

Friday 1st May 2026



Headteachers report of the week

This week, I would like to particularly recognise Emilia for her outstanding effort and achievement in her Art exam. Over two days of focused work, Emilia showed dedication, creativity and resilience, fully engaging with the process from start to finish.

Her final piece is a fantastic reflection of her artistic skills and hard work, demonstrating careful planning, attention to detail and confidence in her ideas. Emilia approached the exam with a positive attitude and should be very proud of what she has accomplished.

Well done, Emilia, this is a wonderful achievement and a clear example of what can be achieved through commitment and perseverance. Keep up the excellent work.

Physical activity and outdoor learning have featured strongly this week, providing valuable opportunities for learners to stay active and engaged. Learners thoroughly enjoyed friendly table tennis games, where they not only competed with enthusiasm but also learned new rules and demonstrated excellent sportsmanship.

Primary learners have been especially excited to explore their new outdoor equipment, making the most of time spent together outside. These activities have supported physical development, teamwork, and positive social interaction and it has been wonderful to see such enjoyment and energy across the school.

There has also been a real sense of teamwork and care within our school community, with learners supporting one another and showing thoughtfulness in their actions. These moments reflect our school values and the nurturing environment we strive to provide.

Thank you as always, to our dedicated staff and supportive families for helping to make our school such a positive place to learn and grow

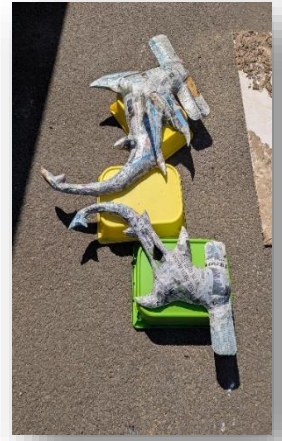
Best wishes

Jules





This week, Emilia took on her art exam, spending two focused days immersed in her final piece. Through dedication, creativity, and careful attention to detail, she produced an incredible piece of artwork that truly reflects her talent and hard work.



We are so proud of your commitment Emilia, and your finished piece is a fantastic achievement, Well done!





Saplings 1 made Chocolate Cheesecake using a Bain-Marie to melt the chocolate, they are learning about 'Culinary Terms' used in the Catering Industry. The Cheesecake had a digestive biscuit base; they added vanilla essence for extra flavour.

- Debbie J

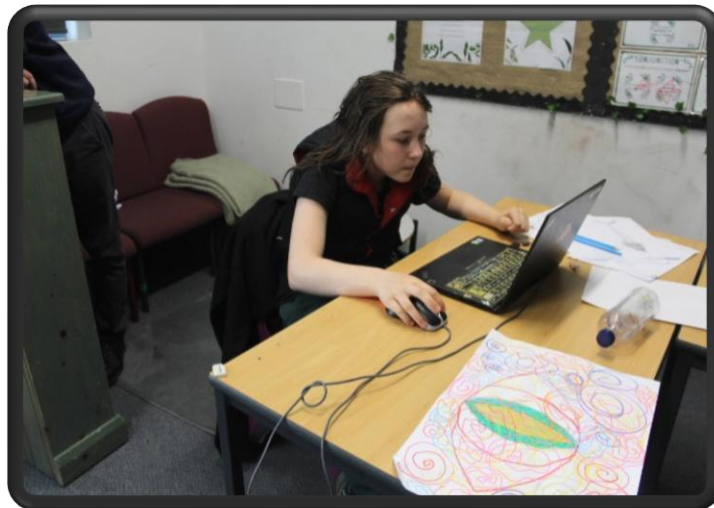




Learners enjoyed an energetic game of table tennis this week in PE with Ben, having lots of fun competing against one another. Alongside the friendly competition, they also took time to learn and understand the rules of the game. It was great to see teamwork, sportsmanship, and enthusiasm on display throughout the session.



Destiny created an incredible picture in art this week, showcasing her creativity and effort. A fantastic piece of work, well done, Destiny!



Destiny also worked hard in her IT lesson this week, showing focus and determination throughout her tasks. Her positive attitude and effort did not go unnoticed.

Keep up the hard work, Destiny!



