

HOPTON CEVC PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



News

It has been a busy start to the term at Hopton. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children and the families at Hopton the past few weeks. It is a fantastic school with a big heart and I am proud to be Head of School here. This newsletter will summarise things that have been happening at Hopton but please do join our facebook page if you have not already to see more of what has been happening in classes!

Year 6 sat their SATS tests this week. They have all worked so hard this year and have all tried their best. Whilst these tests are important, they do not define a child and we are very mindful of that. We are proud of each and every one of you! Swimming for Years 4, 5 and 6 started this term and the children have enjoyed their sessions in the pool. I have attended with the group and they have proudly represented the school. We can't wait to see what you achieve!

As a school, we have been looking at our celebration worship and have decided to make changes to these. Each class will have one certificate each week which is linked to our school values. We will also have another certificate for each class from the play team who will spot those doing fantastic things at lunch time! We will continue to celebrate birthdays and have a governor award each term. If your child achieves something out of school, such as a sporting award, please do let us know and we would love to have this as part of our celebration on a Friday.

I am keen to hear from parents about what you think we are good at but also what we can do to improve so I will be sending a school survey out soon and will share any actions from this with you.

Mrs Whiting – Head of School

Trips

KS2 children went to celebrate VE day at the church last week where they read poems and took part in the service. We learnt about this event in worship and thought about what peace means for us now.

Willow class went on a school trip to Knettishall Heath this week where children explored their senses in their outdoor environment. They also hunted for minibeasts and took part in river dipping among lots of other exciting things. The children had a lovely day!



OPAL



As you know, the school are part of a project to develop play outside in order to make it more exciting, further meet their intrinsic need to play and to support learning when back in the classroom. We will be making a wish list to help source resources but wonder if you could please fill out this survey to support us with our project:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe3QiygE0P83YLCHE86rkC95zeTQk8EH7cftHGvcd7ZoQNg6A/viewform?usp=sharing>

Please see our attached letter for more information.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

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. 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.



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