

# Weekly Newsletter

#20

7 February 2025



**NB:** The newsletter is sent from a no-reply email system. If you have a query or question relating to the content of the newsletter(s), please email [office@johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:office@johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk)

## Important Parental Notice – SQUID GAME CHALLENGE APP

We have been made aware that a number of children have been using the Squid Game Challenge App. Please read the information below which is from a **National Online Safety newsletter**

### What is Squid Game?

Netflix's Squid Game features some scenes of fairly brutal violence and is rated 15 by the BBFC. There has been a slew of content created – ranging from memes to apps – that convey the violence of the show, so it is important for parents, carers and educators to understand the basis of Squid Game and the potential risks to young people who might be exposed to it.

### What are the hazards for children?

Squid Game's 15 rating has not prevented clips and images from the show being uploaded onto social media sites such as TikTok, with the #SquidGame hashtag being viewed more than 22.8 billion times. There have been reports of children who have accounts on these platforms inadvertently viewing gory, explicit scenes from the programme, and parents and carers should be mindful of the prevalence of these uploads. The popularity of the programme has also led to online challenges based on various scenes, which see people taking part in seemingly innocent children's games. On the show, however, characters are executed if they fail in the game – and videos of people pretending to kill each other after competing in Squid Game-style contests are going viral on social media, where they are easily accessible to children.

### What is the Squid Game Challenge app?

Squid Game Challenge (also known as K-Game Challenge) is an app for smartphones and tablets that has been released for Android and iOS, and the two systems differ significantly on their age ratings for the game. The iTunes Store rates the app as 12+ (advising of "mild/infrequent horror/fear themes"), while the PEGI rating for Android is just 3+, which means that very young children might be able to download and play the game even with parental controls activated on their device or through Google Play.

The gameplay is frequently interrupted by pop-ups and ads (sometimes appearing while the user is rapidly tapping their screen while attempting to complete the challenge). This could easily lead to unwanted purchases or accidental visits to inappropriate sites beyond the app.

### What can trusted adults do?

As a parent or carer, keep a watchful eye on the content that your children are viewing. Speak to them openly and chat about how they have been spending time on their devices; let them ask questions, too. Ensure that the parental controls are activated on your child's device and that age-restricted child profiles are properly set up any on-demand services available through the family TV (such as Netflix, in this case) to prevent inappropriate content being streamed.

If you see your child replicating the challenges from the show or hear them talking about scenes and characters from Squid Game, it would be a timely opportunity to discuss with them that the programme is not intended for children, that much of the content would be inappropriate for their age, and that the violence in the series is very realistic and often upsetting.

Parents and carers can read more here: <https://oursaferschools.co.uk/2021/10/08/squid-game/>



## Year 3 Enterprise Project

### Year 3 Enterprise Project!

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February (Valentine's Day), Year 3 will be selling a selection of lovely treats in the playground.



There will be:

- beautiful cards
- colourful friendship bracelets
- yummy treats to eat

We have also created a hamper full of wonders that can be won.

From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February, Year 3 children will be selling raffle tickets for 50p each or a row for £2.

So, if you want to be in with a chance to win the hamper, buy a raffle ticket next week. The draw will take place at 3.45pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February.



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## Curriculum in Action – Phonics

Curriculum in Action

# Phonics

The children in the Language Unit follow a phonics programme called

**Essential Letters and Sounds** (also followed by the Main School).

It teaches children how sounds are represented by written letters.

The children use robot arms and blending hands to help them orally blend the sounds in words.



They practise reading and writing words and sentences containing the sounds they have been taught.



I like making sentences.

Jude



They read books together matched to their phonic knowledge.

Robot arms.

Marwan

c-a-t

cat

Anu

I like phonics.

Elyes



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## Pre-Ramadan & Eid Sale



There will be a sale of items in the bottom hall on Thursday 13 February from 3:00 – 4:00

Look at the website for items that will be available: <https://creedeastcreations.com/>

A percentage of the profits will be donated to the school and will go towards our sensory wall fund.

## Sign of the Week



This week's signs are celebrating the Chinese Lunar New Year - [Signing 2024-25](#)

## Parent Pay

Due to issues using mobile devices on Squid Pay, we will continue to use Parent Pay for the foreseeable future. Please look out for further announcements regarding cashless solutions in due course. You will continue to have access to Parent Pay as normal until further notice.



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Southwark Council Newsletter



Read here: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKSOUTHWARK/bulletins/3d07b9c>

## Key Events for Week Commencing 10 February 2025

Monday

10.30 **Southwark Heritage Centre in for Scarlet Class and going on a local area walk**  
2.00-2.30 **No swimming for Burgundy Class**

Tuesday

**Safer Internet Day – theme: ‘Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online.’**

[www.childnet.com/safer-internet-day](http://www.childnet.com/safer-internet-day)

All day **First aid training for Reception, Year 4 and Year 6 pupils**  
10.00-10.30 **Turquoise Class swimming**  
10.30-11.00 **Scarlet Class swimming**  
1.30 **Southwark Heritage Centre in for Turquoise Class and going on a local area walk**

Wednesday

All day **First aid training for Reception, Year 4 and Year 6 pupils**  
Am and pm **Year 5 workshops – Carbon Monoxide awareness**

Thursday

Am and pm **Year 2 workshops – Carbon Monoxide awareness**

Friday

2.00-2.30 **No swimming for Vermilion class**

**Reward afternoon**

**Last day of Spring Term 1**

## Forthcoming Dates

Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February

**Half Term Holiday**

Thursday 27 February



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**Yr6 Homework Club (for 5/6 weeks)**

Thursday 6 March

**World Book Day - Read Your Way**

[www.worldbookday.com](http://www.worldbookday.com)

Thursday 6 March – Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March

**Book Fair open**

Monday 10 – Friday 14 March

**Science Week – theme Change and Adapt**

[www.britishtscienceweek.org](http://www.britishtscienceweek.org)

Friday 4 April

**Reward morning**

**Last day of spring term - school finishes 2.00pm**

Monday 7 April – Monday 21 March

**Easter Holiday**

## Useful Links

School term dates 25-26 - [Term Dates 2025-26](#)

Our website – [www.johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk](http://www.johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk)

School caterer - [www.harrisoncatering.co.uk](http://www.harrisoncatering.co.uk)

Uniform supplier – [www.earthuniform.com/collections/john-ruskin-primary-school](http://www.earthuniform.com/collections/john-ruskin-primary-school)

Secondhand uniform supplier – [uniformerly.co.uk/search-listings/?q=&c=17273](http://uniformerly.co.uk/search-listings/?q=&c=17273)

The Nest - [thenestsouthwark.org.uk](http://thenestsouthwark.org.uk)

Chess in Schools - [www.chessinschools.co.uk](http://www.chessinschools.co.uk)

Southwark Council – [www.southwark.gov.uk](http://www.southwark.gov.uk)

Camberwell Leisure Centre - [southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre](http://southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre)

Parentkind - [www.parentkind.org.uk](http://www.parentkind.org.uk)

Children’s Commissioner - [www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk)

Department for Education - [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education)

Ofsted - [www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted)

NHS - [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

TFL - [travelforlife.tfl.gov.uk](http://travelforlife.tfl.gov.uk)