Harley has been making some great progress this week by building steps so his brother can reach the trampoline at home.

It's been lovely to see his thoughtfulness, problem-solving skills, and teamwork in action.

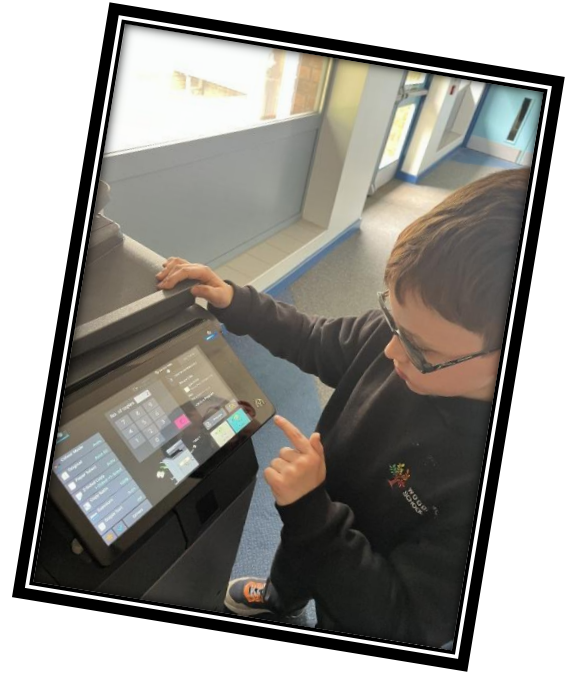


Primary learners have been enjoying some fantastic new outdoor equipment this

week, encouraging active play, confidence, and lots of smiles. It's been great to see everyone making the most of the new resources and getting outside together.



In ICT,
Acorns
lesson
focused on
photo
editing,
including
how to
duplicate
images.



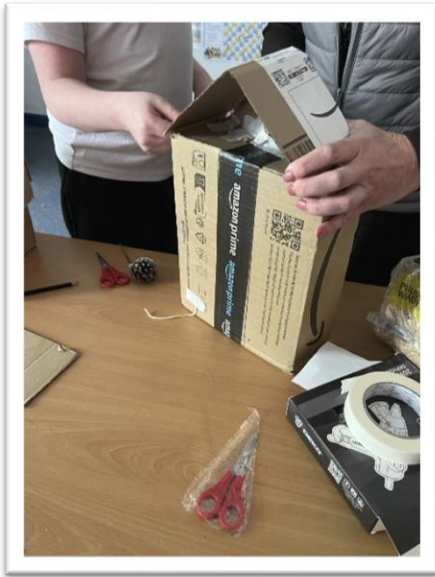
Ollie showed fantastic enthusiasm and extended his learning further by exploring how to insert images into PowerPoint, resize them, layer them, and even use the photocopier.

Great effort and independence.

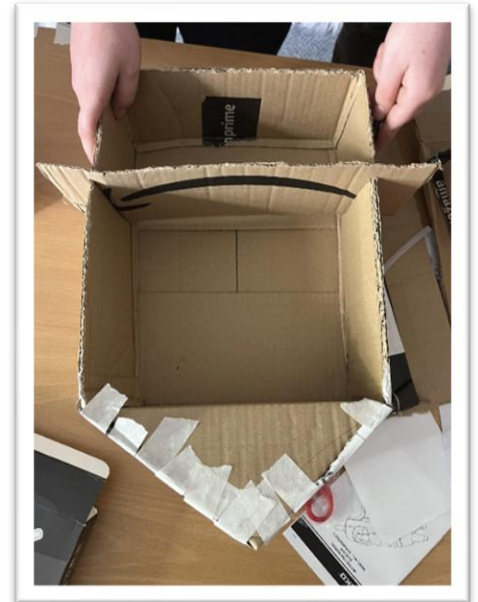
Well done,
Ollie!

