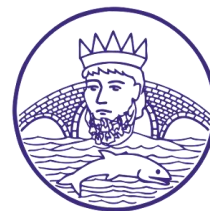


King Athelstan Primary School

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Headteacher: Emily Newton

30th January 2025

Dear families,

We continue to be concerned about the number of children regularly accessing material that is inappropriate for their age and that they are not mature enough to manage appropriately. Please ensure you take the following safety steps to protect your children:

- Set parental controls on all devices (including TV/streaming services)
- Supervise access to media by: sitting with or near your child, checking devices regularly and not allowing access overnight
- Checking the age-rating on games, apps and programmes and looking at the content yourself (or reading parent reviews e.g. on www.commonssensemedia.org) before allowing your child access

Squid Game (15+): We have seen a sharp rise in the number of children across the school (including younger year groups) discussing and acting out the TV show Squid Game, following the recent release of the new season. Containing intense violence, murder, torture and sexual content, it is important that parents and carers understand the risks posed to young children accessing this 15+ rated show, or related content. The show's popularity has meant it has spread in various guises across online platform including TikTok (13+), Roblox and Minecraft. It appears that a number of children may be watching the show, or related content, at home (with or without their parent/carer's knowledge) and are then discussing or acting it out at school. Children will continue to be reminded that this is not appropriate content for discussion or playground games at school but we need the support of families to help protect all of our children from unnecessarily early exposure to such adult themes.

Fortnite (12+) and other interactive games: We are finding children coming into school upset about conflicts that have occurred whilst playing Fortnite and other games that allow online communication. We are hearing alarming stories of children swearing at and insulting each other, even making threats to harm each other in real life. As a school, we are not in a position to routinely manage conflict outside of school, particularly when it is occurring on platforms that the children are too young to access. Please consider carefully before allowing your child to play games with interactive features and, if you do allow this, ensure they play the conversations aloud (rather than through headphones) so that you can monitor what is being said.

Please note that failure to protect children from ongoing exposure to age-inappropriate materials becomes a safeguarding concern if not fully addressed by parents and carers. Thank you for continuing to work with us to keep all our children safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Emily Newton'.

Emily Newton

Headteacher

