



The staff of **Spring Grove** would like to wish all of the children and families very best wishes for **Christmas and the New Year.**

We hope that you all have a happy, healthy and relaxing break. Thank you for all of the cards, good wishes and gifts that have been sent in; they are very much appreciated.

We look forward to seeing the children back at school on Wednesday 4th January at 8.45am.

Winter Reading Challenge

We love reading at Spring Grove Primary School and we have an exciting reading challenges to complete over the Christmas Break.



<https://www.springgroveprimary.london/winter-reading-challenge/>



Get ready for the Holiday Read-a-thon!

December 19th - January 8th

Our school could win!

- Read lots of books from the Reading Eggs Library
- Have fun filling out and decorating your Reading Journal



IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

School starts at

8.45am for Nursery - The Nursery gate will be shut at 8.45am. Any late arrivals should enter via the main gate and will be marked as late on the register.

8.55am for rest of the school— children can enter school from 8.45am

Please be punctual !

UNIFORMS

As mentioned previously, we have now handed over the selling of school logo uniforms to 'School Bells' in Hounslow. You can buy uniforms via online or by visiting the shop.

Address:

School Bells
48 Bell Road
Hounslow
TW3 3PB

Telephone: 0208 577 6656



Website: <https://www.schoolbellsuniforms.co.uk/primary-schools/spring-grove-primary>

**Applying for
Reception—September 2023**

Closing Date - 15th January 2023

[https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20028/
primary-admissions/1906/
primary-school-admissions](https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/info/20028/primary-admissions/1906/primary-school-admissions)

**All children in NURSERY should
apply.**



**No Nuts
please....**

We are a nut free school and no food products containing nuts are permitted in school. This is because we have a number of children across the school with nut allergies and for some children being in close proximity to nut products could potentially result in hospitalisation.

NURSERY—INKPEN

This term we have continued with our Nursery Rhyme topic and it has been very busy! Throughout this term, we have been exploring different vocabulary linked to the Nursery Rhymes, for example: I'm a Little Teapot - **Spout, handle, steam**; Five little Speckled Frogs - **speckled, cool, log, pool/pond** and Here is the beehive - **beehive, honeycomb, pattern**



Nursery enjoying a cup of tea and a biscuit. Tommy said "yummy, more!"



Catching the rain in a bucket! "This is so much fun!" said Kareem

Nursery took part in the Anti Bullying, reach out Week. We explored our own feelings and thought about what our faces might do or our bodies might feel if we were experiencing these feelings. We explored the emotions: **happy, sad, poorly, sleepy, worried and scared**. The teachers have been encouraging the children to talk in a sentence when they are asked how they are feeling and the children are doing really well with this. We started to think about how our actions might make one of our friends experience one of these feelings. We will continue to come back to this throughout our time in Nursery. Alongside this we are using the word '**patience**'. We are learning that sometimes we need to be patient as we wait for our turn with a toy. The children are working really hard on this and the teachers will continue to support the children in developing patience.



Enjoying a book! Nursery love reading under a blanket "My monsters happy, a smiley face" said Kiaan



Continued

Continued from P4.....

Nursery loved our Brown Bear Brown Bear Week. We learnt about colours and completed lots of investigation around different colours - The Nursery teachers performed magic and turned some colours into other colours by mixing them together - the children were very impressed (we did share the secret and the children enjoyed performing their own magic tricks!).



Making our own coloured animal biscuits. "Eat " said Skyla.

The staff in Nursery would like to give the children another massive "well done" and we hope that you have a fabulous holiday; we look forward to another productive term in January.