- Sian

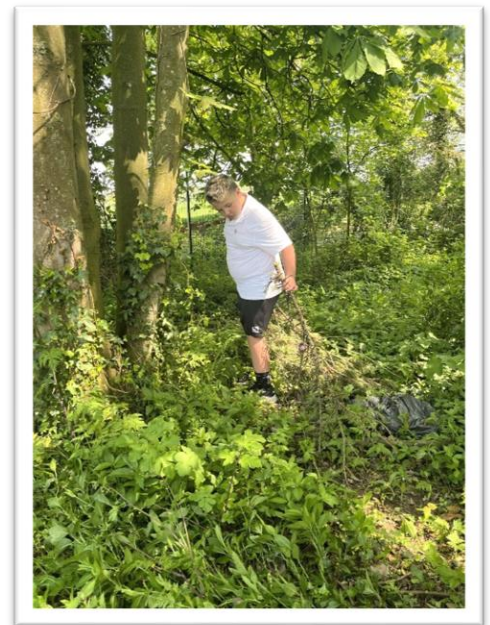




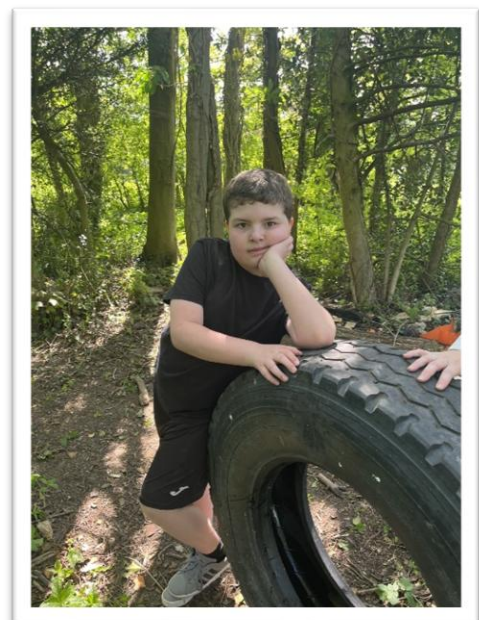
In Forest School, Acorns have been exploring the natural landscape by building dens and beginning

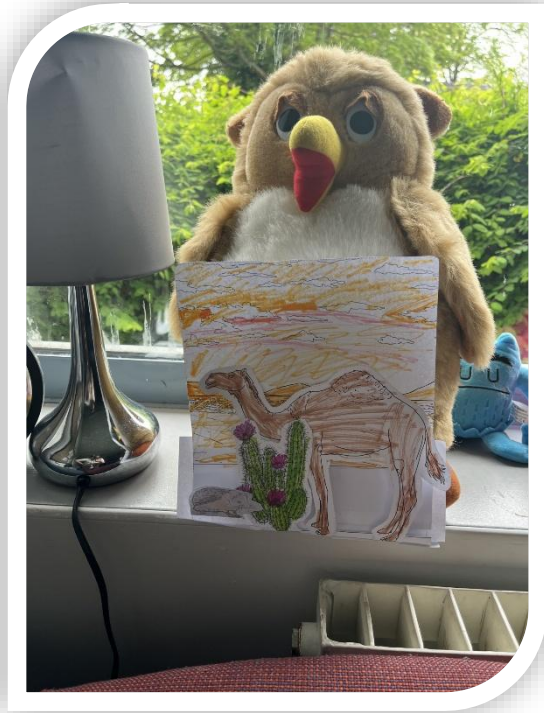


to create bug houses from their own designs. It's been fantastic to see



their teamwork, creativity, and hands-on learning in action.

