children learn not just academically but also socially and morally. Westlea Primary use such values to:

- Support **behaviour expectations** and shape how pupils treat one another.
- Promote **character development**, preparing students for life beyond school.
- Create a sense of **community and shared purpose** among pupils.

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.

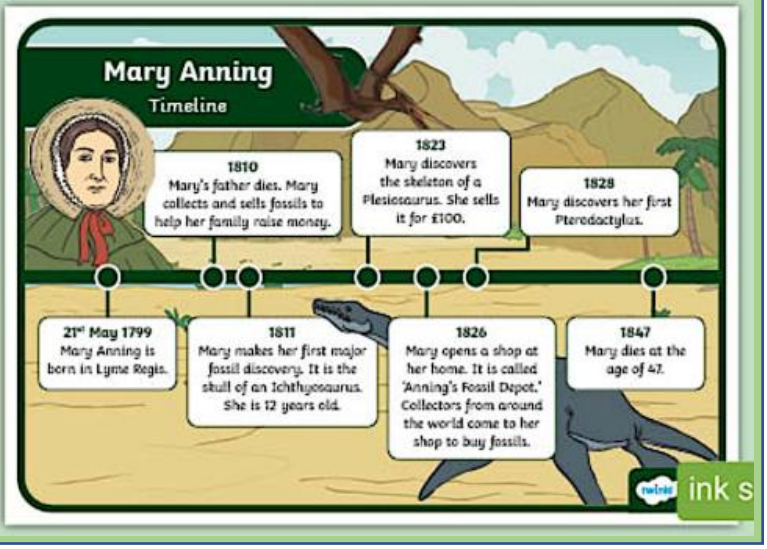
Mary Anning (1799-1847)





Scientist of the Month

November

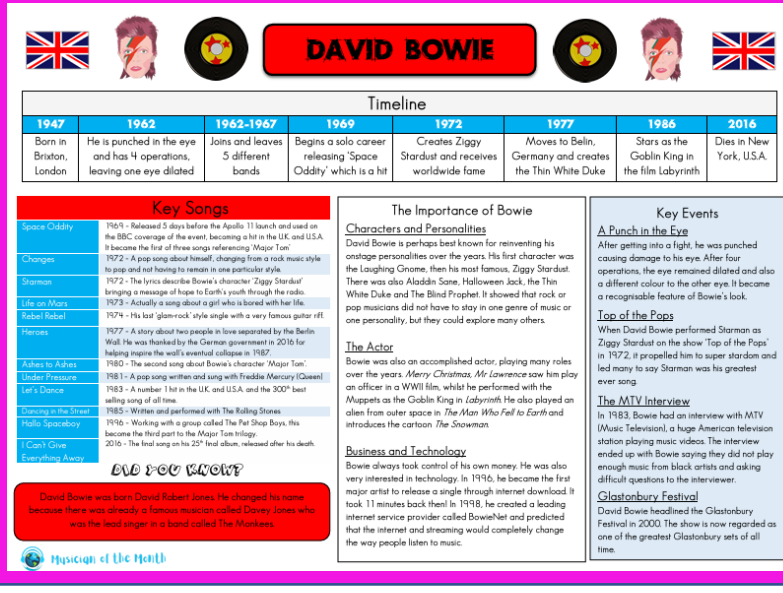


Musician of the Month



David Bowie

November



November

Pablo Picasso (1881 –1973)



Post Impressionism

Artist of the Month







Picasso's career is very exciting, he experimented with many different styles of art throughout his life. Some of these include;

- Blue period: art work in shades of blue often depict sadness or serious subjects.
- Rose period: Warmer colours such as reds and pinks, with happier scenes such as circuses.
- Cubism: Picasso and Georges Braqe created this style, which shows objects from many angles at once, almost like having x-ray eyes.
- Surrealism and late works: He explored dream-like and unusual images later in life.
- Picasso also worked in sculpture, ceramics, prints, theatre design and collage using both traditional materials like paint and unusual items like newspapers or bicycle parts.

In other news…
Enrichment









Trying food from a different country

We tried Turkish Delight because we are really Narnia, the lion, the witch and the wardrobe.

In other news…
Attendopoly



Year 1 – Mindfulness session

In other news…
Soft Archery

East Durham Schools Soft Archery Champions!
Our KS2 pupils recently took part in a virtual Soft Archery Competition, demonstrating fantastic skill, focus and determination.

Archery requires a combination of **concentration, control, coordination, accuracy and patience**. Our pupils excelled in all these areas, showing great composure, precision and resilience as they took aim and hit their targets. They also demonstrated excellent sportsmanship and teamwork, supporting and encouraging one another throughout the competition.

