Thriplow School Newsletter

23rd October





Happy Half Term! We've come to the end of a very busy half term in school and I want to thank you all for the part you play in your children's education. It has been particularly lovely to welcome our new families.

We have had a very full-on week, which has included a full Ofsted inspection of our school. On behalf of the staff, can I thank you so much for your kindness, patience, support and lovely messages. It has been so appreciated by us all. Our report should be published within the next month.

A couple of reminders for the first week back...
On Friday, we will having our fundraiser for Age UK. In consultation with the charity, the children are encouraged to dress as an old person that inspires them. This could be someone famous or someone in their family. We will encourage children to share stories about their person during the day. We appreciate that dressing up is not something all children feel comfortable with. If your child would rather not, we ask that they still choose someone who inspires them and that they still take part by bringing in some inspirational facts or stories about their person.

We have our Open Classroom event on Friday 6th November at 3pm. All are welcome. Please enter classrooms via the doors the children enter through in the morning.

You are all invited to our Holy Communion in the school hall at 9.10am on Thursday 5th November.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term!

Best wishes,

Lucy How



Grace SCHOOLS

MAT of the Year 2024

NATIONAL SCHOOLS awards 2024

	www.facebook.com/thriplowschool
	www.instagram.com/thriplow.school
	x.com/thriplowschool
	https://thr.graceschools.org.uk/

In the same way your light must shine before people so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. *Matthew 5:16*

You are the people of God: he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with kindness. *Colossians 3:12*

Important Dates
(added recently)

3rd November	Year 5/6 Netball Tournament
5th November	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
6th November	Dress as Inspirational Older Person fundraising event.
6th November	Open classroom - 3pm
9th November	Flu vaccinations
16th November	Odd socks day for Anti-Bullying week
Week beginning 16th November	Anti-bullying week
19th November	Dragonflies Trip to Mosque/Catholic Church (OLEM).
23rd November	Uniform swap/Coffee morning 9am
27th November	Decoration day
7th December	Grace Schools Carol Service (Y6 only)
8th December	Year 5 to Primary School Carol Service at King's College
8th December	KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
9th December	Nativity 2.30pm
10th December	Nativity 6pm
11th December	Festive Friday (Christmas Jumpers)
15th December	Key Stage 2 Concert

Important Dates

16th December	Christingle Day
18th December	Carol Service 2.30pm in church
7th January	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
8th January	Open Classroom - 3pm
11th January	Uniform Swap/Coffee morning - 9am
19th January	Young Voices
Week beginning 8th February	RSE week
23rd February and 25th February	Parent Consultations (All children)
25th February	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
26th February	Open Classroom - 3pm
4th March	World Book Day
12th - 13th March	Daffodil Weekend
17th March	Uniform Swap/Coffee morning - 9am
25th March	End of term service - 2.30pm in church

Important Dates

15th April (TBC)	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
16th April	Open Classroom - 3pm
22nd April	Uniform Swap/Coffee morning - 9am
Week beginning 10th May	SATs week
Week beginning 17th May	Year 5/6 residential
Fortnight beginning 7th June	Year 4 Multiplication Check
Holy Communion	Holy Communion in hall. 9.15am. All welcome
11th June	Grace Schools Art Exhibition
Week beginning 14th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check
24th June	Sports Day
Week beginning 28th June	Poetry Recital Competition
2nd July	Open Classroom
6th July	KS2 Dress rehearsal - 9.30pm
7th July	KS2 production - 2.30pm
8th July	KS2 production - 6pm
12th July	Uniform Swap/Coffee morning
15th July	Transition morning (9-10.30)
19th July	End of Term Concert

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2026	
INSET Day	***Tuesday 1st September***
Start of Term	Wednesday 2nd September
INSET Day	***Friday 23rd October***
Half Term	Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October
End of Term	Friday 18th December

Spring Term 2027	
Start of Term	Monday 4th January
INSET Day	***Friday 12th February***
Half Term	Monday 15th February – Friday 19th February
End of Term	Thursday 25th March

Summer Term	
Start of Term	Monday 12th April
Bank Holiday	***Monday 3rd May***
Half Term	Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June
INSET Day	***Monday 7th June***
End of Term	Tuesday 20th July
INSET Day	***Wednesday 21st July***

Safeguarding at Thriplow

Lucy How, Annabel Forde and Kulsoom Sheikh are the Designated Safeguarding Leads at Thriplow School.

