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# Heytesbury C of E Primary School News

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Head Teacher: Miss Elson

Dear Parents,

What an amazing week we have had! Firstly of a huge thank you to HEFA for running the pancake breakfast on Tuesday morning. The children had a wonderful time. Secondly well done to everyone for the super world book day costumes. We had a fantastic day celebrating reading for pleasure, including a super whole school worship that Hedgehogs were able to join us for.

Our parent voice questionnaires are still active. Thank you to everyone who has filled it in. This information that you share is so important as we look at the way we want to move the school forwards. If you have not already done so please take the time to fill it in using either of the links below.

<https://forms.gle/SLQm7dfhVSEmtiAXA>

<https://forms.office.com/r/e5VXpebMre>

The Trust is launching a new Acorn Appeal fundraising drive to collect items for our food banks. With demand increasing for food banks nation-wide, all schools are collecting items to donate to support their local community for the Easter break. In support of this we will be having a Non-uniform Day on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March. The children can come in their own clothes in exchange for donations for the food bank. Please could we ask that any donations are within these guidelines:

- all items are new and unused (and are well within their use by date)
- no fresh, frozen or dairy items (e.g., fresh milk, eggs...)

I would like to thank you for all your support at the end of last term. I do apologise for the necessity of having to close the school. As I am sure you are aware by now all teachers had Covid so we were unable to staff the school therefore it would have been unsafe for the children to be in school. Well done to all of the children who put in the time and effort to do the online learning we have had some lovely work come back in. Well done to you all. Please remember that children should be in school unless they have a confirmed case of Covid or they are too ill to be in school.

This month the online safety focus is Horror Games. This is something that has recently been in the public eye and something that does come up in our school. At the bottom of this newsletter you will find some information to support your understanding of this online safety concern. If you have any questions about this or any other safeguarding concerns please do speak to myself as the designated safeguarding lead or to Mr Foyle who is the deputy designated safeguarding lead.

Many of the children have been asking questions about the events surrounding Russia and The Ukraine. The older children have had some discussions about this in their classes and as a whole school we have looked at it in relation to the refugee situation.

Once again thank you for all of your help and support.

Have a super week

Miss Elson



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#### House Points



Mars: points

Jupiter: points

Mercury: points

This week's winners are Mercury

Congratulations to Jupiter who have won the whole school house point competition for last term. They will be having their hot chocolate reward this week.

#### Values Champions:

A huge well done to these children who have been picked out for showing our Christian Values this week.

##### Otters:

Hugo – courage for joining in so well with his new class.

Catherine – respect, for understanding someone else's point of view.

##### Foxes:

Leon - Leon has had a brilliant week in Foxes. He has been working hard in class to improve his reading and told a brilliant story for the Storytelling Competition.

Matilda - Matilda is an excellent talking partner to whoever she is asked to work with in class. She explains her answers in depth to both the teacher and other children.

##### Badgers:

Leo W - for his wonderfully descriptive adventure writing.

Olivia M - for her determination and increased confidence in maths.



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## Birthdays:



14<sup>th</sup> February to 6<sup>th</sup> March  
Oliver, Owen, Arthur, Amelia H and Pippa

## Attendance:



This weeks winners with the highest attendance score of all of the classes is Badgers class with 100% attendance

## Lunch Bookings

To order meals for W/C 14<sup>th</sup> March please do this by **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm**. Thank you for your support.

### Dates for your diary (including provisional dates):

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> March and 4<sup>th</sup> April** – Swimming for Fox Class and some Year 4 children

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March-** Assessment week

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April-** Parents evenings (more details to follow)

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March** – Non uniform day and food donation for the foodbank

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April** – Last day of school

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April** – Children return to school



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To celebrate World Book Day come  
and join one of our



For families  
of children  
ages 0-5

# Bear Hunt Events



Join us for fun  
Bear Hunt  
themed  
activities!

For more  
information or  
to book a space,  
contact the  
children's centre  
central line on:  
0800 970 4669

[www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk)

**Bulford Children's Centre One Off Event**  
Tuesday 1st March 10-11.30am

**Buggy Walk Bear Hunt Story Trail**  
starting at The Friary Community Centre  
Wednesday 2nd March 10-11am

**Devizes Scout Hut Scrapstore Event**  
Wednesday 2nd March 1-2.30pm

**Windmill Hill Children's Centre, Tidworth**  
Play, Talk, Grow Together Session  
Friday 4th March 10-11am

**Salisbury Elim Church Reconnect Session**  
Friday 4th March 10-11.30am

**Westbury Community Project**  
Scrapstore Event  
Wednesday 9th March 10-11.30am

**Baptist Chapel Hall, Broughton Road**  
Melksham Scrapstore Event  
Wednesday 30th March 10-11.30am





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For families of children aged 0-5 yrs

Join us for an amazingly fun and creative session run in association with Wiltshire Scrapstore!

Book your space now!