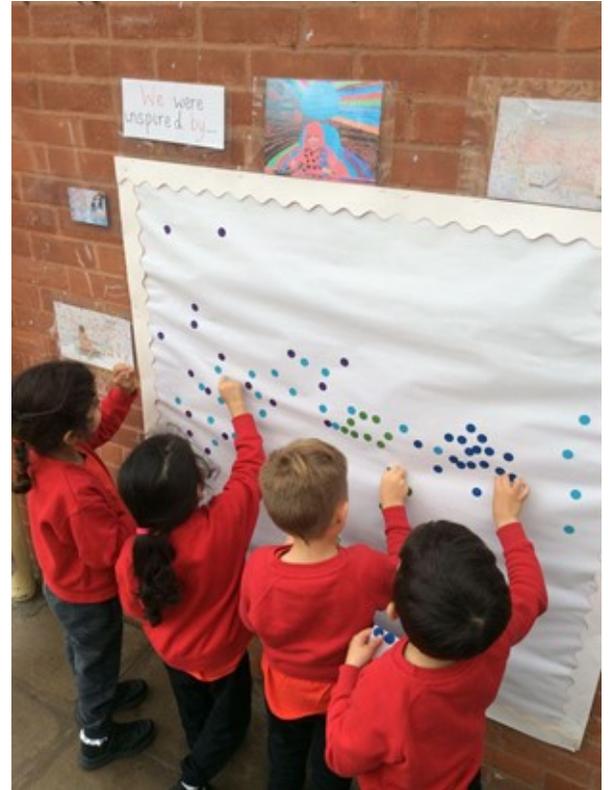
RECEPTION—MCKEE

Reception Class have had a wonderful Autumn Two term! The children have been exploring and learning and we are so proud of the progress they have made.

Reception have been learning about the artist **Yayoi Kusama** and were inspired to create their own art using lots of coloured dots. They made individual pumpkins as well as a class display. The children stuck hundreds of coloured stickers on a plain white board in the style of **Kusama's 'Obliteration Room'** at the **Tate Modern**.

The class have spent a lot of time practising for their **Christmas Nativity** production, working on projecting their voices, singing clearly and moving around the stage safely. They did an amazing job when performing to the school and to the parents and really loved watching themselves back on video!

The children have really enjoyed our latest topics, **'Winter'** and **'Christmas'**. We used the change in weather and season to begin talking about our climate and comparing it to places around the world. We talked about how to stay warm when it gets cold and sorted clothing by season. We spent time talking about significant places and using maps to talk about the countries and continents of



the world. When learning about Christmas, the children have enjoyed talking about their experiences as well as learning about why some people choose to celebrate it. They loved the Christmas story, as after our nativity play it was very familiar!



YEAR 1—DONALDSON

Year One Donaldson have had a very busy term learning all about the **Dinosaurs!** We learnt to identify if they were; herbivores, carnivores or omnivores by looking at which type of teeth they had! We have learnt: the three names of the time period throughout the **Mesozoic Era: Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous** period; found out about the different dinosaurs that lived during these times and what happened to the land during these periods of time.



We had a discussion on why the land broke up and why all the dinosaurs became extinct. The children made slidable dinosaurs in their DT session and had fun making volcanoes out of clay before making a volcanic eruption with them. We became palaeontologists for the afternoon and the best part was eating all the fossils at the end of the day. Playing Dinosaur Geography, a bit like twister but with countries, was lots of fun. Whilst learning about shapes in maths we looked at **Kandisky's Concentric Circles** and made our own copy, which was very messy. We had a lovely visit from an author, which inspired the children to write their own stories during **Anti Bullying Week** and by the end of this term the children have created a **Gingerbread** man, showing all the differences and similarities between us all.

We investigated the best options to melt jelly and found that warm or hot water was best, but cold water did not work. In Computing, the children have started their powerpoints all about dinosaurs and learnt about algorithms. The children wrote their own set of instructions and programmed each other and the Bee Bots. We have been sewing and creating our own wrapping paper using a repeated pattern, which we have also been learning about in maths.



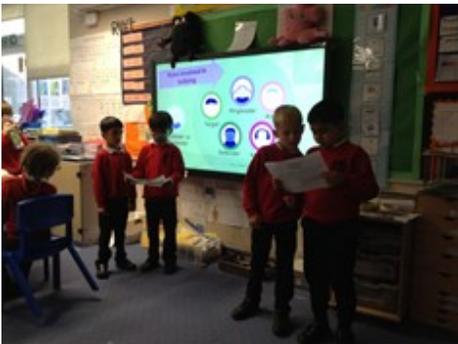
YEAR 2—GREY

Year Two Grey have enjoyed a rich and busy half term. The children have settled into Year Two and been making progress in all areas of the curriculum. We have learnt about the **Great Fire of London** and found out who **Samuel Pepys** was, as well as the cause and effect the fire had on modern day London.