If you have a concern about a child, please come and speak to or email either of us. Alternatively please speak to any member of staff who will be able to pass on information.

If you feel that a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here.

https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/children-s-social-care/safeguarding-children-and-child-protection

Useful websites:

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/

https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/

https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/

House Points

	Total this Week	Total this Term
Bacon	78	620
Barenton	73	641
Bassett	57	528
Bury	125	672

Well done Bury !

Happy Birthday

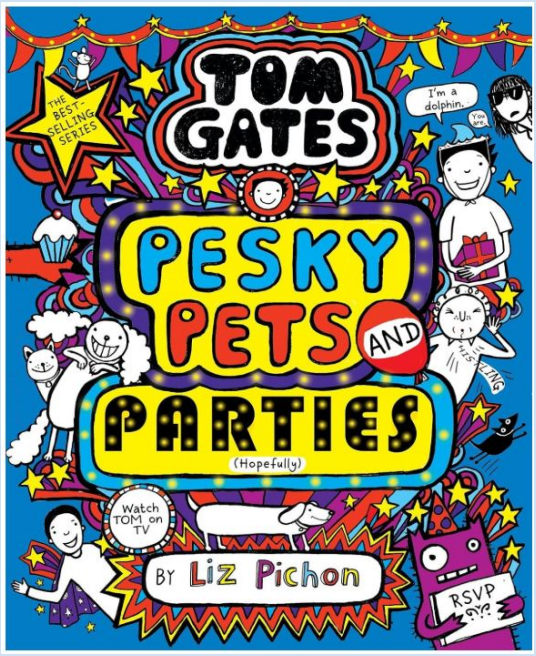
to Oliver N. Emily N.
Alice, Sophie F.
Harrison, Connor
and Arthur who
have celebrated their
birthdays this week!

Birthday Books

If you would like to donate a book to our library to celebrate your child's birthday, then we would be so grateful. Please follow this link to see a list of books that we would like.

https://amzn.eu/ez2OYOf

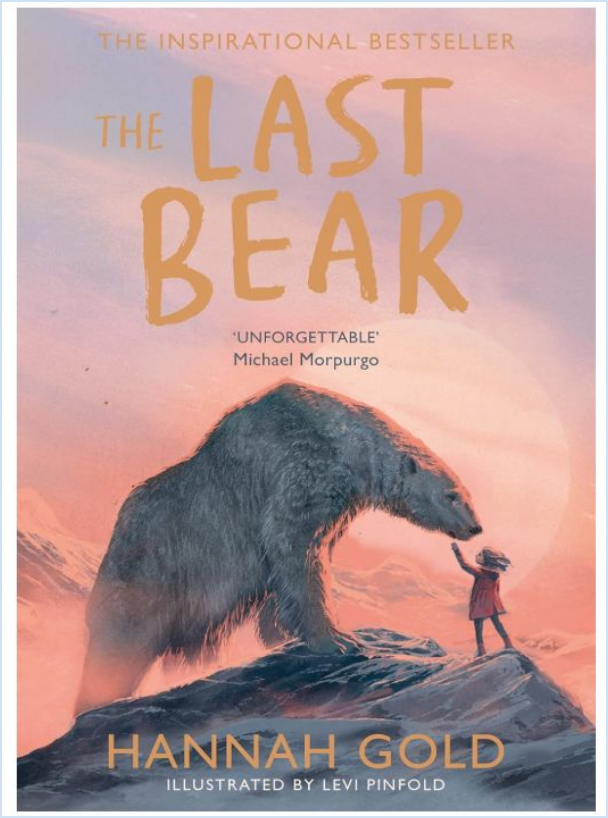
Many thanks to Peter for donating this book on the occasion of his 9th birthday.