A huge **WELL DONE** to our KS2 team – Jaylen, Joah, Archie, Grace, Troy and Harvey-Jack – who were crowned **EAST DURHAM SCHOOLS CHAMPIONS!**

We are incredibly proud of you all. What a fantastic achievement











In other news… Reminder SEND coffee morning next week

SEND Coffee Morning Reminder
Tuesday 11th November

We would like to invite all parents and carers to our **SEND Coffee Morning**.
Join our SENDCo, **Mrs Davenport**, alongside visiting professionals, to find out more about the support available for children and families. This is an excellent opportunity to ask questions, meet other parents and learn about services, community groups and professional support available in education, health and beyond. The coffee morning will be held in the sports hall 9-11.
Everyone is welcome 😊

In other news… Y5/6 Rugby tournament





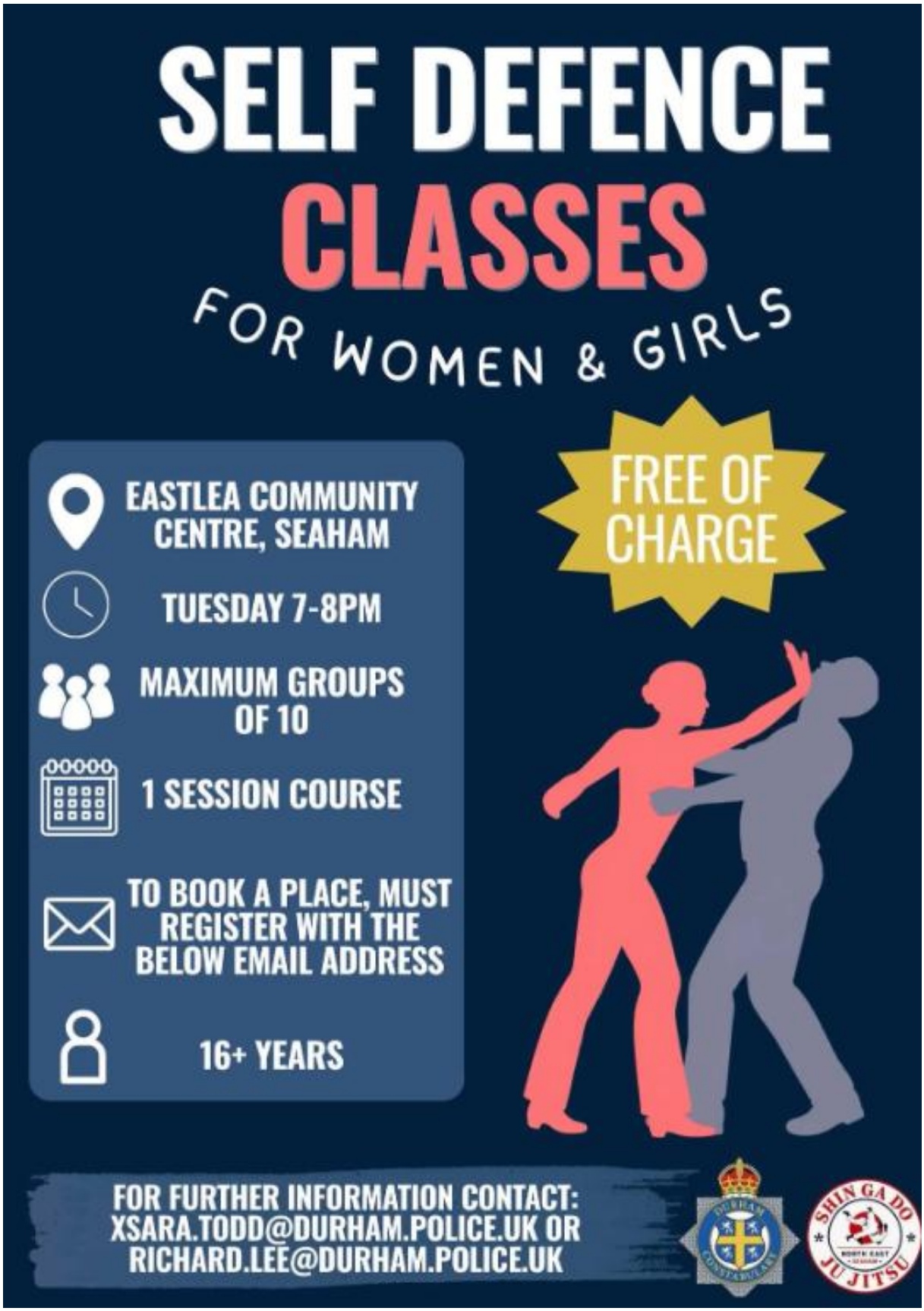


We came 4th out of 18 teams narrowly missing out on a place in the finals.

If you have children who would like to give Rugby a go, the below clubs have junior sections locally…

- Peterlee and Horden RFC - https://www.facebook.com/PeterleeHordenRFC/
- Seaham RUFC - https://www.facebook.com/SeahamRUFC/
- Houghton RFC - https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/houghton

In other news…



Thinking of buying an E-Scooter for Christmas?



You could be breaking the law!

Can I ride my e-scooter to school or work?

No, it's illegal...

E-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and are required to be taxed and insured. It's not possible to get insurance for privately owned e-scooters, which means it's illegal to use them even though it is legal to buy them.

Can I ride my e-scooter on the pavement?

No, it's illegal...

You cannot use e-scooters on public footpaths, cycle lanes or roads.

What happens if I'm caught using my e-scooter in public spaces?

The scooter may be seized and as a result, destroyed.