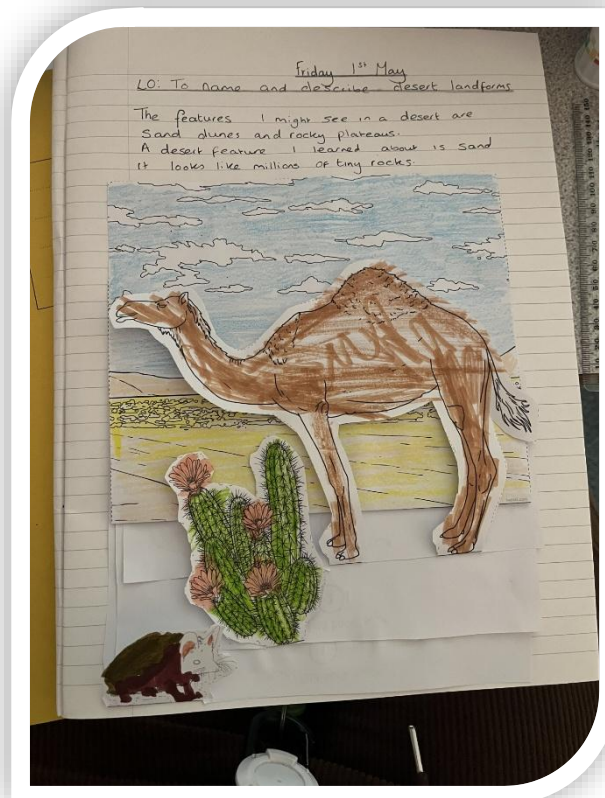




In Geography, Acorns 2 have been learning to name and describe different desert landforms. The children brought this learning to life by creating their own desert dioramas, showing features such as dunes and rocky landscapes.

They showed great creativity and understanding.

Well done, Acorns 2!

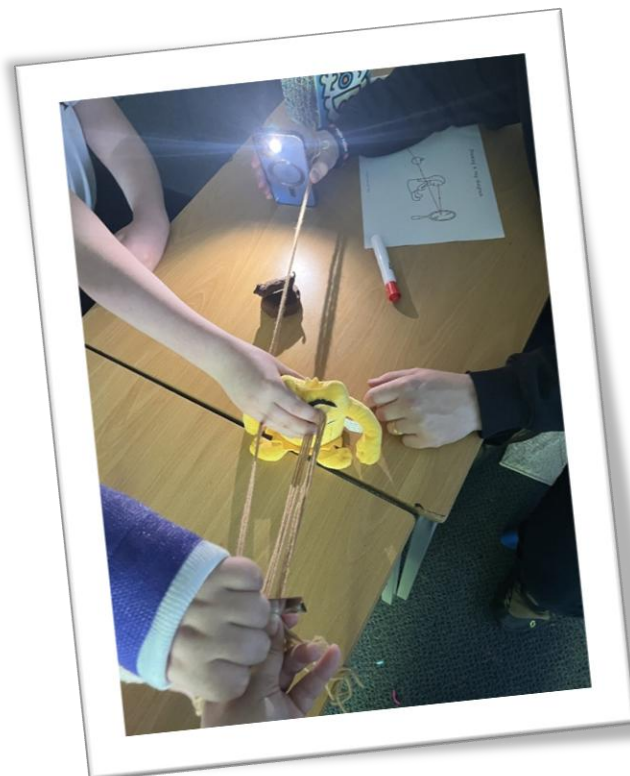




In Acorns 2, we built on our previous learning about how light travels in straight lines. In today's lesson, the learners explored how light moves from a source (such as a torch or the sun), reflects off a mirror, and then travels to our

eyes so we can see. The image shows a live diagram of this in action, helping to bring their learning to life.

Great work from everyone!

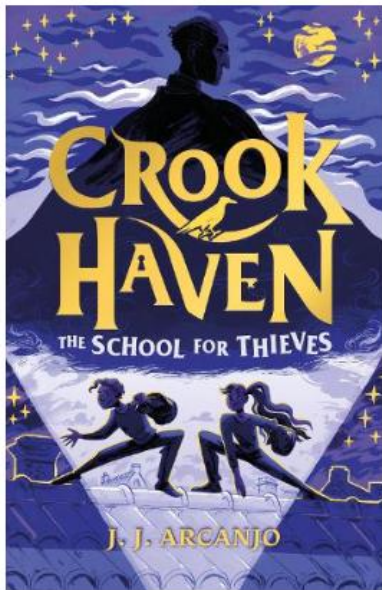




Primary learners had an exciting trip to Waterworld! This fun and engaging outing gave learners the chance to enjoy the water activities while building confidence, independence, and social skills. It was a memorable experience filled with smiles, splashes, and lots of fun for everyone involved. Staff were so proud of Primary's bravery, behaviour and teamwork as they supported each other to have such a great day.



Book Club – Featured Books



13-year-old Gabriel is a brilliant pickpocket, a skill which he uses to keep his often empty belly not quite so empty. And then one day, he's caught.

