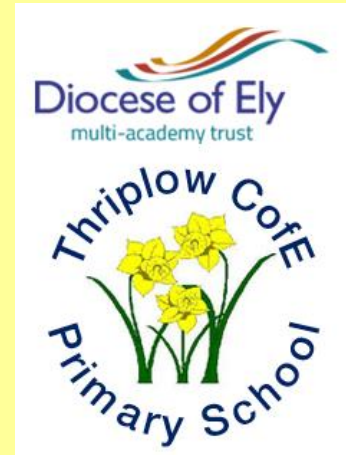


Thriplow School Newsletter

23rd October 2025



We have made it to the end of a very long half term! It's been busy but fun and we have so enjoyed working with your children and getting to know our new families.

Last Thursday, we opened our library for the first time. It was lovely to see so many families visiting. Moving forwards, the library will be open on Thursdays after school for you to visit. Please come in via the external library door. You are



very welcome to borrow books to take home. We ask that when they are returned, they are placed on the trolley so that they can be put back in the right place by a member of staff.

We are so proud of Elias in Year 1 who has completed the 20 Books challenge. Well done Elias!

We have poppies and poppy-related accessories for sale in the office. These will be available to buy for a donation to the Royal British Legion after half term.

A reminder of a couple of events coming up: We celebrate Holy Communion on 6th November at 9.10am in the hall. All are welcome! On 10th November children are encouraged to wear odd socks or crazy tights to mark the start of Anti-Bullying week. On 14th November is our 'Dress as an Animal' day in aid of the Blue Cross.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term,

Best wishes,

Lucy



<https://www.facebook.com/thriplowschool>



<https://x.com/thriplowschool>



<https://www.instagram.com/thriplow.school>

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*

6 th November	Holy Communion. 9.10am in the hall. Everyone welcome
WB 10 th November	Anti-bullying week. Children are encouraged to wear odd socks or crazy tights on Monday 10 th to mark the start of the week.
14 th November	'Dress as an Animal' day. Suggested donation £2 for the Blue Cross
14 th November	Movie Night after school
28 th November	Decoration Day. Parents welcome in the morning.
1 st December	DEMAT Carol Service (Year 6)
9 th December	Nativity Dress rehearsal (KS1)
10 th December	Nativity Performance (KS1) 2.30pm
11 th December	Nativity Performance (KS1) 6pm
12 th December	Festive Friday
16 th December	KS2 Concert
17 th December	Christingle (children need to bring an orange)
19 th December	Carol Service in church. 2.30. Everyone welcome
20 th January	Young Voices
WB 2 nd February	Relationships and Sex Education Week
24 th February	Parent Consultations
26 th February	Parent Consultations
5 th March	World Book Day
WB 9 th March	Science Week
21 st – 22 nd March	Daffodil Weekend
27 th March	Year ¾ Bikeability level 1
WB 11 th May	SATS week
WB 18 th May	KS2 Residential (Year 5 and 6)
Fortnight beginning 1 st June	Multiplication Check fortnight (Year 4)
5 th June	DEMAT Art Exhibition
WB 8 th June	Phonics Screening check week (Year 1)
WB 15 th June	Poetry Recital Competition
24 th June	Sports day (First thing – will finish 11.15ish)

Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term	
Half Term	Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October
End of Term	Friday 19 th December

Spring Term	
Start of Term	Monday 5 th January
INSET Day	Friday 13th February
Half Term	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February
End of Term	Friday 27 th March

Summer Term	
Start of Term	Monday 13 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 4th May
Half Term	Monday 25 th May – Friday 29 th May
INSET Day	Monday 1st June
End of Term	Friday 17 th July
INSET Day	Monday 20th July

Our chosen charities for this year

Autumn Term



Spring Term



Summer Term





Safeguarding at Thriplow

Lucy How and Melissa Hardege 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.