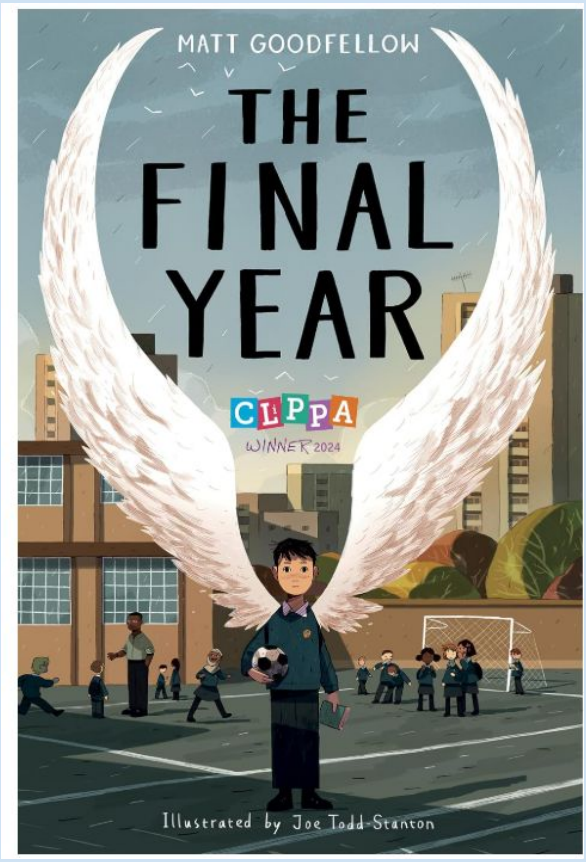




Many thanks to Joseph for donating this book on the occasion of his 6th birthday.

Many thanks to Sophie for donating this book on the occasion of her 11th birthday.





Many thanks to Alice for donating this book on the occasion of her 11th birthday.

Thriplow Primary School

Library

Open on Thursdays and Fridays after school.

Please pop in and visit!

Your child's learning

Ants:

It has been a wonderful first half term in Ants! I am very proud of how well the children have settled and grown in confidence throughout the past few weeks.

This week in Phonics, we have continued our Unit 3 learning. The children are becoming more confident with reading and writing different words. Their letter formation has developed greatly and the children are using their resilience when having a go at writing the different sounds. After half-term we will begin writing short simple sentences.

In Maths this week we have been learning to count to 7. Ants class are very confident when counting to 7 and are beginning to understand that the final number you say when counting a group of objects represents the total quantity of items in that group. We have also been practising our subitising skills in Maths this week. The children have been able to use their quick eyes to identify how many dots are in a pattern without counting.

In Understanding the World we have been finishing our topic of All About Me. This week we explored the seasons, identified the four seasons and then investigated signs of Autumn. The children enjoyed going on an Autumn walk, looking at different trees and leaves, animals and sounds of Autumn. When we came back, we discussed that although some trees lose their leaves in Autumn not all trees do.

In Expressive Art and Design this week, the children had a go at making their own Autumn pictures. The children were able to use leaves and different materials to make an autumn collage. We discussed what colours we would use such as orange, green, yellow and red and why.

I hope you all have a lovely and restful half-term!



Butterflies:

Butterflies class have continued to work hard this week. They did really well with completing their story of Hansel and Gretel. The Y1 children were encouraged to orally rehearse asking sentences,

In Maths this week, the Y2 children have been using different strategies to add 2-digit numbers together. The Y1 children have consolidated addition facts of 7 and 8. They were challenged to complete these types of number sentences: _____= 7 - _____.

In Geography, the children drew their own maps, showing what they had learnt.

If you would like to share activities that your child has done over half term with us, then please send it via Tapestry. We have enjoyed discussing what you have shared so far with your child.



Bees:

This week, the children have continued with their short narratives based on Stig of the Dump and will conclude them after the half-term break.

In Maths, Year 3 have started looking at multiplication and division, and facts related to the three times table. In Year 4, children have continued with their geometry learning looking at properties of quadrilaterals including lines of symmetry. Next half-term, the children will be looking at the four and eight times tables in Year 3, and Year 4 will conclude their unit on geometry by looking at symmetrical shapes and patterns before moving onto a new unit on multiplication and division.

The children have enjoyed learning about the Iron Age and concluding our prehistoric unit in History. They will move onto learning about Ancient Egypt next half-term.

In Geography, the children will continue to contrast localities before moving onto a new unit looking at settlements.

In Art, the children enjoyed creating their own polystyrene printing blocks and will use these to create line prints after half-term.

The children will be concluding their learning about vitamins and minerals in Science before moving onto a new unit.

We will also be moving onto our new topics in P.E and R.E. Please refer to the yearly overview that was shared in September for details of topic coverage.

The children have worked very hard this half-term and I hope they will enjoy a good rest over the break!



