



Panshanger Press 2024/2025- Vol. 4

Panshanger Primary School

25th October 2024

We are already at the end of our first half-term

Message from Mr Longland

Good afternoon,

Thank you all for your support during this first half-term. The children have enjoyed telling me all about their learning over the last few weeks. It is clear that they enjoy coming to school and share their experiences outside of school too.

I hope you all enjoy a restful half-term and we look forward to welcoming

If you have any questions then please feel free to come and ask me on the playground in the mornings. However, if you feel it would be more appropriate, please call the office to book a mutually convenient time.

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Children's Kitchen







We are incredibly excited to announce that we will be refurbishing our children's kitchen area located in our dining room.

The kitchen is used by all classes at Panshanger throughout the school year as we feel it is an essential life skill that children learn to develop. Last year, we extended this further for Year 6, who were given the opportunity to visit the Giggling Squid restaurant in Welwyn Garden City to show off their culinary skills in a professional kitchen.

We are extremely grateful to our **PTA** who will be funding this project on behalf of our children. **THANK YOU!**

We would also like to thank **Wickes - Welwyn Garden City**, for donating many of the items needed and providing us with the units at an incredible price.

However, to keep costs as low as possible we are still looking for the following:

- Keen and experienced parents or family members who would be willing to give up their time over the October half term to help us install the kitchen. So far, we have had just the one parent come forward. If you are able to help then we would greatly appreciate it.
- A business or individual that would like to donate or sponsor us for the cost of a single built-in oven. The cost of this at Wickes is £165. We would very much like to thank one of our parents,

who would like to remain anonymous, who has donated the funds needed to purchase one of the required ovens. **THANK YOU!**

- A business or individual that would like to donate or sponsor us for any of the following; baking equipment, utensils, weighing scales, hot plates, graters, plastic chopping boards, knives and cutlery. A huge **THANK YOU** to **Tesco** who have donated many kitchen items that will be used by the children straight after half-term.
- We would also like to thank **Crane & Staples** who have also donated a cash sum to support the project.

If you do feel like you could help in any way, then please contact Mr Longland via telephone or email.

THANK YOU!



Staffing Update

Goodbye!
& THANK YOU

As we arrive at the end of this first half-term, we are saying goodbye to Miss Coates. We would like to thank Miss Coates for her hard-work and dedication to the school, she will be sorely missed by both the staff and the children and we wish her the very best of luck during the next stage of her career.

Thank you!

Parent Consultations



Just a reminder regarding our parent consultations:

Our first parent consultations of this academic year will take place on Friday 8th November and Monday 11th November.

Friday 8th November: All consultations will be face to face between 14:20 and 17:10.

Monday 11th November: Face to face appointments between 15:40 and 16:50. Online consultations from 17:15 to 18:20.

Please remember that our family support worker will be on site to answer any questions or queries you may have.

Our kitchen will be serving food from 14:00 to 16:15 on Friday and 15:30 to 16:30 on Monday.

Please login in plenty of time if your consultation is online as the session times are restricted to the times that have been set.

Beehive Update



PARDON

THE

WEEDS

WE ARE FEEDING THE BEES

The young colony of bees have built up over the summer months into a strong colony that should survive the winter and provide a surplus of honey next spring and summer.

The bees have been fed with 12 litres of sugar syrup for them to store and consume during the cold dark winter months. It was necessary to feed the bees as they had not made enough honey due to starting off as a small colony. A mouse guard has been placed on the hive to prevent mice from getting in due to its warmth and food supplies! The bees will keep the temperature inside the hive at around 35 degrees regardless of the outside temperature.

The bees do lessen as the days shorten. On nice days some bees will fly in order to search for pollen from late flowering plants. New bees will be emerging to replace the old bees and these bees will survive till early spring. When the weather is really cold the bees can only survive by clustering together to conserve heat. The cluster will move round the hive as the bees consume the stored honey. Around Christmas and New Year, the queen is given more food and will lay a few eggs. New adult bees will emerge and from then on, a few more eggs are laid each day so that the hive numbers start to increase steadily from New Year. This growth in the bee population will take the hive into spring and ready for the early crocus plants.

Firework Safety



Safety Messages:

- Fireworks are exciting, but they can be very dangerous and can hurt you. Listen to your grown-up about where is a safe place to stand.
- Never touch a firework. Don't pick up a firework after it has been used.
- Wear your gloves when you hold a sparkler and keep it away from your body.
- Once your sparkler is finished, put it into a bucket of water, don't pick it back up.
- Stand well away from any bonfires and stay close to your grown-up.
- If you're going to a firework display, hold hands with your grown-up and stay with them at all times.



Stay safe this firework season

1 Store fireworks
properly



2 Read all the
instructions



3 Dispose of
fireworks safely



Scan the QR code for more information



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Horror Films & Age Ratings

As the Halloween season approaches, we felt this was appropriate to share before the half-term break...

At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.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.

FACT VS. FICTION

Many children have no trouble separating fact from fiction. However, with modern day technology making pretend violence and horror look even 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 stottle 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 parent's 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 Inley 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.

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

WakeUpWednesday The National College

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PTA



PTA Updates

Some key dates for your diary from the PTA this term: The uniform rail continues to be stocked every week for second hand uniform and on Friday, after school, the bookshelf will be available outside the dining room doors to donate/swap/buy second hand books 📖

100 Club - The first draw of the year will be 25th October (**Today!**).

Fireworks night - Sun 3rd Nov at Springmead School

Break the Rules Day - Fri 22nd Nov

Quiz night (adults only) - Fri 29th Nov 7pm onwards

Christmas Film Night - Fri 13th Dec 5-7pm

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 31st October - Secondary School Application Deadline for Year 6

Monday 4th November - Friday 8th November - Poppy Appeal

Friday 8th November - Parents Evening, Family Support Worker & Food Tasting (14:00-16:15)

Monday 11th November - Parents Evening, Family Support Worker & Food Tasting (15:30-16:30) - (Video Appointments 17:25-18:30)

Thursday 14th November - Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6 Only)

Friday 15th November - Children in Need (Pyjama Day)

Monday 18th November - Thursday 21st November - School Book Fair - 15:30-16:00

Thursday 28th November - Year 6 Trip to IWM Duxford

Thursday 5th December - Flu Vaccinations (Reception to Year 6 Only)

Monday 9th December - Whole School Pantomime Trip to Campus West - Sleeping Beauty

Wednesday 11th December - Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3 - Christmas Performance - 14:15

Thursday 12th December - Nursery & Reception - Christmas Performance - 9:00

Thursday 12th December - Year 1, Year 2 & Year 3 - Christmas Performance - 18:00

Friday 13th December - Nursery & Reception - Christmas Performance - 9:00

Friday 13th December - Isabel Hospice Rudolph Run

Tuesday 17th December - Christmas Music Concert (Reception to Year 6 Only) 9:00 & 14:30

Wednesday 18th December - Christmas Lunch (order in the usual way through SchoolGrid)

Contact Us



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Visit our website at <https://panshanger.herts.sch.uk> to see more!

