

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7th January 2022

Message from Mrs Wright

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a lovely break and a great Christmas for those of you who celebrated. It has been great to see so many children back in school this week and what a busy week it has been! Please see below for some of the exciting things that have been happening already in 2022! Welcome to Mrs Bhogal and Miss France who have joined the team here at Rivers.

Uniform

Please remember that school PE kit in the colder weather is a black Rivers PE T-shirt and black tracksuit bottoms. Children may wear their school jumper or cardigans or a plain black fleece. If children are wearing earrings, these must be only studs. For health and safety reasons, children cannot wear hooped or dangly earrings.

The rates of Covid continue to rise in Walsall, as they do nationally. Please continue to use lateral flow tests for you and your children. Please follow this link for the latest guidance:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges - GOV.UK](#)

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Attendance

This Week's Attendance: 88.1%

This Term's Attendance Event



Teachers v Children Nerf Battle is on!!! Remember to keep your attendance at 97% or better (no more than 5 days of non COVID related absence this academic year).

A Week at Rivers

Across our early years foundation stage children have been excited to come back into the classroom. In Nursery children have been learning about Doctors and how they help us whilst in reception children have enjoyed our story 'Whatever Next'. We have had lots of fun making rockets and creating space pictures.



In KS1, we have been really enthused by our new ASPIRE theme and have started learning about inspirational people. In Year 1, the children have enjoyed starting their new writing unit, 'The Way Back Home'. We made some predictions and read the story. We can't wait to write our own version!

In Year 2, we thought about our careers and what job we would like to have when we are older. We drew pictures of ourselves wearing the uniform or clothes that we would wear for this job.

LKS2 have had a great start this week, they've returned to school with enthusiasm and a great sense of purpose. We started our Aspire theme which is all about raising aspirations and opening up the world of work! In Year 3, we learnt about the extraordinary life John Cadbury led and had a go at designing and creating our very own chocolate bar! In Year 4, we have been exploring our interests, recognising valuable skills we have and finding out what careers are out there. We can't wait to become graphic designers next week!

In Year 5, we thought about what our future careers might be. We looked at a variety of different jobs and how much they pay. Next, we completed a budget based on the salaries and calculated how much we could spend based on this income - why not ask your child what they want to be when they grow up?

In Year 6, we have thought about how we can make a difference in the world. We looked into the life of the footballer, Jude Bellingham, and listened to how he achieved his dreams of playing professional football. We also learnt about the records that he has broken and how he has had an impact on the lives of young footballers.

Rivers Reads

Star readers of the week:

Name	Words Read This Week
Aqram LB	242,497
Ava Rose C	101,185
Tiguidanke S	71,234
Heebba Chaudhry	67,380
Marshane C	67,380

KS2 class leaderboard:

Class	Words Read This Year
Amazon	7,214,108
Fuji	4,690,247
Tocantin	3,403,379
Tiber	1,721,288
Kuma	1,305,568
Foyle	1,224,127
Hvita	827,058
Clyde	419,042

Celebrations

Well done to our **RRS Ambassadors** who are always **ready** to learn, **ready** to engage and **ready** to respond.

Avon: Bella P **Trent:** Laila-Mai S **Severn:** Huzaifa U **Thames:** Navjot B
Clyde: Kay W **Foyle:** Keyanna A **Hvita:** Rhiley H **Tiber:** Olivia T
Kuma: Mckaylah E **Fuji:** Megane A **Amazon:** Heebba C **Tocantins:** Mason C

Hot Chocolate Friday Winners

Avon: Travis H **Trent:** Jake D **Severn:** Jesscia K **Thames:** Harley-Jay H
Clyde: Freddie P **Foyle:** Kwaku O **Hvita:** Mia M **Tiber:** Keith M
Kuma: Isabelle M **Fuji:** Cherrie A **Amazon:** Marshane C **Tocantins:** Ruby-Star G

Behaviour Badges

Bronze

Avon: Rosco **Severn:** Chenai, Alex, Jimmie-Drew, Nikola, Ollie, Taashaun **Thames:** Kniko
Clyde: Eashal

Silver

Avon: Alexis, Jaxson, Aiden **Severn:** Chennai **Thames:** Navjot, Jenson
Clyde: Adrianna, Freddie, Porsha, Jordyn, Ezra, Heaven, Angel, Alyssa, Harry, Nathanel, Uche, Anita, Freddie, Ellaney, Harley, Mohammed, Harley-Jay, Mazie, Lacey, Noah

Safeguarding

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

NETFLIX

Netflix is a subscription-based streaming service that allows users to watch TV shows and movies on any internet-enabled device that supports the software, such as smart TVs, phones and tablets. The pandemic saw a surge in children consuming on-demand content as many families relaxed their screen-time rules. Netflix's diverse range of programming caters for all age groups – so it's important for parents to recognise the potential risks of children using the service and the measures to help their child enjoy a safe streaming experience.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Netflix produces and curates an extensive catalogue of content that can provide hours of entertainment. If they share the same user account as an adult, this can potentially lead to children accidentally viewing all manner of inappropriate content, including nudity, profanity and extreme violence. This can happen easily on shared accounts, as Netflix cannot establish who's watching.