Dragonflies:

Dragonflies have had a great last week of the half term. It has been busy but I'm so proud of the children and how they have shone their light this week.

On Monday, the children took part in a mini cross country competition. They practiced running a mile in each race. They persevered so well in a difficult race!

On Tuesday, the children summarised their RE learning from the term. They answered the question, "Why does creativity matter?". I was so impressed by their responses - please feel free to ask them this question at home! The children were also enthusiastic about their Art lesson on linear perspective. They drew a street scene that included a vanishing point.

On Wednesday, the children finished making their double-page spreads in History to summarise their learning on WW1. They were so proud of their finished products. The children also learnt about the components of blood in Science to conclude our learning on the Human Body.

The week ended with a netball tournament yesterday.

Throughout the week, in Maths, year 6 finished their learning on division and moved on to coordinates in four quadrants as part of a small geometry unit. Year 5 finished their learning on decimals by rounding decimals to the nearest tenth and nearest whole number. In English, the children have continued to enjoy reading 'The 1000 year old boy' as well as continuing to write our narratives based on the novel. We will finish these when we come back from half term. I hope everyone has a relaxing break.



DRESS AS AN INSPIRATIONAL OLDER PERSON DAY!

Friday 6th November

In aid of Age UK

Thriplow Primary School



Come dressed as an older person who has inspired you.

This might be a famous person or someone who is a friend or member of your family.

We will be learning about the work of Age UK as well as sharing inspirational stories about our chosen person.







PLEASE BRING A CONTRIBUTION OF £2

Age UK

THRIPLOW
CofE PRIMARY

PTA THIS TERM

Working together to support our school

YEAR 5 FUNDRAISER

A Year 5 year-rep choice to organise – watch this space!



HOUSE HAMPER RAFFLE

A festive hamper packed with a lovely selection of goodies, including sweet treats, drinks and more. Raffle before Christmas.



DECORATION DAY REFRESHMENTS

Year 4 reps will be serving lovely tea, coffee and mince pies before parents join the children in class to make beautiful Christmas decorations.



NATIVITY REFRESHMENTS

Our Year 2 reps will be running refreshments for the Key Stage 1 Nativity, with drinks available before we watch our children perform.

MORE THAN YOU SEE...

There's lots happening in the background too, with the PTA pitching in to support the school community throughout the term.

Thriplow Primary School PTA

GARDENING CLUB

Help keep our school grounds safe, tidy and looking beautiful!

We need a little help with:



LEAVES

Clearing leaves that get slippery in winter.



HEDGES

Cutting hedges back and keeping them neat.



PRETTY SPACES

Making the school look lovely in general – inside and out!

Small jobs... make a BIG difference!

Join our WhatsApp group

to help on weekends and holiday time – when ever anyone can do!

Community effort... brighter spaces!

Help make the school GREAT!

Lead for this:

Rachel Leech

07969989939

Attendance

365 days in a year

190 days in a school year to support pupils to maintain and even exceed expected attainment outcomes.

175 days for other activities like holidays, appointments, days out, family events

100% attendance	zero days missed	Perfection!
99% attendance	Two days of absence across the year	Excellent!
97% attendance	Five days of absence across the year	Good
95% attendance	Nine days of absence across the year: one week and four days of learning missed. Lost learning is likely to start affecting pupil performance, confidence and self-esteem.	Satisfactory
90% attendance	Twenty days of absence across the year; four weeks of learning missed. Pupils will find it difficult to keep up with work and achieve their best.	Concerns
85% attendance	Thirty days of absence across the year: six weeks of	Serious

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/

If your child needs time off for a medical appointment, please provide an appointment card or printed confirmation for our records.

Where possible, please make appointments out of school time.

Attendance

If your child is late for school, please ensure that you sign the late book in the entrance hall, giving a reason for the lateness.

If it is a sensitive reason and you would rather not write it down, please chat to Mrs Sandford or Mrs How.

Please do not write 'late' as a reason.

Minutes late per day	School days lost per year
5 minutes	3 days
10 minutes	6.5 days
15 minutes	10 days
20 minutes	13 days
30 minutes	19 days

A reminder that we are a nut-aware school. Please ensure that your child's lunchbox does not include any nuts.



Keep them fuller for longer

Base the main lunchbox item on foods like bread, rice, pasta and potatoes. Choose wholegrain where you can.