In Science, we have learnt a lot about **everyday materials** and thoroughly enjoyed learning about their properties. The most memorable experiment was the Jelly investigation, and the children learnt about the science behind making jelly.

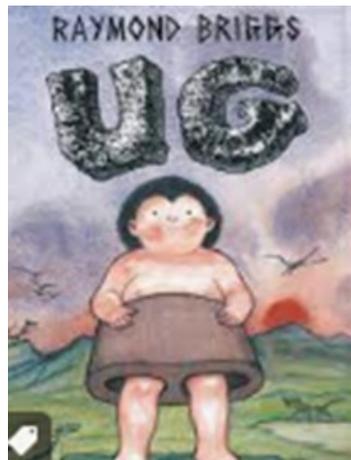
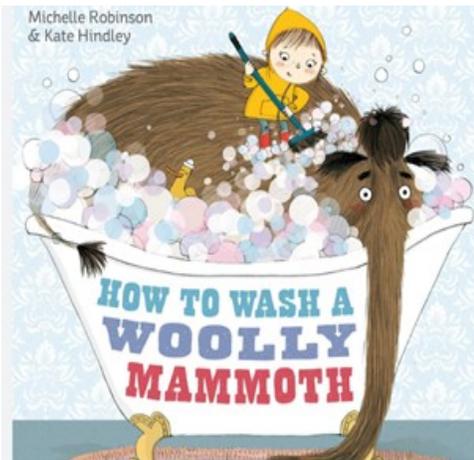
In PSHE, we have loved learning about **what it means to be different**. We looked at different roles and decided whether a man, woman or both can do the role. Most importantly, we learned that it shouldn't matter what you look like, believe in or where you are from to do an activity.

In Art, we have learnt about the modern artist **Banksy** and created our version of the **'Balloon Girl'**, and in PE, we have developed many skills, including: forward **rolls and skipping**, as well as **throwing and catching**.



YEAR 3—ZEPHANIA

In **Year Three Zephania** we have been busy writing our own stories based on our class text, Ug. We have also written a set of fabulous instructions on 'How to wash a woolly mammoth' - this was a funny and creative writing piece indeed! We have also been practising our spelling, punctuation and grammar skills and we are learning how to embed our skills into our writing.



In Maths, we have consolidated our knowledge on multiples and began a unit on multiplying and dividing numbers. We are budding mathematicians and will continue to work hard in 2023!

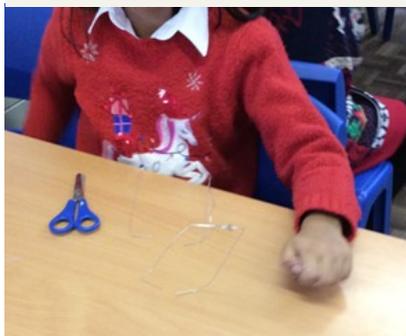
We also celebrated our differences in PSHE and during **Anti Bullying week** we learnt and discussed the different ways we can reach out to share a problem. At school we created our own **worry monsters** as well as

spending some time with our houses as we took part in **Odd Socks Day**.

In Science, we have discovered how soil is made, completing our topic on **Rocks**. The children even spent some time discovering who **Mary Anning** was and produced a leaflet all about her and her achievements. The adults in Year Three were truly amazed with the children's efforts in DT to produce their own pencil cases and bags, applying all their sewing skills and knowledge of different stitches to join different materials together- a huge well done!