But instead of being arrested, he is invited by the mysterious Caspian Crook to attend Crookhaven – a school for thieves. At Crookhaven, students are trained in lock-picking, forgery and 'crimnastics', all with the intention of doing good out in the world, by conning the bad and giving back to the innocent.

But ... can you ever really trust a thief?

 [BOOKMARK](#)

323 pages

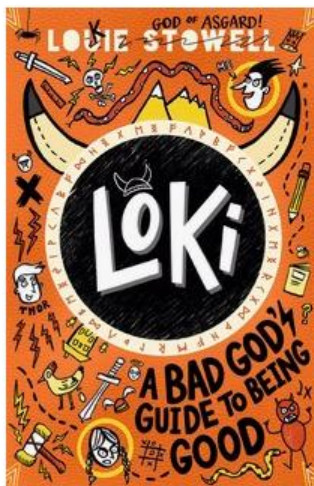
[Family](#) – [Friendship](#) – [School](#)

[Adoption](#) – [Crime](#)

Reading Age: 9

Interest Age: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13

J.J. Arcanjo



Meet Loki.

He's very bad at being good. Loki, mighty trickster god, has been BANISHED by Odin to live on Earth as an eleven-year-old boy.

Things he cannot do on Earth: reveal his awesome godly powers.

Things he MUST do on Earth if he wants to get back home: go to school, do good deeds, write a diary and (worst of all) put up with Thor...

Watch out for the chaos!

 [BOOKMARK](#)

236 pages

[Family](#) – [Funny](#) – [Myths & Legends](#) – [School](#)

[Bullying](#) – [Diary](#) – [Norse Gods](#)

Reading Age: 8

Interest Age: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

Louie Stowell



If you would like to purchase this book for your school you can access discounted rates through our partners Peters Books using the link below.



Meet Nova! She's a scientist. Some people say she's a genius. Some people even call her Supa Nova – get it? Like a supernova. Basically she's a huge star, exploding right at you with her adventures!

When Nova invents a plastic-eating monster, she thinks she's solved the world's pollution problem. But she doesn't expect her monster to start rampaging through the city! Can Nova find a way to save the day?

It will take a genius to figure it out!

 BOOKMARK

160 pages

Family – Funny

Environment – Science

Reading Age: 7

Interest Age: 8. 9. 10. 11

Chanté
Timothy



Lexia Certificates



Core 5:

- Eliza
- Ollie C

Power Up:

- Lexi
- Aaron
- Leo Gi
- Mason
- Sophie



Glimmers



Morgan, Corey and Leighton have sat their Salford Reading Test – Great work boys, well done!

Oaks 3 have been really engaged with their learning some great positive engagement. Well done, all!

Jessica has taken responsibility and asked to do her SATS. Brilliant Jessica – So proud of you

Shout out to Aaron, Leo Gi and Eliza for an amazing History lesson

Ruby engaged well in her Maths lesson. Well done Ruby!

Morgan asked to do his reading test, - Brilliant work Morgan!

Tommy for really engaging with his lessons – Great work Tommy

Nest did a phenomenal escape pod – Wow! Amazing, all

Matthew sat his reading test and his Maths– Superstar, well done!



Dates for the Diary

- PCP Parents Evening
 - Online, by phone or in person
 - Thursday 9th July 3.30 – 5.30
 - Online, by phone or in person
- Sports Day – 20th July

Coming Soon...

- Mini Marathon
- Mini Stick Golf Festival – To be confirmed



Headteacher Awards



- Tyler for showing a great level of skill in Badminton and being willing to learn
- Oscar and Michael for amazing engagement in your SATS practice
- Matthew for sitting his Functional Skills reading
- Leighton for sitting his Functional Skills reading
- Morgan for sitting his Functional Skills reading
- Corey for completing his Salford reading test
- Morgan for completing his Salford reading test
- Leighton for completing his Salford reading test

Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line

01743 250950

Mon - Thurs, 9.30am - 4.30pm
Fri, 9.30am - 3.30pm

No judgment, just support. For **all** Shropshire families, including those whose children have special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND)



Does your child struggle with their sleep?