Freeze for variety

Keep a small selection of different types of bread in the freezer so you have a variety of options – like bagels, pittas and wraps, granary, wholemeal and multigrain.



DIY lunches

Wraps and pots of fillings can be more exciting for kids when they get to make them. Dipping foods are also fun and a nice change from a sandwich each day.



Cut back on fat

Pick lower-fat fillings – like lean meats (including chicken or turkey), fish (such as tuna or salmon), lower-fat spread, reduced-fat cream cheese and reduced-fat hard cheese. And try to avoid using mayonnaise in sandwiches.



Mix your slices

If your child does not like wholegrain, try making a sandwich from 1 slice of white bread and 1 slice of brown bread.



Always add veg

Cherry tomatoes, or sticks of carrot, cucumber, celery and peppers all count towards their 5 A Day. Adding a small pot of reduced-fat hummus or other dips may help with getting kids to eat vegetables.



Ever green

Always add salad to sandwiches and wraps too – it all counts towards your child's 5 A Day!



Cheesy does it...

Cheese can be high in fat and salt, so choose stronger-tasting ones – and use less of it – or try reduced-fat varieties.



Cut down on crisps

If your child really likes their crisps try reducing the number of times you include them in their lunchbox, and swap for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead.



Add bite-sized fruit

Try chopped apple, peeled satsuma segments, strawberries, blueberries, halved grapes or melon slices to make it easier for them to eat. Add a squeeze of lemon juice to stop it from going brown.



Tinned fruit counts too

A small pot of tinned fruit in juice – not syrup – is perfect for a lunchbox and easily stored in the cupboard.



Swap the fruit bars

Dried fruit like raisins, sultanas and dried apricots are not only cheaper than processed fruit bars and snacks but can be healthier too. Just remember to keep dried fruit to mealtimes as it can be bad for teeth.



Switch the sweets

Swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned – in juice not syrup).



Yoghurts: go low-fat and lower-sugar

Pop in low-fat and lower-sugar yoghurts or fromage frais and add your own fruit.



Get them involved

Get your kids involved in preparing and choosing what goes in their lunchbox. They are more likely to eat it if they helped make it.



Variety is the spice of lunch!

Be adventurous and get creative to mix up what goes in their lunchbox. Keeping them guessing with healthier ideas will keep them interested and more open to trying things.



Plan to Eatwell

The guide shows how much of what we eat overall should come from each food group to achieve a healthy, balanced diet. It can be really useful when thinking about what goes into kids' lunchboxes.

https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/food-guidelines-and-food-labels/the-eatwell-guide/

COME ALONG TO THE ANNUAL
LADYBIRD PLAYGROUP THRIPLOW...

Quiz Night!

Saturday 21st November 2026

Doors at 7pm for 7.30pm start

Tickets £15 per person inc. food

For enquiries: ladybirdplaygroupcommittee@gmail.com

New
Quiz Master!
Raffle
Prizes!

Teams of up to six people
Sharing platter for your table
Click on the QR code to book

THRIPLOW VILLAGE HALL, MIDDLE ST, THRIPLOW, SG8 7RD

Ladybird Playgroup

Breakfast Club

Open to All Thriplow School age children and Ladybird Children aged 3 up.

Breakfast Club - 8:00 -9:00 am
Early Bugs - 8:30- 9:00 am

Variety of breakfast is provided every day and is served till 8:30 am

Have fun exploring a range of activities, games and books with friends before school/playgroup.







Visit our website for more details and booking forms.

Contact for Bookings

01763 208055
ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

HORROR FILMS & AGE RATINGS

The 'on-demand' availability of streaming platforms in many homes creates extra possibilities for young viewers to be exposed to age-inappropriate content. Material which features horror or violence can cause anxiety and nightmares for children, especially since it can be hard for young ones to grasp that what they're watching isn't real.

CLASSIFICATION BREAKDOWN

The British Board of Film Classification has the following age ratings:

U: Suitable for all ages

PG: For children aged 8 and above; this content shouldn't unsettle them

12A: Children under the age of 12 should not watch without an adult; this content potentially features bad language, nudity or sexual references

15: Suitable only for 15-year-olds and above

18: Exclusively for an adult audience, with potentially explicit themes of violence, nudity or sex

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

STREAMING IS EVERYWHERE

Modern mobile devices make it very easy for children to watch streamed films without the need for a TV. The availability of inappropriate content has risen significantly on streaming platforms, almost all of which host 18-rated content. If not restricted by parental controls, this could be viewed by children who aren't quite ready for such adult themes, concepts and imagery.