3D forms using plastic and wire



In Art, we have been creating different 3D forms using clay, plastic and wire. We also looked at **Antony Gormley's** sculptor called the Field and by the end of the term the children created their own stone age inspired monument



YEAR 4—RAUF

Year Four Rauf has continued to have a very busy time during the second half of this Autumn Term. In English, we started to read '**The Wild Robot**', and have been completing a range of interesting follow up activities for it including making story maps and using these to develop the skill of storytelling.



In science, we have been learning about the **water cycle and thermometers**. In PSHE, the theme this term has been '**Celebrating Differences**' where we learnt that each one of us are unique. Also, we had a special Anti-Bullying Week where we did a variety of activities including a visit from a lovely author called Mrs P! Her story was about how to cope with 'bother bugs' (worries) and the children thoroughly enjoyed listening to her. We made a '**Bother Bugs**' box to place our worries in there!

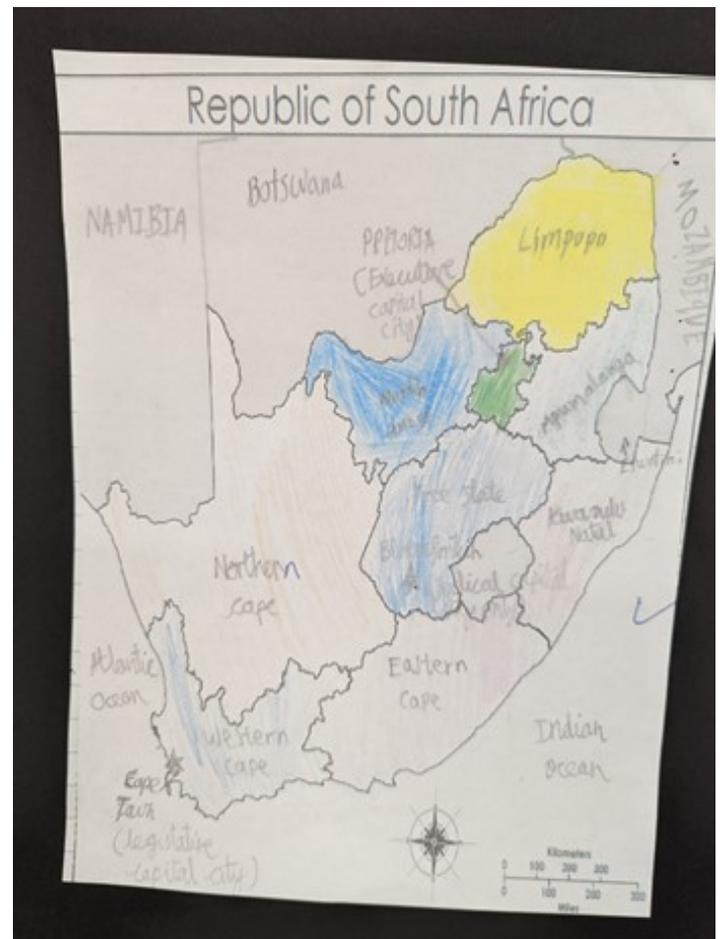
In Art, we made our own papyrus paper and drew some ancient Egyptian pictures on them. They look really good! We also had a chance to make lanterns which was fun.

In PE, we had dance lessons, where we worked in small groups to create **spy dance movements**. The groups had fun and worked really well together. They produced lovely dances.



YEAR 5—MORPURGO

Year Five Morpurgo have had a busy but fantastic half term. The children have worked really hard and they have made really great progress in their learning. Our main topic focus has been **'South Africa'**. In Geography, we have been learning how land is used in South Africa and how **Fairtrade** has a positive effect on the farmers and their communities. In PSHE, we have been 'Celebrating Differences' by reflecting on how amazing it is that we aren't all the same and that it should never be a reason to bully or be bullied. In English, we have read the text **'Journey to Jo'burg'** as our entryway to apartheid South Africa. We have developed our reading skills and we have all improved our summarising and inference skills in particular. We were able to write in the role of the main character, **Naledi**, when we wrote letters and we wrote news reports based on an event from the story. Although we haven't learnt about South Africa in Maths, we have been developing our understanding of fractions and we have all improved in our problem solving with fractions.