Free Sleep Tight Groups

Join us on one of our virtual or face-to-face groups and:

- Find out why sleep is important for our health and emotional wellbeing
- Get support to help improve sleep and bedtime routines
- Meet other parents/carers to share and discuss experiences

**Sleep Tight Universal Group 24th April 2026 from 10.00am to 12.00pm
Virtually Via MS Teams**

**Sleep Tight SEND Group 12th June 2026 from 10.00am to 12.00pm
at The Keystone Academy, Squinter Pip Way, Shrewsbury, SY3 8XQ**

The groups run for 5 weeks excluding the school holidays and bank holidays.

Groups with SEND are suitable for parents/carers of Children who might have special educational needs and disabilities, no formal diagnosis is needed to attend the groups.

To book a place email Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk or call 01743 250950

Find out
more here





Shropshire Parenting Team – Family Leaflet

This leaflet provides information to all families, including those whose children have SEND, who would like to know more about the services we offer. Simply scan any QR code or follow the links to explore free support, groups and learning opportunities.

Our Services - Overview

[The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council](#)

Find out more about all our services on offer



Our SEND Services - Overview

[The Parenting Team | Shropshire Council](#)

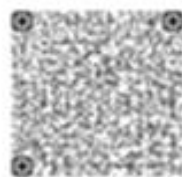
Find out more about our services within the SEND local offer



Understanding Your Child Groups

[Information to help families in Shropshire - Shropshire Together Community Directory](#)

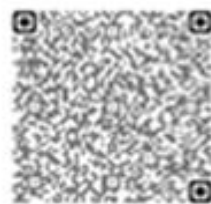
Find out more about free groups



Sleep Tight Groups

[Information to help families in Shropshire - Shropshire Together Community Directory](#)

Find out more about free Sleep Tight groups



Online Learning Pathways

[Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin | Togetherness - Togetherness](#)

Find out more about free online learning



Parenting Help and Support Line

[Shropshire Parenting Help and Support Line | Shropshire Together Community Directory](#)

No judgment, just support. Call us for a listening ear.



If you would like to find out about further help and support the Parenting Team offer please email

Parenting.team@shropshire.gov.uk

or call us on 01743 250950

All our services are free of charge to Shropshire Council residents.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L A P P R O A C H

PARENTING HELP AND SUPPORT LINE

available

Monday to Thursday from 9.30am to 4.30pm

and

Friday 9.30am to 3.30pm

You can contact the Parenting Help and Support Line by calling

01743 250950

Parenthood can be extremely rewarding and enjoyable. It can also be demanding, frustrating and exhausting. The Parenting Team is here to help and support parents and carers to raise healthy, well-rounded children in a loving and stable environment.

Do you have any questions around your child's development and parenting?

Why not call our Parenting Help and Support Line where one of our trained Parenting Practitioners will be ready to listen.

(Please note the Parenting Help and Support Line will not operate on Bank Holidays)

If you have concerns about a child's safety or well-being, please call

First Point of Contact 0345 678 9021



Sending an Email to the Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@wdl.mmat.co.uk

- If you have any worries Parents/Carers or Students, please email the above address.
- Students, you can use your school accounts or personal email addresses.

Why not follow us on Facebook

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

Or

Take a look at our website!

www.woodlands.school

Or

Join the conversation - We love hearing from you! Share your thoughts, questions, and suggestions with us.

rachel.bates@wdl.mmat.co.uk

If you need to contact us out of normal school hours, please either email on the above address

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual reality (VR for short) has existed for decades, but it's only in the last 10 years that the technology has really become publicly available. With VR's rapid rise as a gaming and educational medium, there are plenty of unknowns regarding its use – for adults and children alike. Is it safe? How long should someone use VR for? How expensive is it? What's clear is that VR is becoming ever more ubiquitous in everyday life: from companies using it for training to at-home fitness. Knowing what the technology is capable of is more useful than ever.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PREMATURE EXPOSURE

13+

While VR has already found its way into schools worldwide – allowing teachers to take their class on digital field trips – most manufacturers advise an age restriction of 13. This safeguard is based on the idea that children's brains, eyes and bodies are still developing. With the technology still in its infancy, not enough research has been conducted as to how VR affects children in the longer term.