CHILDREN SCARE DIFFERENTLY

It can be difficult to decide what content is appropriate for children. What's fine for one child could be extremely frightening for another. As many children admit to not sharing or discussing the content they watch with their parents, encouraging an open dialogue around the kind of media that young people consume can help avoid exposing them to any inappropriate content.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look ever more realistic, it's becoming harder for youngsters to tell the difference. For instance, consider remakes of older films, where dated special effects (making it easy to discern that something wasn't real) have been replaced by far more convincing monsters and gore.

PEER PRESSURE

TOO SCARED?

Friends encouraging each other to watch the latest film featuring violence or horror can lead to children consuming content that they're not ready for. As 18+ content is available on many streaming platforms, youngsters can watch these together – potentially without their parents' or carers' knowledge.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACTS

Horror prides itself on its ability to startle or induce genuine fear in the viewer – so it's no surprise that this genre isn't usually intended for children. A natural side-effect of this is that 'jump scares' or a creepy, suspenseful atmosphere can have lasting effects on younger minds. The resulting anxiety can impact a child's sleeping patterns or eating habits.

Advice for Parents & Educators

WATCH THE FILM FIRST

If you're concerned that a film might be unsuitable for children (whether it's their first dive into the horror genre or a step up in age classification), then take a look for yourself. There's no better way to judge whether this content is something you'd deem appropriate for a child – and if a parent, for example, has actually seen the film (or at least a portion of it), they can construct a far more credible case if they decide it's inappropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S NOT REAL

Emphasise to children that the content they're viewing is entirely fictional and has no chance of affecting them in real life. If a child is upset after watching a film, try to understand what exactly has unsettled them: this can help you approach the topic in a healthy and informative manner, to dispel any fears or anxieties they may have.

DISCUSS THE CONTENT OF FILMS

If a child has seen a film that you think may have exposed them to potentially uncomfortable themes and ideas, don't shy away from talking about it, and answer any questions they may have. This is especially important if they watched the film without an adult present. Ask them to summarise the story for you, as this will give you an understanding of what they've learned from watching it.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most streaming platforms have the option to put age ranges on children's accounts. This means that films and shows that are inappropriate for children won't be advertised while they're browsing and won't even appear if a child specifically searches for them. This can be changed any time at parents' discretion, but it's wise to protect these settings with a password, so a child can't alter anything on their own.

Skips Safety Net

Keeping children safe online



Parent Guides to Online Safety



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings







Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Three steps of anger management

1. Recognise

Help a child recognise the early signs of anger.

They may experience:

- a faster heartbeat
- tense muscles
- racing thoughts
- a 'fuzzy' brain
- their stomach churning

By paying attention to these physical and emotional indicators, children can begin to identify when anger is building. It's important to help them understand that while these feelings are natural, the behaviours that follow can be managed.

Recognising these patterns gives them the power to pause, take control, and choose healthier, more constructive ways to express what they're feeling.

2. Reflect

Once emotions have settled, take time to explore the situation with your child. Calm moments offer valuable opportunities to uncover the deeper feelings behind their anger.

Anger may stem from fear, confusion, sadness, or frustration. These underlying emotions can be linked to:

- Unmet needs
- Past experiences or trauma
- Ongoing stress or anxiety
- Unresolved conflicts
- Misunderstandings or distorted thinking

Reflection also involves accepting responsibility for any behaviour that occurred during moments of anger. What this looks like will vary depending on your child's age and level of understanding. Encouraging healthy self-reflection helps build self-awareness and empowers children to take ownership of their actions and reactions.

3. Respond

The third step is to respond to anger healthily and constructively.

Encourage the development of assertive communication skills, where they can express their needs and emotions confidently while still respecting others' boundaries.

Some helpful anger management strategies include:

- Deep breathing
- Mindfulness practices that help ground someone in the present (what can you see, hear and smell)
- Physical activities to release tension and calm the mind
- Regular self-care
- Building routines that include exercise, rest, hobbies, and relaxation

These habits reduce stress and make it easier to manage strong emotions before they escalate.