YEAR 6—EARLE

This half term has been incredible for **Year Six Earle**. The children have given 100% in everything and have made great progress. Year Six Earle have thoroughly enjoyed P.E this half term and have embarked a new journey to becoming great gymnasts. They have enjoyed



using **the apparatus** and coming up with their own sequences to model to the class. Miss King and I are very impressed with their resilience and attitude this half term. They have shown how focused and mature they have become and are enthusiastic towards their learning.

The children went on a remarkable adventure through time at RAF Hendon and enjoyed the experiences which they were offered during the trip to the museum. They were all able to share and discuss the fascinating facts that they had learnt and were keen to get involved with the activities the volunteers at the museum had prepared. Back at school, the children shared how they were thrilled to have been a part of the experience and explained that it really supported their learning well. The children have kept up their passion for History in the classroom, where they enjoyed acting and using drama to evidence what they were learning. The children have enjoyed experimenting with **light and shadows**; conducting and writing up their own experiments as a class. They have shown a real team effort

and we all wish them a great and well deserved break. We cannot wait to see what our amazing class will achieve next half term...



YEAR 6—LEWIS

Year Six Lewis has had an exciting and busy half term. Our main topic was **World War II**. We have learnt how and why the war started, evacuation and how vital role Sikh soldiers played in supporting the allied troops. We were very fortunate to visit the RAF museum in Hendon where we looked at different aircrafts as well as experiencing going into an air raid shelter.

In PSHE, we have been celebrating differences by understanding that we are all different. During **Anti Bullying Week** we had an opportunity to work in our Houses and produce some posters

In RE, we have been learning about Judaism. We have learnt about **Rosh Hashanah, Sabbat, Sukkot and the role of the Rabbi**. We also had a visitor from the Synagogue who explained in detail what you might find in a synagogue and how a synagogue is used to support the community.

We have also been amending and creating codes in **Scratch** during our computing lessons. Finally, we have ended the term with making our own **Anderson Shelters**, a model version of course.. with the view to creating a sturdy structure. We have been very impressed with the children's perseverance, skill and team work in this area of the curriculum especially.

Well done Year 6 Lewis. Thank you for an amazing start to Year 6. Have a well deserved break and we look forward to the Spring Term.



Attendance & Punctuality		
Autumn 2022		
Class	Autumn Term 2022	
	Attendance %	Lateness
Nursery—Inkpen	91.03	75
Reception-Mckee	90.81	43
Year 1-Donaldson	91.99	80
Year 2-Grey	92.02	90
Year 3-Zephania	92.55	49
Year 4-Rauf	92.30	58
Year 5-Morpurgo	90.16	30
Year 6-Earle	90.12	67
Year 6-Lewis	90.21	57

Attendance and punctuality is monitored regularly and children with low attendance are reported to the Education Welfare Officer at London Borough of Hounslow.

Holidays during term time will not be authorised. The DFE (Department of Education) and the London Borough of Hounslow's policy is for leave to be taken during school holidays only, to avoid disruption to your child's education and progress. Please note that all term time leave taken are referred to the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) at London Borough of Hounslow (LBH) and you may be at the risk of receiving a penalty.

Absences due to illness: Please remember to call the school (before 9.00am) and let us know the reason for absence. Absences without a reason will be marked as unauthorised and will be referred to LBH EWO.

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING TERM 2023

Christmas Break from Monday 19th to Tuesday 3rd January

W/B Monday 2nd—Healthy Living Week

January	Tuesday 3rd	INSET DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)
	Wednesday 4th	Return to school
	Tuesday 10th	Year 6 Earle Library Visit to Hounslow Library
	Sunday 15th	Reception Admission Closing Date
	Wednesday 18th	Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court
February	Tuesday 7th	Safer Internet Day
	Half Term Break from Monday 13th to Friday 17th February	
	W/B 27th February	Book Week
March	Monday 6th	Year 2 Library Visit to Hounslow Library
	W/B 13th March	British Science Week
	W/B 20th March	Spring Parents Evening
	Tuesday 28th	Year 3 Library Visit to Hounslow Library
	Thursday 30th	Last Day of Term - school closes at 1.30pm
	Friday 31st	INSET DAY (SCHOOL CLOSED)
Easter Break from Monday 3rd to Friday 14th April		

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH HOUNSLOW - Support available for families over the Christmas holidays

Dear parent/carer,

The Christmas holidays are almost upon us.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

However, we know that many families in our borough will be facing challenging times over the weeks ahead.

