



# School News

01304 611360 www.eastry.kent.sch.uk  
headteacher@eastry.kent.sch.uk

No. 21

23rd February 2023

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Friday, 24th February - Fledglings Worship at 9am in the School Hall

Parents and carers of children in Fledglings are invited to join us for their Class Worship which will be held in the school hall at 9.00am.

### Friday, 24th February

On Friday, 24th February, as part of our links with Starfish Malawi, we will be holding a cake sale after school to raise money for our partner school, Kaphatenga Primary School in Malawi. It will follow on from a worship that the children will have had on Wednesday about the charity. The cake sale will be run by the school council and **we would be grateful to receive donations of cakes and biscuits on the day for the sale.**

### Wednesday, 1st March - PTFA AGM at 5pm in the School Hall

Parents, carers and friends are warmly invited to join us for our PTFA AGM on Wednesday, 1st March. The meeting will be held at 5pm in the school hall and it would be lovely to see some new faces. We are a very welcoming group and refreshments/nibbles will be provided. We hope to see you there!

### Friday, 3rd March - World Book Day



We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Each class will be taking part in lots of exciting book related activities which will look forward to sharing with you nearer to the time. We invite the children to come dressed up- this year our school theme is 'animals'. Perhaps you'd like to be Hedwig (Harry Potter) Tiger (Tiger who came to Tea) or the Cheshire

Cat (Alice in Wonderland)? We can't wait to see your creative costumes! (We are not asking for donations for children who come dressed up.)

### Friday, 3rd March - Partnership with Parents Meeting at 9.30am in the School Hall or via Zoom

This term during our Partnership with Parents meeting we will be discussing navigating the website. All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend in person or virtually via zoom. Feedback from previous sessions has been invaluable to us to plan how we can improve the school for your children.

Join Zoom Meeting:

Time: Mar 3, 2023 09:30 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72510374986?pwd=qgFPBGlgqun6QyPmB35bPEyaxmf5ml.1>

Meeting ID: 725 1037 4986

Passcode: 2a4PqH

## INTERNET/ONLINE SAFETY SECTION

### SPOTIFY

Spotify has now become the most popular audio streaming subscription service. Spotify should only be used by adults and children over the age of 13. It is also worth bearing in mind that settings should be changed so that teenagers are not exposed to inappropriate lyrics and audio.

#### Spotify Kids

Spotify Kids has been created for children aged 12 and under. Children are able to listen to ad-free music and audio books which have been curated to ensure child-friendly content. This service is available if you have a Spotify Premium Subscription.

Please see the guide below which provides tips and advice when using Spotify to keep the whole family safe from listening to inappropriate and explicit lyrics.

## SCHOOL WEBSITE

### Clubs

On the school website we have a page dedicated to extra curricula clubs running in school. On the page you will find a termly timetable, a letter inviting your child to take part and all the details you will need to join one of the clubs run by an external provider. The Club website page can be found under the Parents tab; <https://www.eastry.kent.sch.uk/parents/clubs>

Kind regards



Mrs Sarah Moss  
Headteacher

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS	
Week commencing 27.2.2023	
MONDAY	
<b>Ballet (3.30 to 4.15pm)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
TUESDAY	
<b>Dance Club (3.30-4.30pm)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
WEDNESDAY	
<b>Creative Station (3.30-4.30pm)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Home Learning Club (3.30-4.00pm)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Netball Club (3.30-4.15pm)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
THURSDAY	
<b>Singing Club (8.00-8.35am)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Multi-Sports Club (3.30-4.30pm)</b>	<b>Yes</b>
FRIDAY	
<b>Football Club (3.30-4.30pm)</b>	<b>Yes</b>

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

#### GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

#### OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.

#### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

#### ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

#### CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.



#### TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

#### KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

### 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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