Devizes Scout Hut  
Southbroom Road, Devizes  
Wednesday 2nd March 1-2.30pm

Westbury Community Project  
Eden Vale Road, Westbury  
Wednesday 9th March 10-11.30am

Mere Lecture Hall  
Salisbury Street, Mere  
Wednesday 16th March 10.30-11.30am

Pewsey Library  
Ashton Close, Pewsey  
Tuesday 22nd March 11.30-12.30pm

Baptist Chapel Hall  
Broughton Road, Melksham  
Wednesday 30th March 10-11.30am

For more information or to book a space contact the children's centre central line on: 0800 970 4669

[www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk](http://www.wiltshirechildrenscentres.org.uk)

Booking for Scrapstore events will close one week before the scheduled event date



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An 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's needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, news and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HORROR GAMES



Horror video games come in a such a variety that the genre can hard to define. The overlapping element is that these games are designed to scare or unsettle the player through gameplay, atmosphere, story, music, setting and 'jump scares'. The most common sub-genres are survival horror, action horror, psychological horror, jump-scare horror and reverse horror. These games originate from a range of developers, including smaller indie studios which release download-only titles (that is, they aren't physically sold in shops) and therefore aren't subject to age ratings.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ADULT THEMES

Horror games are typically made with adults in mind, which means by definition that they often feature adult themes. Outlast, for instance, is a popular horror game series including material such as nudity and extreme sadistic violence. Other games, like Five Nights at Freddy's and its sequels, have a back-story that doesn't actually appear on screen but still hints at explicit adult themes.

### VIOLENT CONTENT

Not all horror games contain graphic violence (titles like Five Nights at Freddy's and Phasmophobia prefer a spookier, suspenseful aesthetic) but many do portray extreme brutality very realistically, until Dawn and the hugely popular Resident Evil and Outlast franchises, for instance, feature incredibly graphic violence. The safest course of action is to thoroughly research a game in advance.

### ONLINE INTERACTION

Some horror games are played cooperatively with others online. Phasmophobia is one of the most popular titles in this category, and while it doesn't feature an excessive amount of gore, it does place a strong emphasis on online interaction – often with strangers. Dead by Daylight is another game in which frequent and prolonged online communication with other players is an advantage.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR

Rather than simply lading on the blood and gore, psychological horror games try to scare the player through subtle mental and emotional means. For this reason, this type of game (notable examples include Alien: Isolation, The Medium and the Amnesia series) can have a longer-lasting effect on players; some occasionally 'break the fourth wall' – interacting directly with the player as if they were real.

### LONG-TERM FEAR FACTOR

Horror games are designed to be scary: most players accept this fact in advance. They can, however, include content which leaves an unwanted lasting impression. By focusing on our fears and concerns to elicit an emotional reaction, horror games can be triggering in unexpected ways for some players. It's difficult to predict when – and how – a game might have long-term effects on an individual's mental wellbeing.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### BEWARE OF JUMP SCARES

Jump scares in video games are often no worse than they are in movies. If a young person doesn't cope well with being suddenly startled by something in a film or on TV, they probably won't be able to handle horror games featuring jump scares. Some games (such as Five Nights at Freddy's) are built entirely around this technique and aren't suitable for younger children or those who are easily frightened.

### RESEARCH THE GAME

It's best to look into a horror game thoroughly if your child expresses an interest in playing it. Many indie horror titles are download only and therefore aren't required to come with an age rating – so you'll need to do some background reading and judge the game's content for yourself. Check out the game's web pages, read any wikis about it (including fan ones) and watch videos of the gameplay.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy to lose track of time when gaming, and horror games are no exception. A short break every hour or so is important to rest the eyes and relieve the posture – especially if traumatic situations in the game have built up tension and stress. For horror gamers, breaks also give the added benefit of feeling more relaxed afterwards, which can mean a scarier gaming session when they resume!

### IF IN DOUBT, SWAP IT OUT

If your child finds a horror game to play, but after doing some research you decide it doesn't look like the right one for them, swap it out! There are a lot of horror titles to choose from, and some will be more appropriate than others. Work together with your child to find a suitable game for them. Remember, horror games don't have to be gore-spattered and graphic to be enjoyably scary!

### STAY RECEPTIVE

Maintaining good communication with your child is vital for safe gaming. If they see something in a horror game that disturbs them in ways they didn't expect, then they should feel comfortable opening up to you about it. Try not to simply laugh it off or make light of it, and always make time to listen. It's a useful reminder that they can talk to you about any type of problem they have in the future.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Gaden (aka. Juncodoll) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunaworld Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.





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National Online Safety®

# Download your Free Online Safety App for Parents & Carers



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Keep up with the latest apps games and tech your children are using, with the worlds most comprehensive online safety app for parents.

## On the National Online Safety app you'll find:

- ✔ Hundreds of online safety guides on the topics you need to know about – from screen addiction, fake news and trolling to hacking, social media influencers and sexting;
- ✔ An online safety training course for parents – developed by our experts and delivered by online safety ambassador Myleene Klass;
- ✔ A user-friendly interface with increased functionality – find exactly what you need, when you need it;
- ✔ The option to get notifications to your phone as soon as new content becomes available – so you can stay up-to-date with the latest online crazes (and risks);
- ✔ An in-app voting system so you can help determine the subjects you'd like us to cover in future;
- ✔ The facility to personalise your content by favouriting key resources.

## Download the free app today



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