The rising cost of heating our homes, increases in the prices of food and other essential items and the ongoing cold weather are all issues we are acutely concerned about.

I wanted to let you know that whatever issues you are facing, help is available over the Christmas holidays.

Warm Spaces

Hounslow Council and its partners have opened a network of warm spaces across our borough - some of which will be open over the holiday period.

Here, you will find a warm welcome and a place to stay warm if you are struggling to heat your home. Many provide warm drinks and other refreshments, free wi-fi and activities for parents and children.

Keeping warm is important for maintaining good health. Our warm spaces are free to use and open to everyone.

You can find your nearest warm space here: hounslow.gov.uk/warmspaces

Cost of Living Support

If you are struggling to make ends meet due to rising prices then please be assured that information and support are available.

We have created a Cost-of-Living Hub on Hounslow Council's website: hounslow.gov.uk/costofliving

Here you can find information about what financial support is available from the government for families who are struggling.

You can access debt advice and support with managing your finances and find help with reducing your energy bills. You can also check if your children are eligible for free school meals.

More information about what is on offer for children is also available from the Hounslow Family Service Directory: <http://hounslow.gov.uk/fsd>

Continued

Continued from P16

Your Family's Health

Our local NHS health services are facing unprecedented pressure now. So, we must do as much as we can to keep ourselves fit and well.

Many groups of people in our borough are entitled to free COVID-19 boosters and flu vaccinations. They offer your best protection against becoming seriously ill if you catch these viruses.

I would urge you to protect your family, your community and yourself by taking advantage of these vaccinations.

They are available from your GP, pharmacy and many other locations.

To find out more, visit: hounslow.gov.uk/getwinterready

You can find lots of information about local health services and childhood illnesses on the Hounslow Healthier Together website.

This includes information on how to manage your child's illness at home, when to contact your pharmacist or GP, and, on the rare times when you need more immediate urgent care, how to access this.

Please visit: healthiertogether.hrch.nhs.uk/

We know that many parents are also concerned about other illnesses that we have seen increase over recent weeks.

This winter, the NHS is encouraging people to get the help they need by using the NHS 111 online service.

This service can assess and direct you to the most appropriate local help, including treatment centres, GP surgeries or your pharmacist. The service can also arrange a call back from a health professional if needed.

If you need medical help fast, use NHS 111 online to get assessed and directed to the right place for you. Please visit: 111.nhs.uk

Once again, I would like to wish you a safe and happy Christmas.

Kelly O'Neill,
Director of Public Health,
London Borough of Hounslow

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

18

'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

CHECK THE SPECS

To avoid let-downs, check a game's specs before buying – especially for PC or Mac, where games often need a particular graphics chip or processor to work. Sites like systemrequirementslab.com can scan your computer to see if it will run certain games properly. On consoles, make sure you're buying the right version: some newer Xbox or PlayStation games won't play on older consoles.

MONITOR IN-GAME COMMS

Voice chat with friends is part of the fun of modern gaming – but danger lurks here too. Many titles have open chat systems, meaning that children could speak to strangers or hear adult language and verbal abuse when games get particularly competitive. Using a shared family area (as opposed to alone in bedrooms) for online gaming is a good way to keep an occasional ear on what's being said.

BE WARY OF GIFTS

Titles like Roblox, Minecraft and Fortnite have in-game currencies, which can be earned through progress in the game – but can also be bought with real money. A common scam is for a young player to be offered currency if they click a link, visit a certain site or contact another user directly. Warn your child about such offers; they should show you if they're in any doubt over an in-game gift.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

16

CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

16

LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

16

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday