

# School Matters

THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER FROM NEWTON POPPLEFORD SCHOOL

## Friday 28th January 2022

### From the Headteacher

A huge thank you to everyone who purchased books at our recent Book Fair. As a result of your generosity, we raised £306.30 to buy books for the school. We used the money to buy some beautiful picture books for Reception, Year One and Year Two. The rest of the money was spent buying lots of new Accelerated Reader books.

Miss Habbishaw asked the children to recommend their favourite books and I'm sure you will recognise some of the titles. We have also recently purchased some fantastic new books for children who are on White and Lime coloured books using other funds. These will help to ensure the children are confident readers, before they move onto Accelerated Reader. Thank you very much to the wonderful PTFA for running the Book Fair and the amazing Terri Murphy for organising it all.

### From the PTFA

Don't forget we have a hungry CLOTHING BANK! Feed it all your pre-loved clothing! 👚👕👖👗👟👠 (except school uniform, bring that to the office for the PTFA Uniform Shop!)

MR LONG UPDATE!

This week it's all about... carrots! 🥕🥕🥕

"I have bought a big bag of carrots into the house, the reasoning is that if ever I feel peckish, I reach for a carrot. The effort needed to eat a raw carrot and amount of chewing can be enough to fool the brain that you have eaten enough. Thus, reducing the needs for further snacks. It seems to be working!"

🏋️ This week's weigh in... 21st exactly!

That's 2lb down 📉 from last week, and 5lb so far in two weeks!

Brilliant work Mr Long! Are you impressed? Sponsor Mr Long as he earns £'s for lb's for the PTFA! Find the payment button on the School Gateway.



[www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk](http://www.newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk)

01395 568300

✉ [admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@newton-poppleford.devon.sch.uk)

For any Twilight after school club matters please phone the main school number.

# THANK YOU

Newton Poppleford Primary School  
for raising a fantastic

£69.50



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## PTFA Pre-loved Uniform Shop

Good for your pocket!  
Good for the PTFA!  
Good for the Planet!

All Items  
50p - £2

- Table top sales at PTFA events
  - Pick up from school ANY TIME throughout the year by arrangement
- Contact Camille to ask about the items you need on  
07709 496029  
or [camillevilches@me.com](mailto:camillevilches@me.com)

• Donations of pre-loved uniform welcome any time. Please leave with the school office.  
Thank you!



## NEWTON POPPLEFORD PRIMARY SCHOOL Parent Drop in Session

Join us for coffee, cake and support.

Come and get to know other parents, relax, and have fun.

Debbie Tollerfield; SENDCO  
and  
Cara Shepherd; Parent Support Advisor  
will be around to answer questions and signpost to support available.

It's also a lovely opportunity to meet new people, so please do come and join us.

Our next session will run on Wednesday  
February 2nd 2022  
2.30pm until 3.30pm  
In the school library.

If you are unable to attend, and would like any signposting or support please do contact  
Cara on: 07495 540415 or email  
[cshepherd@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:cshepherd@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)



## Take part in the Spring 2022 Parents Childcare Survey

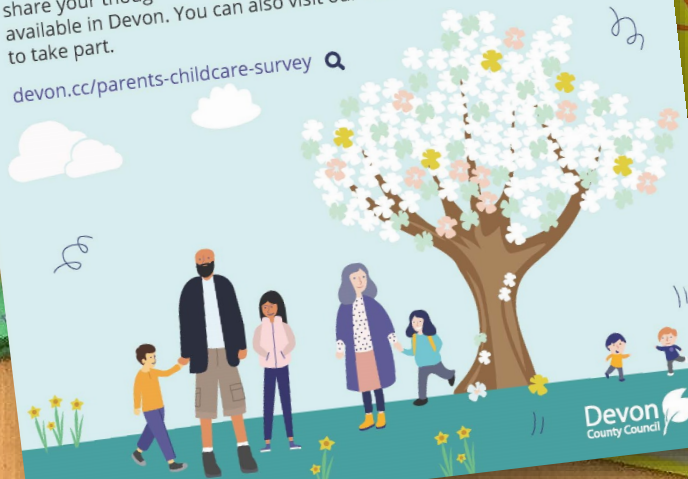
17th January - 14th February 2022

Are you a parent or carer? Whether you currently use childcare or not, your voice counts.

Take part in our short survey to help us make sure there is enough high-quality, affordable childcare to enable parents and carers to work or train.

Scan the QR code to complete the survey and share your thoughts on the childcare services available in Devon. You can also visit our website to take part.

[devon.cc/parents-childcare-survey](https://devon.cc/parents-childcare-survey)



Devon  
County Council

# WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY?



## Have you considered teaching?

We have helped people just like you start a successful career as a Primary School Teacher.

