



Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your support this week with 'odd sock' Monday which kick-started Anti-bullying week and your generous donations for Children in Need on Friday.

We were so pleased to have so many parents attend our first parent committee meeting. The theme this time was improving the school menu. Sarah Cash, our head chef came to the meeting to listen to parents' ideas. She will be making changes to the menu to reflect these ideas for January. We will share the new menus with you. Please ensure you let the office know if your child has a packed lunch or school dinner so that we can prepare the food accordingly.

The **next parent committee** meeting, run by parents, for parents, is on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 8.45am. Everyone is welcome to join.

Our **next coffee morning** which is a chance to chat to other parents in a warm, welcoming environment is on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 8.50am. Feel free to bring biscuits/cake to share, we will have some craft activities available for you to do.



Have a great weekend.

Mrs. L Mahony, Headteacher

## *Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility*

*See flyer below for support with safeguarding your children when using smart TVs*



**Brookfields Primary School are excited to invite you to our coffee morning.**

It will be on:

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 8.50am – 9.30am, you are all welcome.**

**Let's bring our community together, have a drink, chat and try some craft activities.**

This will be a great opportunity to bring our community together to discuss working as a Team to enable our children to

**S H I N E**

## **Parent Consultation about Admission arrangements**

Every few years, schools consult about their admission arrangements, and it is that time for us here at Brookfields. The consultation goes live on Monday 20 November 2023 and will end on Monday 8 January 2024. Click/copy and paste the first link below to read the admissions policy and use the 2<sup>nd</sup> link to comment on the proposal.

If you have any questions about this, do come and speak to the office team.

Here is a link/URL, to where we have published a copy of our admissions arrangements on the Birmingham City Council School Admissions website: [Proposed Admissions Arrangements 2025/2026 | Determined admissions arrangements 2023 | Birmingham City Council](#)

Here is a link/URL, to where interested parties can comment on the proposed admissions arrangements on the Birmingham BeHeard website during the consultation period: [Proposed Admission Arrangements for September 2025/2026 - Birmingham City Council - Citizen Space \(birminghambeheard.org.uk\)](#)

## **Key Dates**

- **Wednesdays: 3H Swimming lessons**
- **Wednesdays 3.30 – 4.25: Homework club Y2 – Y6 (Complete a form at the office)**
- **Thursday 30th November: Parent Coffee morning 8.50am**
- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December: Parent Committee Meeting 8.45am**
- **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December: Term Ends**
- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January: Pupils return to school after the holiday**

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SMART TVs

Smart TVs connect to the internet without the need for a set-top box or streaming device, letting users access a range of features through the TV set itself: from on-demand content apps like BBC iPlayer to streaming services such as Netflix, as well connecting to smartphones and other wireless devices. Most new televisions are internet enabled – so whether you're thinking of upgrading your home viewing system or buying an additional TV for your child's room, it's now even more important to consider the online safety aspects.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

From Netflix to Disney+ to Prime Video, there is a plethora of streaming services available. While these services offer content catering for younger viewers, they also provide material for more mature audiences. If you don't have parental controls set up on your accounts, your child could find themselves being exposed to shows and movies with adult themes, strong language and violence.

### INCREASED SCREEN TIME

The array of content available through smart TVs could lead to your child spending excessive amounts of time in front of the screen. Not only can prolonged screen time distract from important activities such as schoolwork or exercise, but experts have also warned that endless hours in front of the box can lead to health problems including obesity, poor sleeping patterns and depression.

### REMOTE-CONTROL RETAIL

Like many online devices, smart TVs facilitate digital purchases: buying a new app or the latest season of a favourite show, for example. If your child has access to a bank card and isn't restricted by spending controls on the system, they could run up a sizeable bill through a smart TV fairly quickly – especially if they're not quite old enough to fully appreciate the value of money.

### UNCONVINCING SECURITY

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices, smart TVs can be uniquely vulnerable to attack. Experts warn that internet-enabled TVs tend not to support high-level security software, so you won't always be able to download strong antivirus programmes like you would on a phone or computer. Being targeted by hackers could be deeply upsetting for your child, as well as putting their personal data at risk.

### A SILENT SPY?

Some smart TVs already collect data on users' viewing habits and then display targeted advertising based on that personal information – while there have also been reports of internet-enabled TVs (and the apps installed on them) being used to 'eavesdrop' on owners. In models with a built-in microphone (for voice activation), third parties could potentially listen in on someone's home life.

### CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Many smart TVs can be used for web browsing, social media and live streaming – all of which could allow unknown users to contact your child (or vice versa). If your child engages with these functions of the TV, a stranger could potentially discover their contact information and potentially then use it to obtain even more sensitive personal details, such as your home address.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MAKE IT A FAMILY THING

Family TV time is a great way to model the responsible enjoyment of technology – showing your child how to use the smart TV safely for when they're old enough to watch it independently. You could also take this opportunity to establish some healthy TV boundaries, such as time limits on their daily viewing or how to make sure they're only watching content that's appropriate for their age.

### CREATE CHILD PROFILES

Much like with smartphones and tablets, apps can be downloaded onto smart TVs: from free content platforms such as BBC iPlayer to paid-for services like Prime Video. Most of these apps allow you to create a separate account for your child which has different settings to your own – suggesting more child-friendly material and reducing the possibility of them viewing explicit content.

### SET UP PARENTAL CONTROLS

It's likely that your smart TV has built-in parental controls, which not only let you filter out age-inappropriate shows, movies and games but can also restrict in-app purchasing, so your child can't accidentally spend money through the device. When you've enabled these safeguards, have an open conversation with your child about the reasons, helping them to understand the potential risks.

### CONSIDER THE LOCATION

If you're concerned about the online safety hazards that a smart TV might pose to your child, you could consider where in your home you put the device. The safest option would be to place the smart TV in a shared family space – so that an adult is usually nearby and able to supervise while your child's watching it – rather than in the relative privacy of a bedroom.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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Next week Year 2 staff will be selling raffle tickets at the end of the day for £1 a strip.

These are some of the prizes available:



Gliders will be on sale for 50p.

The draw will be on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023.