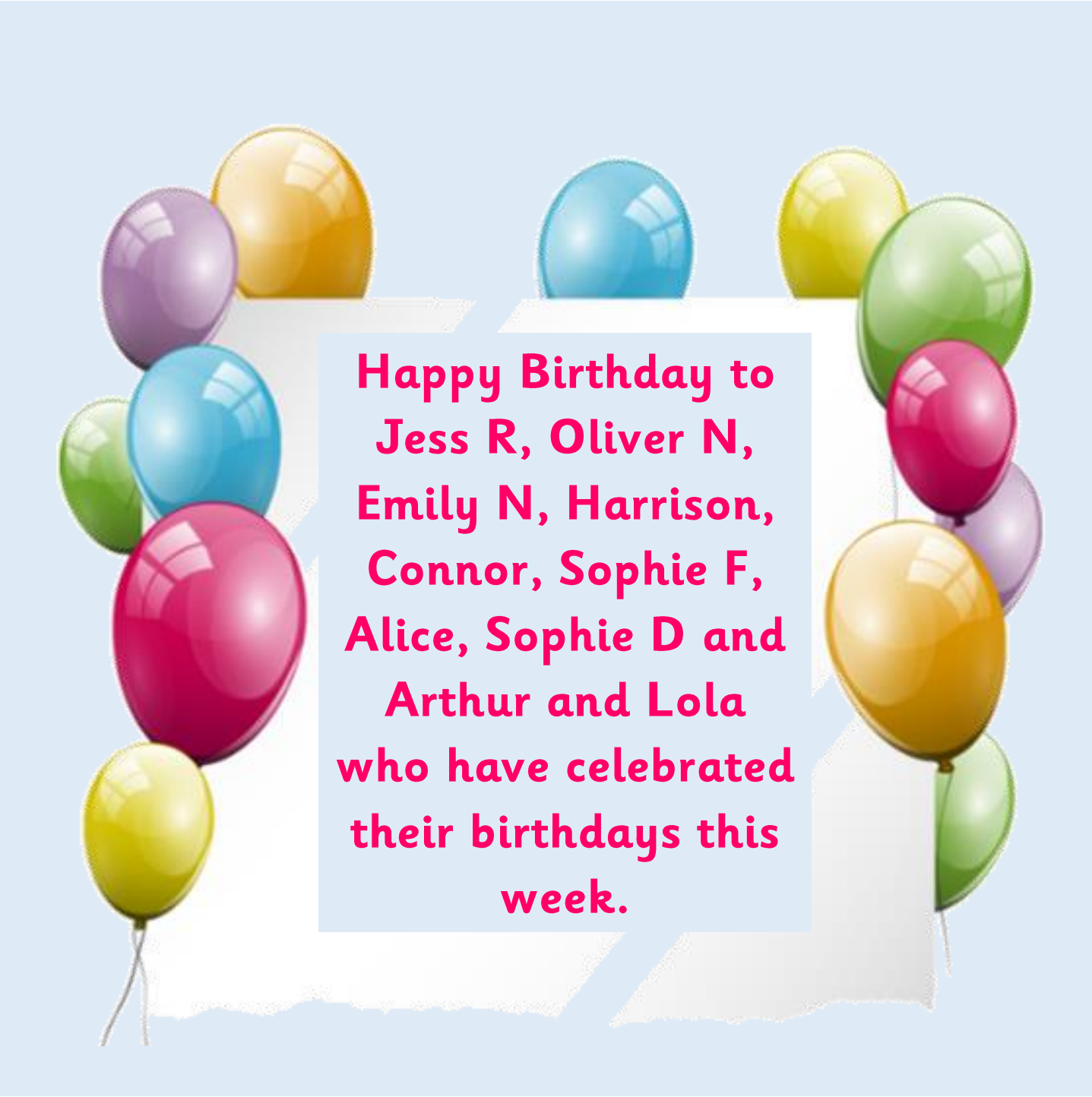
If you feel that a child is at immediate risk of harm you can access further advice and guidance here.

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

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>



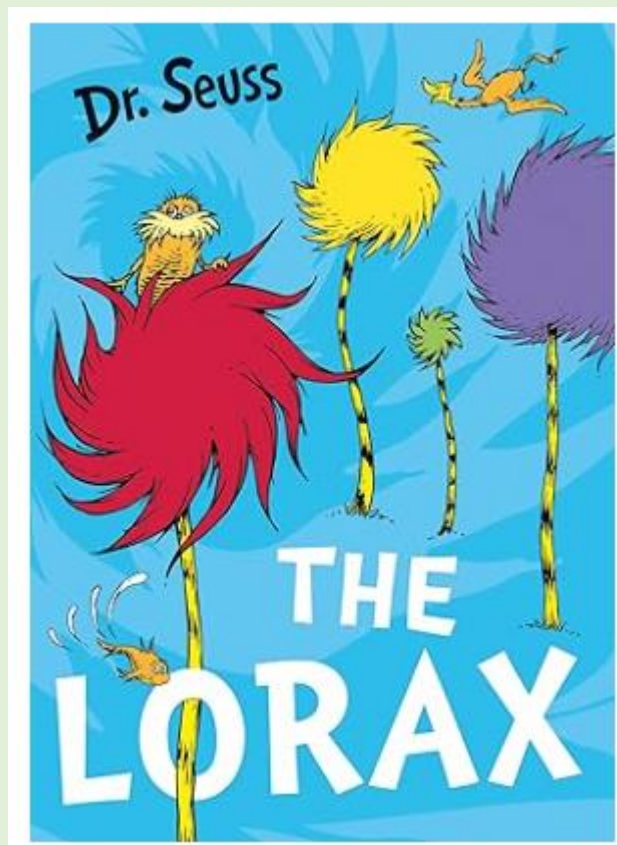
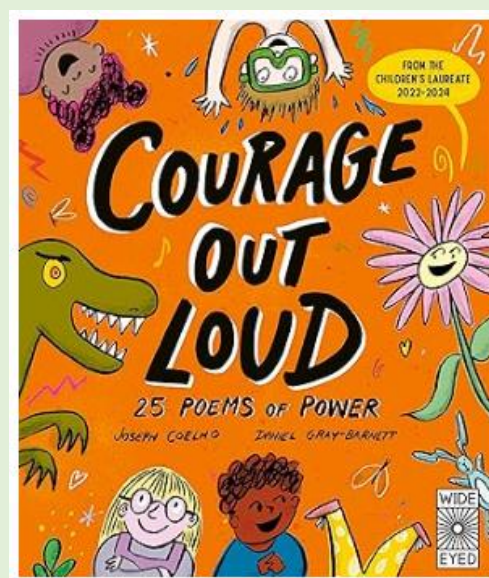


**Happy Birthday to
Jess R, Oliver N,
Emily N, Harrison,
Connor, Sophie F,
Alice, Sophie D and
Arthur and Lola
who have celebrated
their birthdays this
week.**

Birthday Books



Many thanks to Oliver and Emily for donating these books on the occasion of their 8th birthday.



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



BLUE
CROSS



14th November

**'Dress as an
animal' day!**

Suggested donation – £2



Your child's learning

Ants

It has been a busy week in Ant's class!

In phonics we have continued learning the sounds b, c, g, and h, practicing saying these sounds by building and reading cvc words. We have also been practicing our handwriting and spelling and have continued to develop our letter shapes.

In Maths we have been exploring sharing objects fairly and have begun to look at the language 'more than' and 'fewer than'.

Yesterday we read the Colour Monster story and explored different feelings and what these looked like. We thought about the things that make us feel happy, sad, calm, and the children drew their own pictures to represent this.

During continuous provision the children have been drawing their own story maps, designing pumpkins, building a zoo, making autumn animals, weighing different objects to see which ones are heavier or lighter, and designing their own leaf people!

Have a lovely half term!

Butterflies

Butterflies class have continued to work hard this week. The Year 1 children enjoyed making darts during their Wildspace time.

In Maths this week the children have reinforced their learning from this term. Year 1 children practised writing numbers using the vocabulary, 'more than.' The Year 2 children reinforced their learning of 'value,' when looking at the place-value of 2-digit numbers. Please encourage your child to continue practising counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10 (including counting in steps of 3 for Year 2 children), forwards and backwards from any given number (not beyond 100).

In English, the children continued writing simple sentences and the Year 2 children wrote compound sentences using the conjunctions and, or, but.

In Phonics, the Year 1 children have been learning the /oe/ sound and the Year 2 children have been learning the /ee/ sound.

In RE we have completed part 1 of our unit on What is a Human Being? by learning about Methodist Christian ideas about how humans connect with God. After half term we will start to look at Muslim and Sikh ideas about humans.

We have sent the children home with their scripts for the Nativity, please encourage your child to learn their parts and practise the songs. We would like your child to bring in their scripts every day after half term.

It has been a busy half term and the children have worked hard. We hope that you have a lovely half term with your families.

Bees

Bees Class have had a great final week before half term. On Monday, the children started to write a recount of the burglary in Oliver Twist. They are pretending to be Oliver as they complete this piece of writing, so will be using the first person. The children have enjoyed getting into character. On Tuesday, the children impressed me with their Geography learning. They wrote mini reports on how Thriplow has changed over time. They showed great knowledge of Thriplow now and Thriplow in the past. We also finished our still life paintings in Art and hope to display them soon. In Maths, the children have continued learning about column addition and started to think about how to carry this week. My highlight of this week was Wednesday when the children played a mini netball tournament. I was so impressed with the children's teamwork as well as their netball skills. They showed awareness of their footwork and some great shooting skills. After half term, the children will be beginning new topics in Science, Art and Geography when we start to think about Classification, Space and Mediterranean Europe.

