

Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



[@robertbrowning.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.social/@robertbrowning) [@towerbridgeschool.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.social/@towerbridgeschool)

[@snsprimary.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.social/@snsprimary)

Find us at: www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk

Newsletter 27th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have many outings booked over the coming weeks, please complete the online Google form promptly to ensure that you give consent for your child to attend the trip. If you do not complete the consent form then your child will not be able to attend the outing. If you have difficulty with Google forms please call the school office to give your consent.

Many children continue to arrive at school without being prepared for the hot weather, please ensure your child has:

- a water bottle
- a sun hat/ cap

Children should be wearing footwear that they can safely run around in.

We really would appreciate donations of any good quality toys that your child no longer plays with to develop our play resources.

Have a lovely weekend, please support your child to arrive at school ontime, gates open at 8:45am, children are marked as late after 9am.

Term Dates 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 are on the Federation website

[Term Dates - The Bridges Federation](#)

Term time holidays will not be authorised.

Other important dates for this year can also be found on the school website here:

[Diary - The Bridges Federation](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Tower Bridge

Tuesday 1st July - Sports Day Y1-6 10am - 12.30

Wednesday 2nd July - EYFS Sports Day - 2pm

w/b 7th July - Last week of Clubs

Tuesday 8th July - 9.00am Moving up to Year 1 meeting (Rec parents)

Wednesday 9th July - Summer Fair - 2pm

Thursday 10th July - Secondary Transfer Meeting for Y5 parents - 3.00pm - time change

Monday 14th July - Year 6 Show for parents 2 - 3pm

Wednesday 16th July (AM) - Sunshine Class celebration assembly

Thursday 17th July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly for parents 9.15 - 10.15am

Robert Browning

Tuesday 1st July- EYFS Sports day

Friday 4th July- Sports Day (Date Change)

Wednesday 9th July - Summer Fair

Friday 18th July- Year 6 Leavers assembly

Friday 18th July- 2.45pm- Reception Celebration of learning assembly

Tuesday 22nd July- Break up at 1pm.

Snowsfields

Tuesday 1st July - Sports Day

Wednesday 2nd July EYFS Sports Day

Wednesday 9th July - Summer Fair

Thursday 10th July- Transition into year 1 meeting for Reception parents 9am

Thursday 10th July - Secondary Transfer Meeting year 5 parents 3:30pm

Tues. 15th July - Sunshine class Graduation 10am

Thursday 17th July - Year 6 End of year show 2pm

Tuesday 22nd July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly 9:30am

Tuesday 22nd July- Break up at 1pm



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

**diversity is
celebrated**

[value of the week]
TOWERBRIDGE

Summer

FAIR

The school Summer Fair is taking place from 2.15pm on Wednesday 9th July.

All parents are welcome to collect their children at 2pm to enjoy the fair in the playground.

If you are unable to collect them at 2.15pm they will stay with school adults until they are collected by a parent (or 3.30 if they walk home alone). We will be unable to let them attend the fair until they are collected by an adult.

We look forward to welcoming all the parents and carers to celebrate our Sports Days next week with us. Y1 – 6 will take place on Tuesday 1st July in Southwark Park starting at 10.00 and will finish around 12.30. Sunshine class sports afternoon will take place on Wednesday 2nd July in school at 2pm. Parents of children in Sunshine Class are welcome to attend.

We ask that all supporters coming to cheer on the children remain respectful. Please watch and enjoy the events, and please follow the school adults' instructions to keep everyone safe.

Do not take videos or photos of the children.

At Southwark Park, please do not smoke, vape or use your mobile phones when with the school group.

All children will need to wear their school sports kits to school. The weather is expected to be very warm, so all children will need to come to school wearing hats and sun cream, with plenty of water to drink.

If you wish to take your child home from the event, please ensure you sign them out with the school adult in charge of your child's class. If you have arranged for another parent or adult to collect your child, you must have informed us via the app by today at 3.30pm as per the app message sent this week.

We hope you enjoy the days; lots of work have been put into them and the children are very excited to share this day with you all.

This year at the summer fair we are offering parents a chance to have a table to sell their own items. Pitches cost £20; space is limited so it will be first come, first served. If you would like a table then please speak to Rosa or Melissa by Friday 4th July.

On Monday, Years 1 – 6 competed against 20 other schools in the competition led by the PESSN. There were several stations set up around the playground including speed bounce, standing jump and one minute run, to name a few. We have our fingers crossed for the results in the coming weeks!

INTER schools ATHLETICS





Honeybee Programme

As part of the honeybee programme, some of the children got to visit the Apiary in Brockwell Park. They walked around the garden spotting pollinators and observing the different plants. They then got to visit the new hive. They wore special suits to hold a piece of it.



Sports Day

EYFS Sports Day- 9.30 am- Tuesday 1st July- in school

KS1 and KS2 - 10am -12.30 pm Friday 4th July- Burgess Park.

Please make sure that your child has WATER, A HAT and SUN CREAM.

Packed lunches will be provided.

You can collect your child from the park between 12.30-1pm. Please make sure you inform your child's teacher.

Children not collected will be brought back to school. We would love you to join us to cheer on your children. Please be respectful to our staff and each other. Thank you.

Summer Fair

The Summer Fair will take place at

3pm on Wednesday 9th July

Please come along from 3pm to ensure that you have time to visit all the stalls with your child.

Please donate any small prizes that you have and check with your child's teacher if they need any help with organising the stall or donations.



Engineering Project Trip

Orange Class and Blue Class have been working on a special engineering project to design moving cars. On Friday a few children from each class went to showcase their designs at a special event at Glaziers Hall.



Snowsfields Primary School



In PE Red class are learning to rally the ball to a partner using tennis rackets, building their coordination and teamwork skills.



Rainbow class enjoyed exploring the school pond, discovering caddisflies, tiny freshwater shrimps, and small worms in the water. The children showed great care for the environment, carefully returning the water after their investigation.



Reception class had a wonderful time at Surrey Docks Farm! The children loved meeting the animals!

FARM



In Science this week, Year 5 explored thermal insulators, testing different materials to find out which best kept heat in.



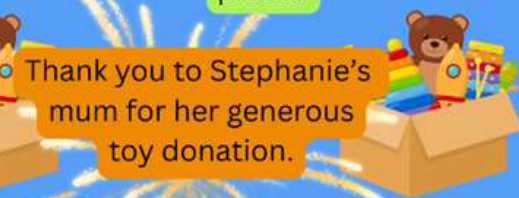
STEM



Some of our pupils took part in a hands-on STEM Vehicle Programme, designing, building and testing their own models. Supported by real engineers, they developed skills in problem-solving, teamwork, creativity and Design & Technology. The programme ended with a celebration event where they proudly showcased their work.



Well done to our fantastic team for winning the Millwall Football Competition! Pictured with their well-earned silverware, they've done us proud!



Thank you to Stephanie's mum for her generous toy donation.



Our school value this week is:
D - Diversity is Celebrated



Reading Raffle Winners



Reading Raffle Winners

Our core value this week
is: Respect



Times Tables
Rock Stars

Our school value this week is:
S - Sharing ideas, skills and knowledge



Reading
Raffle
Winners





	% present	Lates	Total
Year 1	96.8%	9	875
Year 2	93.7%	1	825
Year 3	94.6%	6	225
Year 4	96.4%	3	475
Year 5	94.3%	11	100
Year 6	9.1%	13	325

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 16/06/2025: 94.52%

1st Place Attendance: Year 1

1st Place Punctuality: Year 2



Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 16/06/2025: 95.21%

1st Place Attendance: Y2
1st Place Punctuality: Y1, Y4 & Y5

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	13	4	94.35%
Year 2	4	5	98.00%
Year 3	14	5	93.57%
Year 4	6	4	97.50%
Year 5	23	4	92.07%
Year 6	12	5	94.14%



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	40	3	500
Year 2	19	10	175
Year 3	5	4	925
Year 4	17	6	375
Year 5	20	8	575
Year 6	16	8	375

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 16/06/2025:

91.40%

1st Place Attendance: Y3

1st Place Punctuality: Y1

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ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. We want to work with you to ensure that attendance for pupils at the Bridges Federation is the best it can be.

As a parent, you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a suitable full time education. This means making sure your child is in school every day except when

- Your child is too ill to go to school.
- You have permission for a leave of absence from your child's school for them not to attend. You should only ask for this in exceptional circumstances. Generally, a holiday will not be classed as an exceptional circumstance.
- Your religious body has a day especially for religious observance.

If my child needs to be absent from school, what do I need to do?

You should contact us as early as possible (no later than 10am) on the first day of absence to explain why. If you do not, we will contact you to find out where they are.

My child is ill. What should I do?

If your child is ill, read the NHS's 'Is my child too ill for school?' advice to help you decide whether they can go to school. Contact us as soon as possible to let us know that they will be absent.

Do I need to provide medical evidence to support my child's illness related absence?

We may ask for medical evidence when your child is absent due to illness. This may be in cases where:

- Your child is regularly absent due to illness, to assess how we can help by putting support in place.
- We have reason to believe your child was not too ill to attend and a conversation has not resolved the issue.

If you are asked to provide evidence this does not need to be a letter from your doctor or consultant, and doctors will not usually provide such letters. It can, instead, be appointment cards, prescriptions, or notes of previous consultations (including from the NHS App.)

To avoid disruption to your child's attendance, medical and dental appointments should not be booked during the school day whenever reasonably possible.

My child is struggling to attend school. What can I do?

The first step is to talk to us about why your child is missing school, and what help we can give. You should still do everything you can to help your child attend as much as possible whilst waiting for help and support to be put into place. Information on who you can contact for help, including the school's senior leader responsible for attendance, can be found in our attendance policy on the website. We follow the expectations laid out in the DfE guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance.'

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2024/07/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance-19th-Aug-version.pdf>

<https://thebridgesfederation.org.uk/home/attendance/>

secondary transfer for parents of Year 5 pupils



**NORBURY
HIGH SCHOOL
for GIRLS**

"Pupils are articulate, and their confidence shines through. They achieve well and take pride in their work. They behave respectfully and are keen to learn." - Ofsted, 2022



Open Evenings 2025

- Tues 15th July & Tues 16th Sept, 16.00 - 19.00
- prospective year 7 students & their families
- Open mornings - please call/email to book

Norbury High School for Girls
Kensington Avenue CR7 8BT

020 8679 0062 | admin@nhsg.org.uk | nhsg.org.uk

Please find information
about specialist
secondary schools in
the link below:
[Secondary \(Ages 11-16\)
| Southwark Local Offer](#)

**HARRIS ACADEMY BERMONDSEY
OUTSTANDING EVERY TIME!**
Ofsted Outstanding in 2009 | 2015 | 2019 | 2025
#ProudToBeHAB

Outstanding in all areas – including Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, and Sixth-Form Provision.

Open Days
3rd June
10th June
17th June

Book a Tour

What Ofsted said about us

“Pupils benefit from an exceptional enrichment offer.”

“Pupils develop a rich body of knowledge and achieve very highly.”

Keep up with the latest school news, student achievements, and community events—follow us!
Stay Connected, Stay Informed – Follow HAB Online!

Contact us if you have any questions at admissions@harrisbermondsey.org.uk
55 Southwark Park Rd, Bermondsey, SE16 3TZ
www.harrisbermondsey.org.uk 020 7232 9316

Please find information
about secondary school
open days for children
currently in year 5 in
the link below:
[Check secondary
school open days and
evenings | Southwark
Council](#)

**MADE FOR
This Game**

**BIG
FOOTBALL
DAY**

POWERED BY
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

Time and date:
22nd July, 10am-3pm

Location:
St Paul's Sports Ground, Bathurst, SA 16.517

Website:
Woolf Community Trust

Scan here to learn more

Family support

FATHER'S GROUP



Join a 12-week course to improve your parenting skills.

Whether you are a father, grandfather or stepdad, receive advice and tips on topics such as positive parenting, improving relationships and role modelling. Crèche provided.

When:
Where: 1st Floor Family Hub, 13 Charnleigh Street, Burgess Park, SE16 0HT

BOOK A PLACE
Email: ben.campbell@southwark.gov.uk
Phone: 07738 860 768

Parent Skills

PARENT SPACE

A QUARTERLY ONLINE & IN PERSON PROGRAM

A 12 WEEK COURSE DESIGNED FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN FROM TWO YEARS TO SCHOOL AGE. THE COURSE IS FREE AS WELL AS GOOD FOR CHILDREN THAT SUPPORT THEIR PARENTS.