BINGE-WATCHING

Netflix allows users to view shows and movies quickly and easily without adverts or interruptions, making excessive screen time a concern. Binge-watching has become more common during the pandemic, due to Netflix's regularly updated content and algorithms which recommend content very similar to what's previously been enjoyed. Marathon viewing sessions can lead to children staying up too late, affecting their mood and concentration the next day.

SCREEN ADDICTION

From TVs and phones to consoles and tablets, Netflix is available on almost any device with an internet connection – making it extremely difficult to manage children's screen time. The service is now adding games to its mobile app, tempting users to spend even more time on the platform. Screen addiction can distract children from important activities like schoolwork and socialising, and can impact their health by reducing their exercise and sleep.

HACKING ATTEMPTS

With millions of users worldwide, Netflix is often targeted by hackers who try to steal usernames and passwords to gain access to people's accounts. If successful, they can then steal payment details or try to sell stolen personal data on the dark web, providing other criminals with a profitable opportunity. Netflix also doesn't provide two-factor authentication, making the hackers' task that little bit easier.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

Netflix's Teleparty feature became popular during lockdown periods as it allows users from different households (friends and relatives, for example) to synchronise when they watch content. It requires an access link to be sent to the people you wish to invite: the link, however, can also be distributed to people you don't know. A text chat feature enables interaction with the other users in real-time; this represents a risk to children if a stranger gains access to the Teleparty.



Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP ACCOUNTS SECURE

Netflix doesn't use two-factor authentication, so a strong password is vital. Your child's Netflix password should be unique (not one they've used elsewhere) and a minimum of eight characters with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Emphasise not to share their login details with anyone and remind them to always log out after using the app – so their account remains inaccessible, even if their device is lost or stolen.

CHECK MATURITY RATING

Netflix warns about content that includes violence, sex, profanity and nudity. These warnings form part of the show or movie's 'maturity rating'. Users can restrict age ratings to avoid children viewing age-inappropriate content. On their profile, open the Profile and Parental Control settings and choose the maturity level for the shows and movies you want to allow.



CREATE A KIDS' PROFILE

Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile means your child can only access content which is suitable for children aged up to 12 years. All other content is automatically blocked. This rating can be further restricted via the child's profile settings. Setting up a Netflix Kids experience profile will help to prevent your child from viewing age-inappropriate content.



SET UP PROFILE PINS

Netflix account holders can lock profiles using a four-digit PIN. Doing this can prevent your child from accessing the wrong account and viewing content that isn't appropriate for their age. Try setting a PIN for each account on your Netflix app – ideally avoiding numbers that would be easily guessed, such as dates of birth. Remember not to share these PINs with anyone, including family.



SWITCH OFF AUTO-PLAY

When a show or movie concludes, Netflix's algorithms select content with similar themes that it thinks your child will enjoy next. This new content starts automatically after a 10-second countdown. Disabling this auto-play feature reduces the possibility of your child being shown something inappropriate and provides a natural break to help prevent them becoming too immersed in Netflix.



CHECK VIEWING HABITS

Netflix has tools which enable parents and carers to monitor what their child has been watching. Selecting 'Viewing Activity' in each profile's account settings displays a list of what content has been viewed (and when). This can reassure parents that their child is watching age-appropriate content and can open avenues for discussing your child's favourite shows and movies, and why they like them.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: www.help.netflix.com, www.about.netflix.com, www.nosonline.org.uk

9 ways to make gaming safer for children

1. Get more directly involved
2. Utilise parental controls
3. Set clear time limits
4. Talk to your kids about basic online safety
5. Double check your cybersecurity
6. Limit their financial access
7. Check that games are age appropriate
8. Discuss things with other parents
9. Don't assume video games are 'bad'

Miss Stone (Designated Safeguarding Lead)
Mrs Moorhouse (Pastoral Lead)

Alternatively, you can call the **NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000**. Children and young people can call **Childline on 0800 1111**.

Diary dates

Week commencing 10 January	After school clubs resume
Friday 28 January	School closed - Inset day
Week commencing 4 April	Attendance Award - Nerf Battle