We are also excited to welcome a new yr3 member to Bees Class after the break!

Please do remember that in PE we will be starting our learning on Hockey so your child will need a gumshield and shinpads for our Friday PE lessons.

Over half term, the children will not have any spellings to learn but have been given a comprehension in their blue homework books. Please do continue to read with your child over the break as well. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable holiday.

Dragonflies We have had another busy week in Dragonflies.

In PE we have been building up our stamina and working on pacing. This week the children completed a 15 minute run without stopping. In netball we have been practicing our tactics through netball matches.

In English we have been enjoying reading our class text and looking more deeply at the choice the author has made in order to create mood and suspense.

In maths, we have begun to think about division and have been working on the short division methods as well as tackling written problems.

In history we have been continuing our learning on The British Empire, the children were particularly interested in learning about trade during the rise of the British Empire. It has come to my attention that many children in the class are not as confident in their times tables as they have been previously, children should be regularly practicing these at home as times tables a crucial role in the ability for children to succeed in the Y5/6 maths curriculum. On Thursday, your child will have brought home their pencil case. Please can these be tidied out and replenished (please refer to the guidance sent for the start of the academic year for further details). We look forward to seeing you after half term.

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



- Let your child help you pack their lunch box and choose what to include from a list of options.
- To keep children fuller for longer, give them a 'main' lunch item that includes carbohydrates, such as whole grain bread, rice or pasta.
- Try pasta salads, stir-fried rice, wraps or crackers and low-fat dips as alternatives to sandwiches.
- Choose lean meats, such as chicken breast as sandwich fillings, and try to include oily fish like tuna once or twice a week.
- Include vegetables such as cherry tomatoes, carrot or celery sticks or home-made vegetable crisps (slice vegetables like sweet potato or beetroot, toss in olive oil and bake).
- Always put salad (lettuce, cucumber) in sandwiches - it all counts towards their five a day.
- Swap the crisps for plain popcorn or vegetable crisps (see above).
- Pre-peel citrus fruits like oranges or satsumas to make them easier to eat.
- Include tinned fruits but make sure they are in juice not syrup which is high in sugar.
- Fruit bars are generally not healthy - try dried fruit like apricots or sultanas instead.
- If your child insists on having crisps or chocolate in their lunchbox, try to limit this to one day per week and let them choose what their 'treat' will be.

According to the NHS, the perfect lunch box for a child should contain:

- a serving of starchy foods (wholegrain bread or pasta, brown rice);
- a protein (lean meat, egg or oily fish);
- a dairy item (low-fat cheese or sugar-free yoghurt);
- a portion of vegetables (celery sticks, carrot pieces);
- a portion of fruit (berries, grapes, melon, apple slices);
- water.

We've put together five balanced lunch boxes here - one for each day of the school week. You can copy them exactly, swap items around or get rid of them all together - whatever works for your family is fine.



Attendance Reminders

Days off school add up to lost learning			
175 NON SCHOOL DAYS A YEAR 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, household jobs and other appointments			
0	6	15	19
DAYS ABSENCE (190 school days)	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE	DAYS ABSENCE OR MORE
100%	96%	92%	Below 90%
EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE	SATISFACTORY ATTENDANCE	REQUIRES IMPROVEMENT	Persistent Absentee
Best chance of SUCCESS	Harder to make good progress	Less chance of success	CAUSE FOR CONCERN
			Serious concern Possible court action

Three-Year Period		
First Term Time Leave 10 sessions (5 days) or more. £80 for each child per parent.	Second Term Time Leave 10 sessions (5 days) or more. £160 for each child per parent.	Third Term Time Leave 10 sessions (5 days) or more. Prosecution.
E.g. if two parents take 3 children away, the fine would be $£80 \times 3 = £240$ per parent. The total would be £480. If you pay after 21 days it rises to £960.	E.g. if two parents take 3 children away, the fine would be $£160 \times 3 = £480$ per parent. The total would be £960.	
If you don't pay after 28 days = a prosecution.		

