



# SPRING TERM (2)

MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

ISSUE 19

## Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed welcoming the pupils back this week and introducing two of our core values, Trust and Respect. Remember we love to hear about how the children are showing and sharing our school values at home! Simply message the class teacher via Class Dojo for a home nomination which will be read out and celebrated at daily meeting.

Below I have shared information about key dates coming up within school. Please take some time to review these, paying particular attention to World Book Day and Parents Evening arrangements.

Finally, we have noticed within school that the pupils have been making comments about TV programmes that are unsuitable for their age range, mainly Squid Games. Please check to ensure that the children are not able to view clips of Squid Games at home on platforms such as You Tube as much of the content can be excessively violent. I have also included some parental information about Squid Games at the bottom of the newsletter.

Have a fantastic week!

Kind Regards

Mr M Hooper  
Headteacher



## Values at Stepping Stones

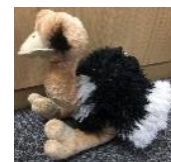
### The Values of the week are Trust and Respect

This first week back, our focused values will be trust and respect – two of our core school values - and we will be teaching the children and showing the children what these mean, daily. We will begin the week as usual with our Values meeting and as a school, we will be talking about how we can build up trust and respect with one another over time, but how unfortunately, one quick, thoughtless, unkind word can quickly take away trust and respect for someone else. As a school we will be focusing on “thinking before we speak”.



### Can-do Colin

Finally, Can-do Colin has been out and about this weekend again – we can't wait to hear about all of his adventures – please do remember to send in some photos of his exploits with your child into Class Dojo. Thank you - we really do value your input from home. 😊



**28<sup>th</sup> February – Ramadan** – Pupils will be learning about Ramadan within their classes.



**6<sup>th</sup> March - World Book Day** – Pupils can come into school dressed as their favorite book character if they wish to. There are some ideas for book free/budget book day costumes below.



**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March is our parents and carers meetings via Teams** – You will receive a letter informing you of how to make an appointment.

Please note that Maple class parents and carers meetings will take place on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March.



Week Commencing 10/02/2025 – 14/02/2025 = Our attendance 95%.  
Keep up the hard work!

**95%**

Thank you for your continued support and for mirroring our ethos and values at home.

Please remember that we are here to support you and you can contact Mrs Armstrong (Family Support – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday).

Mr Hooper and the whole staff team at Stepping Stones School



# What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

AGE RESTRICTION  
**15+**  
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed to young audiences by the nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show, Squid Game. The series, rated 15+, is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread in various guises across online platforms, with a heightened risk of children and young people potentially viewing unsuitable content. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers understand exactly what Squid Game is all about.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that Squid Game contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

## APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children at face-value. The name "Squid Game" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

## SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what is the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like Squid Game.

## VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, Squid Game has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the Squid Game trend, creating content such as "How to Draw Squid Game Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

## SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

### CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

### MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid Game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

### HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable telling you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

### MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen Squid Game, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing Squid Game" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

### WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch Squid Game, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

## Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech tabloid The INQUIRER, Carly now works as the news editor for Computer Shopper and IT Pro and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The Metro, uSWIRE.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/oct/17/engish-council-urge-parents-not-to-allow-children-to-watch-squid-game>  
<https://help.netflix.com/en/node2641> | <https://www.mind.com/Wellness/056400/parental-guide/television-violence>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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### Matilda

- . Blue Dress
- . Red Headband
- . Book



### Where's Wally?

- . Jeans
- . Red and White Striped Top
- . Black Glasses



### Mr Bump

- . Blue Top
- . Blue Bottoms
- . Bandages



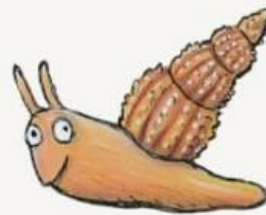
### Paddington

- . Blue Duffel Coat
- . Red Hat
- . Suitcase
- . Red Wellies



### The Very Hungry Caterpillar

- . Green Trousers
- . Green Top
- . Homemade head band from card



### Snail and the Whale

- . Black Top
- . Chalk Pen and write 'Save the Wale'



### Room on a Broom

- . Cape
- . Witches Hat
- . Orange Bow
- . or halloween witches outfit



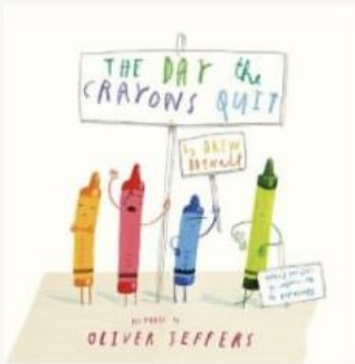
### Gangsta Granny

- . Raid the charity shop for granny clothes or ask Nanny
- . Sack
- . Black Eye Mask



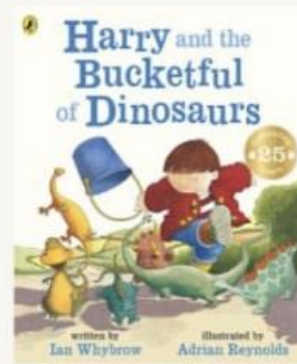
### Princess Pearl

- . Red Dress
- . Doctors Outfit
- . Crown



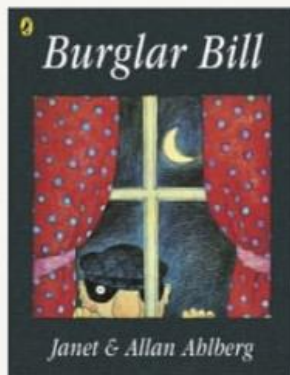
## The day the Crayons Quit

- . Whichever crayon colour you pick wear that coloured top and bottoms
- . create a cardboard crayon hat



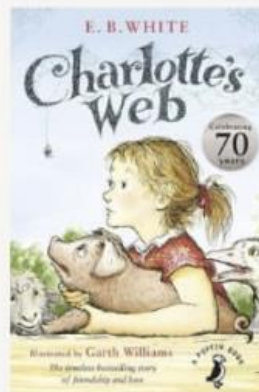
## Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs

- . Red Jacket
- . Bucket full of toy dinosaurs



## Burglar Bill

- . Black and White Striped Top
- . Black Trousers
- . Black eye mask



## Charlotte's Web

- . Red Top
- . Jeans
- . Toy Pig and Spider



## The Twits

- . Purple Top and Trousers
- . Fake Beard - or make your own



## Little People Big Dreams

Little people big dream books are great and they are super easy to recreate a fancy dress outfit using these! For David Attenborough you just need binoculars, a toy animal and a shirt. Steve Irwin a beige suit and toy crocodile. Greta Thurnberg just a yellow hoodie!

## Vinted and Charity Shops

If these ideas aren't for you then don't worry! You can find lots of really great fancy dress costumes in charity shops and on vinted reasonably priced!

## Get Crafty!

If you are feeling crafty then why not make your own out of cardboard?!