EYE STRAIN

One of the main worries about VR is that essentially having TV screens so close to your eyes could harm them with prolonged use. Lenses inside each headset have been specifically designed to trick the human eye into focusing to infinity (just as they would in the real world) to mitigate possible eye strain. Even so, longer VR sessions should be limited to adults only.

PHYSICAL ACCIDENTS

When used correctly, VR isn't dangerous as there are safety features built in. A common concern is that a child wearing a headset could bump into real-world objects while playing – so creating a clear, tidy gaming space is essential. Headsets also come with 'Guardian' or digital barrier systems that can be set up beforehand, indicating where walls and furniture are located so nobody trips over and hurts themselves.

SOCIAL VR

VR is more immersive than normal gaming and makes players feel very present in the moment. There are additional online safety fears, therefore, relating to trolling and abusive comments as players engage with each other in social VR spaces. Personal information shouldn't be given out and privacy and safety controls (who can see your real name, for example) need to be activated where possible.

MOTION SICKNESS

Children who are prone to travel sickness might encounter what's known as 'simulator sickness'. This is nausea caused by the eyes seeing images which tell the brain that the person is moving, while the rest of the body knows it is stationary. Most apps have features to reduce this discomfort, while some games simply don't feature locomotion to make for a more comfortable experience.

VIOLENT CONTENT

Among the growing range of VR games and apps, not all of them are appropriate for young players. Violent content can be far more visceral and disturbing in VR, so it's important to consider the age and maturity of your child before giving them access to this type of gameplay. As the majority of VR content is digital, online store access is easy – so careful curation is advised.

Advice for Parents & Carers

START OFF SLOWLY

Just like regular video games, if your child wants to try VR the best way to reduce risks is moderation. Keep their VR sessions to short stints – and for young adults new to the technology, build up their usage time gradually to let them get acquainted with it. If they feel any discomfort, remove the headset and try again at a later point.

ANTI-NAUSEA OPTIONS

It's wise to get used to VR while comfortably seated and progress to standing or 'room-scale' VR (where players physically walk around an area) later. Look at the in-app options first: switching between seated and standing adjusts the player's height, while a vignette or 'tunnel' darkens the peripheral vision to reduce nausea. Teleportation Mode and Snap Turning are also important options for enhancing comfort.

NO SURPRISES

It's easy to get lost in the moment in VR – and possibly forget where you might be standing in the real world. A minimum 2m x 2m play area is recommended, with no plant pots or other delicate objects within reach of flailing arms. Take pets into account, too: don't let the cat or dog walk into the room, for example, because a VR player won't see them and could certainly trip. A child is far more likely to get over-enthusiastic in VR, posing a risk to themselves and anything in their path.

RESEARCH CONTENT

There will be information online about most games and apps, explaining what type of experience they provide. They'll list age ratings indicating how violent the gameplay might be; comfort, so you'll know the intensity of the experience; and how much access the game requires to personal information or features like the built-in microphone.

KEEP A WATCHING BRIEF

It may seem that a VR player is in their own world, but all VR headsets allow external viewing via a linked monitor or mobile phone. This is the best way to ensure whatever a child is playing is appropriate. More VR supervision tools are on the way, such as securing specific apps behind unlock patterns or sending an approval notification to the parent if their child wants to purchase a game.

Meet Our Expert

Peter Graham is the editor at XR (extended reality) and Web3 specialist site gmw3.com and has been writing about VR, augmented reality and the immersive tech industry for more than seven years. He's served as a panel speaker and a judge at awards events and game hackathons.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION

Qualify as a Primary or Secondary
Teacher in as little as 10 months!

BURSARIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE UP TO £31,000

Email claire.jones@leadinglearning.co.uk for more information

Applications
are
NOW OPEN!



PAID INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Discover the joy of teaching!

Do you know someone in the final 2 years of their
degree or completing a masters?

Do they want to earn £1365 in 3 weeks this summer with the Marches Academy Trust?

Email claire.jones@leadinglearning.co.uk for more information