Apply now



for a Reception school place for September 2026

If your child
will be aged 4
by **31st August**

You need to
apply **NOW**
for a School
place



**Apply by
15th January
2026**

For further information please visit
www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/admissions
or contact your local School

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370

School Admissions ALC2605, PO Box 761, Huntingdon, PE29 9 QR or
email admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Apply now

for a Secondary school place for September 2026

Contact the Admissions Team by telephone 0345 045 1370

If your child will be aged 11 by **31st
August 2026**

**You need to apply
NOW
for a school place**



**Apply by
31st October
2025**

For further information please visit
or contact your local School

[Secondary school admissions - September 2026 | Cambridgeshire County Council](#)

ALC2605, New Shire Hall, Emery Crescent, Enterprise Campus, Alconbury
Weald, PE28 4YE
or email admissions@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Breakfast Club at Ladybird



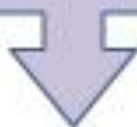
Open to Thriplow School
Children & Ladybird
Children from 3 Years



Breakfast may vary



Opens at 8:00am



Early Starters from 8:30



Contact for more information:

Email: ladybirdplaygroupthriplow@gmail.com

Phone: 01763 208055

COME ALONG TO THE ANNUAL
LADYBIRD PLAYGROUP THRILOW

Quiz Night

Saturday 15 November Doors at 7pm for
7.30pm start Tickets £15 per person
includes food.

To book visit: [https://www.pta-
events.co.uk/ladybirdplaygroupthriplow/index.cfm](https://www.pta-events.co.uk/ladybirdplaygroupthriplow/index.cfm)

Click
to
book



Teams of
up to six
Ploughman's
sharing platter
for your table

THRILOW VILLAGE HALL, MIDDLE STREET, THRILOW, SG8 7RD

DONATIONS

for
Breakfast Club and Ladybird Playgroup

Any Pre-loved toys and games, in good
condition wanted.

Including: (for children aged 3- 11 years)

Outdoor toys:
Balls, hoops etc.

Board games

Toys

Craft supplies

Building blocks

Please drop off any donations at

*Ladybird Playgroup - School Lane,
Thriplow, Royston, Hertfordshire SG8 7RH*

Or call 01763 208055

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is an assistant principal at a secondary school. He has been involved with e-safety in schools for over 10 years, writing policies and supporting various schools in developing their e-safety provision. John has introduced a range of strategies at multiple schools aimed at helping parents to better support their child in the ever-changing digital world.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/horror-films-and-age-ratings>

Education Inclusion Family Advisor Team Countywide Online Workshop Offer

The EIFA team would like to present our newly updated workshops on a variety of parenting and family issues for **September and October**.

Please ensure you book onto each workshop individually by clicking on the link or scanning the QR code and completing the registration form.

Sibling Rivalry	Tuesday, 23 September 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Understanding and Responding to Challenging Behaviours	Thursday, 2 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Sleep	Tuesday, 7 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Anger	Thursday, 9 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 
Supporting Your Child with Feelings of Worry	Thursday, 23 October 2025, 12:00-13:30	Book onto this workshop at: Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams or 

If you have any questions about our workshops, or the EIFA service in general, please contact earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Education Inclusion Family Advisor Newsletter October 2025

EIFAs offer advice and strategies to parents and carers with a primary school aged child that may be experiencing some challenges such as routines, sleep, sibling rivalry, behaviour, worries or self-esteem. If you'd like a chance to chat about any of these topics, please contact us through scanning the code or clicking on the link, or email us:

earlyintervention@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

<https://forms.office.com/e/4tV6234P68>



and a member of the team will get in touch with you.

Top Tips

Parenting Top Tip

October brings half term and Halloween fun, which can bring its own challenges for us as parents due to the change in routine, and expectations from children!

Things to try and remember:

- Try to remain calm and step away from the situation when it is safe to do so.
- Before you begin the activity or before going out, clearly explain the behaviour expectations and possible consequences for your child/ren if those behaviours are not followed. For example: 'I can't wait to go trick or treating with you, just remember it will feel really exciting, but I want you to stay with me to be safe'.
- If your child struggles with those boundaries in place, remember to gently remind and follow through with any consequences that you have previously explained.

Remember consistency is key!



(Incredible Years programme-click the book for more)

Activity Idea

Autumn is finally here, and amongst the fallen leaves are plenty of opportunities for crafting and having fun with nature.

Try out this spooky fun idea for Halloween or any other time!

1. On your next autumn walk, have a look around for fallen leaves.
2. Place the leaves under a heavy item for a couple of days to flatten them out. (This makes it easier to paint them)
3. Paint the leaves white and let them dry.
4. Draw funny faces on them.
5. You could even stick them on your windows to scare the neighbours!

Check out these other incredible Halloween nature craft activities with the Woodland Trust:

[13 Halloween Nature Activities and Crafts - Woodland Trust](#)

Another Resource

We know that parenting during the holidays can be stressful on the parents. Try to remember to find time to relax and breathe to try and stay calm. Here is a video from Place2Be that explains why it is important to stay calm when children push your buttons.

[My child pushes my buttons | Place2Be's Parenting Smart](#)