SERIES
WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2025 11AM-12PM
WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2025 11AM-12PM
WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2025 11AM-12PM

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER
• adrian@parentskillsgo.com
• parentskillsgo.org

BOOKING
07507443293
0772530083
02030494878
07504463863

PLACED HERE TO IMPROVE PARENTING AND SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CHILDREN

The Nest - Wellbeing Hub

The Nest operates a drop-in service every **Saturday between 10:30 and 14:30**. Therapeutic practitioners and support workers can offer 1:1 emotional support, information & advice and signpost you to the appropriate services.

Drop-In Service | The Nest

SENsational Stay & Play

Fun FREE groups for children with additional needs or disabilities and their parents/careers

- Have fun with your child
- Meet other families
- Get advice and support from a range of specialists on topics such as Speech & Language, Behaviour and Autism

Multiple locations across Southwark
Multiple **stay & play** sessions for under-5s
Saturday respite sessions for 5-11 years
See timetable on back of this leaflet

For more info visit www.southwark.gov.uk/sensational-stay-and-play
Or to book www.southwark.gov.uk/sensational-stay-and-play

Southwark Children and Family Centres

Southwark Young Carers

To get involved, you can refer via our website www.imago.community or scan the QR Code

IMAGO

We support young people living in Southwark aged 6-24, who provide unpaid care or support to a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health condition or a substance misuse issue.

For further information, please contact our Hub
youngcarers@imago.community
0300 111 1110

Drug and Alcohol Service **Young People**

Free Workshops for Parents and Carers

Do you want more guidance on how to talk to your children, teens and young people about vaping, alcohol or drugs? Do you want to be informed on the current themes and trends we come across working with young people in the borough?

Substances are more accessible today than ever before. For parents, carers or anyone responsible for children and young people, it can feel overwhelming and difficult to know how to respond.

We're offering FREE online workshops for parents and carers in Southwark, to give advice and guidance to help you navigate this quickly changing landscape.

- Current trends amongst young people
- Strategies for talking to young people about substances in an open and supportive way
- Practical advice on how to keep your children safe from the dangers of substance misuse

For further information contact:
• Email: Southwark.YoungPeople@cg.gov.uk or scan the QR code for a direct link to the eventbrite page.
• You can call us on: 020 3404 7699

BOOK HERE

TAP - IN SESSIONS

Free and stand alone information sessions for parents and carers on a range of topics - 'TAP-IN' to the ones you need or complete the set!

Sessions include:

- Digital Safety - how to support children to be safe online
- Agencies and Stages - how to support different developmental stages
- Parental Wellbeing - how to communicate our needs
- Parenting and Autism
- Parenting and ADHD
- More to come...

JOIN NOW

Beth Gilbey
07394 865 980
bethany.gilbey@southwark.gov.uk
EARLYHELP@SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK

We hold in person and online sessions throughout the term
Contact the team for next available session

Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities

For parents of children aged 8 - 18 years

This 12 week course helps parents and carers to:

- Build positive family relationships
- Manage anger and stress
- Implement effective discipline strategies
- Understand your child's development
- Recognise and value your family and cultural traditions
- Develop effective communication
- Meet others and share ideas

JOIN NOW

Where is it on?

Friday 10th July 10:30am - 12:30pm
Friday 10th July 10:30am - 12:30pm
Friday 10th July 10:30am - 12:30pm

What's new?

Book now

The Neurodiversity Family Hub

The Neurodiversity Family Hub provide specialised clubs for children & young people with SEND in Southwark, including: Teen Tribe, Junior Tribe and Tiny Tribe

As well as parent/carer support, including:

Parent Connect, Parent Circle, Walk & Talk, My Advocacy Partner and whole family gatherings.

<https://theneurodiversityfamilyhub.org/>

FREE YEAR 6 LITTLE FISH THEATRE SUMMER PROGRAMME

FOR SOUTHWARK CHILDREN
28TH JULY - 8TH AUG 2025 (MON-FRI)
AT RYE OAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK A PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD
EMAIL: INFO@LITTLEFISHTHEATRE.CO.UK

TO FILL IN A BOOKING FORM
CLICK THE LINK BELOW OR
SCAN THE QR CODE

<https://bit.ly/413nERW>

QR CODE

ART DREAMS MUSIC DANCE

family info

Price & Buckland

NEW SCHOOL UNIFORM WEBSITE LAUNCH

On the 11th of February we will launch our NEW website. The URL remains: www.price-buckland.co.uk



Website QR code. This will take you to the homepage to search for your school.



If you have ordered from our website before, go to the **Account Section** and **re-set** your password. You can use the same password that you have currently.



You can then see previous orders and manage your account.

Any Questions? Call us on 01998 840622

Arbor

We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App



We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Belsville School of Magic

for the school, 100%

Enter your password

Log in

Forgot password?

Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.



Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC

NSPCC



Privates are private



Always remember your body belongs to you



No means no



Talk about secrets that upset you



Speak up, someone can help



SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS' INDOOR AIR QUALITY



Southwark Council is working with schools to improve indoor air quality, and you can get involved!

Asthma - Air Quality Monitoring & Engagement Project for students in Year 6 and above

This project will see air quality sensors placed in classrooms and the homes of Southwark children, offering a live insight into the air quality they experience.

Teachers and students will participate in a specially designed curriculum to deepen their understanding of air quality's effects on health and discover strategies to manage, monitor and improve.

This initiative builds on existing air quality efforts and provides tools such as a dedicated webpage and monitoring devices to assist schools in fostering a cleaner, healthier educational atmosphere.

School staff and parents can register interest by filling out the form on this link: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/123456789>

or by emailing: education@southwark.gov.uk

or calling: 020 7555 5555

or visiting: <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/123456789>

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Support children with disabilities and special educational needs

A free 5-week course for parents/TAs/classroom volunteers



This course will explore:

- The rights of disabled children and those with special educational needs (SEN)
- Supporting the inclusion of children with disabilities and SEN
- Helping children with disabilities and SEN to participate in a full range of activities

Wednesdays 12.30pm-2.30pm
From 11th June to 9th July 2025

Lewington Community Centre
9 Eugenia Road
Rotherhithe SE16 2RU

To book a place please register at **ParentSkills2Go** or call
020 35369609 or **07394 662602** or email
admin@parentskills2go.com

Free Home Fire Safety Visits

A fire can start in any room and the effects can be devastating, even a small fire in your home can lead to substantial damage and expensive repairs. The LFB want to stop fires from happening and that is why we offer free home fire safety visits to help keep you and your loved ones safe.

What happens during a home fire safety visit?

Our firefighters or trained staff will visit you at home, at a time that suits you and carry out a risk assessment. They will give you advice based on your home and individual needs, this includes; information on how to prevent fires, the importance of smoke alarms to detect a fire and your escape plan in the event of a fire.

A visit can take up to 90 minutes or longer if needed and we will fit free smoke alarms if required.

Specialist alarms can be fitted for people who may have a delayed response to escape for example; stroke light and vibrating pad alarms for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

How to book a Home Fire Safety Visit:

Freephone: 0800 028 4428

Email: smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk

Text /SMS: 07860 021 319

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/home-fire-safety/>

Worried about a relative, friend or neighbour? Although everyone is eligible for a free home fire safety visit, some people with health problems or lifestyle behaviours can have an increased chance of a fire happening. To help you we have listed some of these examples below:

Increased risk factors can include:

Anyone that smokes; overloaded electrical sockets or poor wiring; unsafe use of candles or naked flames; previous fires or near misses; cooking left unattended; hoarding of any kind or someone who lives alone.

They are less able to react because of:

Mental health conditions such as dementia or learning difficulties; no smoke alarms are fitted or they don't work; alcohol dependency or drug misuse (prescribed or recreational); physical health issues including sensory impairments eg: hearing or sight.

They have a reduced ability to escape:

Mobility issues due to a physical disability; age-related problems or as a result of a long-term illness; escape routes are not kept clear or are blocked due to actions such as hoarding or conditions that affect decision making.

If you know anyone who has **any combination of these risk factors**, give them our details to arrange a free home fire safety visit or simply ask them if they would like you to book a visit for them.

Remember - This is not an exhaustive list, if you are unsure please contact us for extra advice.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

AGE RESTRICTION
4+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As its name suggests, YouTube Kids is a child-friendly version of Google's online video-sharing platform. Its colourful user interface is designed with young people in mind, and it offers a curated, family-friendly experience with features like age-based content settings and parental controls.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS

YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of the app showing age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and firearms to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithms and human moderators.

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CENSORED

BE WARY OF ADVERTISING

Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these adverts are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

BUY NOW!

DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, enabling you to set screen time limits and curate the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or tweak these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

DATA COLLECTION RISK

While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon at the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.

SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The INQUIRER, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.



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