If stopped by Police you could receive a £300 fine and 6 penalty points on your driving licence for no insurance - even if you haven't got one yet! Parents of young people could also receive points for 'permitting' the use on a road.

THINK BEFORE YOU BUY:
The number of electrical scooters being used on our streets has risen, as well as reports of serious injuries.

L52-26

JOY ALLEN
DURHAM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Durham County Council

DARLINGTON
Borough Council

ORB

County Durham and Darlington
ROAD SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

In other news…
Safe Guarding: E-Safety

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, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

SUPPORTING CHILDREN TO DEAL WITH UPSETTING CONTENT

A Guide for Parents and Carers

Raising children in the digital age seems to be getting tougher, with the world currently experiencing so many uncertainties. From climate change to military conflicts around the globe, right now children across the globe can scarcely go online without being exposed to unsettling stories, images and ideas. Reassuring a concerned child can be difficult, especially when bad news feels omnipresent. We've put together some advice to help you in discussing upsetting events with young ones.

1 FIND OUT WHAT YOUR CHILD KNOWS

There are many ways that children are exposed to upsetting content in the media, both online and offline. Before swamping your child with information, find out what they know already. Show them you're interested in what they have to say, practice active listening and try to gauge how much your child has been impacted by what they've seen.

2 RIGHT TIME, RIGHT PLACE

Starting a conversation about upsetting content probably isn't the best idea when your child is studying for an exam or about to go to bed. Choose a time when they're relaxed and open to talking, to make sure you have their full attention. Remember, these conversations can become emotional, so choose somewhere your child feels safe and comfortable.

3 KEEP IT AGE APPROPRIATE

With younger children, try and keep the conversation more general and avoid leading questions and complex detail. You can go slightly deeper into the specifics with young teenagers but keep monitoring their emotional response. With older teens, you can be more open about the realities and consequences of what's happening – but again, do stay aware of their emotional state.

4 EMPHASISE HOPE

Upsetting content can make anyone feel angry, scared, sad or overwhelmed. Try to find stories of hope, generosity and strength related to the content you're discussing. Children often feel reassured when they know they can do something to help, so encourage your child's sense of control through activities which make them feel they're positively impacting the events they're concerned about.

5 MONITOR REACTIONS

All children react differently, of course, and young people might not directly say that they're scared, angry, anxious, confused or uncomfortable. Emotional reactions are natural when discussing upsetting topics, so take note of your child's body language and reactions. Allow them to express their feelings in a non-judgmental space and try to stay mindful of how they might be feeling.

6 CONSIDER YOUR OWN EMOTIONS

It's not only young people who find upsetting news difficult to process: adults also have to deal with strong emotions in moments of stress. Children develop coping strategies by mirroring those around them, so staying on top of how you appear to be regulating your emotion on the outside is important for supporting your child through worrying times.

7 SET LIMITS

Managing screen-time and content can be difficult even in normal circumstances, but especially in unusual or stressful periods (at the start of the pandemic, for example). It's virtually impossible to keep children away from upsetting content completely, but it's important to try to limit exposure by using parental controls, talking about the dangers of harmful content and enforcing screen-time limits.

8 TAKE THINGS SLOWLY

Try not to overwhelm your child with information all at once: instead, take the discussion one step at a time. You could make the first conversation a simple introduction to a potentially upsetting subject and then wait until your child is ready to talk again. Opening the door to the conversation and demonstrating that your child can talk to you about this type of issue is a vital first step.

9 ENCOURAGE QUESTIONS

Online, troubling images, posts, videos and stories are shared across multiple platforms, many of which your child might access. Even if the content is actually inappropriate, encourage your child to discuss what they saw instead of being angry at them for seeing it. Children are still learning that not everything online is accurate – you want to be their ultimate source of information, not their device.

10 FIND A BALANCE

There's often a tremendous compulsion to stay right up to date with events. Our phones frequently send us push notifications urging us to read the latest article or view the most recent video on social media. It's essential to remind your child that it's healthy to take regular breaks, and to focus on positive events instead of 'doomscrolling' and risking becoming overwhelmed by bad news.

11 BUILD RESILIENCE

News has never been more accessible. While our instinct may be to shield children from upsetting stories, it's important that they're equipped with the tools to manage this content when they are exposed to it. Talk about upsetting content more generally with your child and emphasise that they can always tell you or a trusted adult if something they see makes them feel uneasy.

12 IDENTIFY HELP

It's hugely important that children know where to find support if they encounter upsetting content online. Encourage them to open up to an adult that they trust, and make sure they're aware of who their trusted adults are. It is essential that children understand that they're not alone, and that help is available if and when they need it.

Meet Our Expert

Cayley Jorgensen is the director of FaceUp South Africa, which is a reporting system that is currently being used by schools and companies to fight bullying around the world. FaceUp helps give a voice to bystanders by encouraging them to speak up and get the help they not only want but need.



Sources: https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/59147906 | https://www.childnet.com/blog/supporting-your-child-with-upsetting-content/ | https://www.unicef.org/parenting/how-talk-your-children-about-conflict-and-war

National Online Safety®

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