Find out more about the DPSCITT course by joining us for one of our open evenings:

12/01/22	Exeter	Trinity Primary School
31/01/22	Barnstaple	Roundswell Primary School
01/02/22	Ivybridge	Manor Primary School
30/03/22	Online	Join us via Zoom

Book your place now at: [www.dpscitt.ac.uk](http://www.dpscitt.ac.uk)

Wear your scarf  
to school day  
11th Feb 2022



Books from the PTFA



To raise awareness of Children's Mental Week which runs from 7th – 13th of February we are holding our first ever **Wear your Scarf to School Day** event on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February with all donations going to the charities Neuroblastoma and Children's Hospice South West, in memory of Finley.

## From the School Office

Exmouth Road in Colaton Raleigh will be closed from Saturday, 12th February until Monday 14th February whilst a new water supply is installed. For more information please read the News item on our School Website.



This week's National Online Safety guide is:  
What parents and carers need to know about Horror games.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues that we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about HORROR GAMES

Horror video games come in a such a variety that the genre can hard to define. The overlapping element is that these games are designed to scare or unsettle the player through gameplay, atmosphere, story, music, setting and 'jump scares'. The most common sub-genres are survival horror, action horror, psychological horror, jump-scare horror and reverse horror. These games originate from a range of developers, including smaller indie studios which release download-only titles (that is, they aren't physically sold in shops) and therefore aren't subject to age ratings.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ADULT THEMES

Horror games are typically made with adults in mind, which means by definition that they often feature adult themes. Outlast, for instance, is a popular horror game series including material such as nudity and extreme sadistic violence. Other games, like Five Nights at Freddy's and its sequels, have a back-story that doesn't actually appear on screen but still hints at explicit adult themes.

### VIOLENT CONTENT

Not all horror games contain graphic violence (titles like Five Nights at Freddy's and Phasmophobia prefer a spookier, suspenseful aesthetic) but many do portray extreme brutality very realistically. Until Dawn and the hugely popular Resident Evil and Outlast franchises, for instance, feature incredibly graphic violence. The safest course of action is to thoroughly research a game in advance.

### ONLINE INTERACTION

Some horror games are played cooperatively with others online. Phasmophobia is one of the most popular titles in this category, and while it doesn't feature an excessive amount of gore, it does place a strong emphasis on online interaction - often with strangers. Dead by Daylight is another game in which frequent and prolonged online communication with other players is an advantage.

### PSYCHOLOGICAL HORROR

Rather than simply laddling on the blood and gore, psychological horror games try to scare the player through subtler mental and emotional means. For this reason, this type of game (notable examples include Alien: Isolation, The Medium and the Amnesia series) can have a longer-lasting effect on players; some occasionally 'break the fourth wall' - interacting directly with the player as if they were real.

### LONG-TERM FEAR FACTOR

Horror games are designed to be scary: most players accept this fact in advance. They can, however, include content which leaves an unwanted lasting impression. By focusing on our fears and concerns to elicit an emotional reaction, horror games can be triggering in unexpected ways for some players. It's difficult to predict when - and how - a game might have long-term effects on an individual's mental wellbeing.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### BEWARE OF JUMP SCARES

Jump scares in video games are often no worse than they are in movies. If a young person doesn't cope well with being suddenly startled by something in a film or on TV, they probably won't be able to handle horror games featuring jump scares. Some games (such as Five Nights at Freddy's) are built entirely around this technique and aren't suitable for younger children or those who are easily frightened.

### RESEARCH THE GAME

It's best to look into a horror game thoroughly if your child expresses an interest in playing it. Many indie horror titles are download only and therefore aren't required to come with an age rating - so you'll need to do some background reading and judge the game's content for yourself. Check out the game's web pages, read any wikis about it (including fan ones) and watch videos of the gameplay.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy to lose track of time when gaming, and horror games are no exception. A short break every hour or so is important to rest the eyes and relieve the posture - especially if traumatic situations in the game have built up tension and stress. For horror gamers, breaks also give the added benefit of feeling more relaxed afterwards, which can mean a scarier gaming session when they resume!

### IF IN DOUBT, SWAP IT OUT

If your child finds a horror game to play, but after doing some research you decide it doesn't look like the right one for them, swap it out! There are a lot of horror titles to choose from, and some will be more appropriate than others. Work together with your child to find a suitable game for them. Remember, horror games don't have to be gore-spattered and graphic to be enjoyably scary!

### STAY RECEPTIVE

Maintaining good communication with your child is vital for safe gaming. If they see something in a horror game that disturbs them in ways they didn't expect, then they should feel comfortable opening up to you about it. Try not to simply laugh it off or make light of it, and always make time to listen. It's a useful reminder that they can talk to you about any type of problem they have in the future.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday