

School News

A MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been another busy week at East Tilbury Primary School with lots of positive learning and behaviour taking place.

World Book Day

This week, the children particularly enjoyed World Book Day yesterday. It was great to see so many children dressed up in their favourite book character costumes and for us as a school community to celebrate and learn more about the wonderful world of books. Please do look up our Facebook page to see more of the fun activities the children were involved in yesterday. The children joined national events and celebrated the joy and fun of reading.



Parent/Teacher Consultation meetings - save the date

Our teacher- parent/carer consultation meetings will take place on our return from the Easter break this year, so please put the following dates in your diaries:

YR, Y1 and Y2 will take place on Monday and Tuesday 22nd and 23rd April.

Y3, Y4, Y5 and Y6 will take place on Wednesday and Thursday 24th and 25th April.

More details around timings and the booking procedure will come out before we break up for Easter so that you will have plenty of time to make an appointment. The meetings will be face-to-face and take place in our school hall.

Meeting slots will be after school from 3.30pm and we look forward to meeting with you so that we can discuss your child's progress and how we can take them forward.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child still has a coat and appropriate footwear. Although we are starting to see some lovely sunny days, the weather is very changeable, and it is still quite chilly on the playground. Please also ensure that your child's uniform is named, we are still seeing lots of unnamed uniform, particularly jumpers and cardigans left behind that have no names.

We wish you a relaxing weekend ahead.

The Leadership Team

Upcoming Events



To support our daily biscuit time, we will be holding a non-uniform day on the last day of each half term.

For this day we are asking for a small voluntary donation or a packet of plain digestive biscuits.

Dates for these events each half term can be found on the weekly newsletter.



Non-Uniform Day

Our next uniform day is on the 28th of March 2024

Comic Relief

On Friday 15th of March pupils are invited to wear red to school in support of Comic Relief.

**COMIC
RELIEF**



SEND in Focus

SEND and Nurture Parent Drop In
Friday 22nd March 2024
9am—11am

Do you have any questions or concerns about your child's special needs or emotional wellbeing? Do you require any further information about your child's entitlement to the Pupil Premium Grant? Mrs Mylam, Mrs Allen and Mrs Jarvis will be available to help with your individual enquiries.

Please sign in at the school office. We look forward to seeing you.





SEND in Focus

Local Information, Advice, and Support Organisations

1

Thurrock Carers Service

Provides information, advice, and support for unpaid carers of residents of Thurrock

01375 659 172

carers@tbmind.org.uk

Facebook: Thurrock Carers

Thurrock and Brentwood Mind

Offer counselling and groupwork, IAPT and Recovery College, wellbeing activities and more

www.thurrockandbrentwoodmind.org.uk

01375 391 411

reception@tbmind.org.uk

Citizens Advice South Essex

Provide free, confidential, and impartial advice on issues including money, housing, and employment

www.citizensadvice.org.uk/local/south-essex

Telephone: 0808 278 7877

Thurrock Food Bank

In order to get help from a food bank you will need to be referred with a voucher, which can be issued by a number of local community organisations for instance, schools, GPs, and advice agencies

www.thurrock.foodbank.org.uk

info@thurrock.foodbank.org.uk

Community Pantries

There are Community Fridges and Pantries across Thurrock run by various voluntary organisations. Community pantries are designed to eliminate food waste and are not meant as a substitute for the food bank.

There are community fridges/pantries in the following locations:

Purfleet-on-Thames Community Hub; Aveley Community Hub; Tilbury Hub; The Beehive, Grays;

Friends of Hardie Park, Stanford-Le-Hope; East Tilbury Library

For further details and opening times:

www.strongertogetherthurrock.org.uk/new-food-network-page/

Thurrock Healthwatch

are the independent champion for people who use health and social care services in Thurrock.

Their purpose is to understand the needs, experiences and concerns of people who use health and social care services and to speak out on their behalf.

www.healthwatchthurrock.org

01375 389 883

admin@healthwatchthurrock.org

Open Door

Housing Advice and Support Service (HASS)

give general and specialist housing advice, homelessness information and signposting to supported housing projects in the Thurrock area.

We also provide help with form filling for those who have difficulty with completing benefit applications and housing registration forms etc

www.opendoorthurrock.co.uk

01375 390 849

Thurrock LGBTQ+ Network

We are Thurrock's LGBTQ+ community network, open to all who identify as LGBTQ+. Friends and allies are welcome too.

thurrocklgbtqnetwork@gmail.com

Facebook: Thurrock LGBTQ+ Network

Thurrock Transport

Bus Pass

www.thurrock.gov.uk/bus-passes/applying-for-your-bus-pass

Thurrock Blue Badge Scheme

www.thurrock.gov.uk/.../blue-badge-disabled-parking-scheme

Local Area Coordination (LAC)

Local Area Coordinators support people who may feel vulnerable due to age, frailty, disability, or mental health needs. They will take time to get to know you, those closest to you, and your community.

localareacoordination@thurrock.gov.uk

TRUP

The Re-Use Partnership is a Thurrock based charity with a wide range of good quality pre-loved furniture and household items for sale at affordable prices.

www.trup.org.uk

01375 846 702

We Are Family

An adoption support family. Rather than offering advice we offer community.

Contact Nicole at

thurrock@wearefamilyadoption.org.uk





SEND in Focus

Local & National SEND information, advice, and support organisations

Parent Advisory Team Thurrock (PATT SENDIASS)

PATT provide free, confidential, and impartial information, advice and support to young people, and parents/carers of children, with special educational needs 0-25.

www.patt.org.uk

07702 127 252

info@patt.org.uk

Facebook: PATT SENDIASS
PATT ADHD Support

BATIAS

BATIAS provides advocacy to people with learning disabilities and also supports young people and adults with physical and sensory impairments, complex needs, and behaviours that challenge.

www.batias.com

01375 389869

batias.grays@batias.com

Facebook: BATIAS Grays

Thurrock Centre for Independent Living (TCIL)

Information, support, advice, and advocacy for disabled people on a range of issues including radar keys, access to services, equipment, benefits, form filling and Lasting Power of Attorney

www.tcil.org.uk

01375 389 864

admin@tcil.org.uk

SNAP (special needs and parents)

SNAP is a charity for families from Essex, Thurrock and Southend who have any additional need or disability.

SNAP's aims are to inform, encourage and support parents so that they can grow in strength and knowledge and become better equipped to give the best possible help to their children.

www.snapcharity.org

Helpline: 01277 211 300

info@snapcharity.org

Facebook: SNAP Charity

Thurrock Transport

Bus Pass

www.thurrock.gov.uk/bus-passes/applying-for-your-bus-pass

Thurrock Blue Badge Scheme

www.thurrock.gov.uk/.../blue-badge-disabled-parking-scheme

DIAL

Disablement Information & Advice Line
Support with benefits and form filling

www.dialsouthessex.co.uk

0333 366 1045

enquires@dialsouthessex.co.uk

Thurrock lifestyle solutions (TLS) 18 +

Day opportunities, short breaks, provision of PA's, transition houses, independent living, Liam's nightclub, supported employment, TACT programme

www.choiceandcontrol.co.uk

01375 370 460

E-mail: info@choiceandcontrol.co.uk

Facebook: Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions

IPSEA

IPSEA offers free and independent legally based information, advice and support to help get the right education for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Book helpline calls via the website

www.ipsea.org.uk

Sky Badger

Online resource for families with disabled children covering health, education, benefits, finance, legal and support.

www.skybadger.co.uk

National Autistic Society Thurrock (NAS)

Support group for families with autistic children. Regular events for parents and holiday activities for families

07795 252 480

nasthurrock.group@nas.org.uk

Facebook: NAS Thurrock

Contact

Website has comprehensive directory of medical conditions and associated support groups. They have a listening ear service and provide training for parents and professionals.

Book listening ear and telephone advice calls via the website

www.contact.org.uk

Shining Stars

Support group for families with Downs Syndrome.

Regular meet ups and events for families.

07903 081 572 or 07901 866 613

Email: white0504@gmail.com

Facebook: Shining Stars

Thurrock SEND Family Forum

A voice for parents

We aim to be an active voice in promoting disability equality and challenging discrimination on all levels within the borough. We aim to actively challenge Thurrock council and health to influence better outcomes for the families in Thurrock.

www.thurrocksendfamilyforum.org

Facebook: Thurrock SEND Family Forum

The Local Offer Thurrock

The Local Offer aims to provide clear, comprehensive, and accessible information about what services and provisions are available in Thurrock for parents and young people.

www.askthurrock.org.uk





SEND in Focus

ReThink ReCreate ReCycle

Open to all young people aged 5-16 with SEND

Competition opens:
22nd January 2024
Competition closes:
28th March 2024



Take a plunge into the world of recycling like never before. It's not just about bins and bottles; it's about turning everyday items into extraordinary creations and give them a new lease on life.

We want to see your innovative minds at work, turning old items into mind-blowing masterpieces.

HOW TO ENTER

- Collect the items you want to recycle and transform these finds into a mind-blowing creation.
- Take a photo of your masterpiece, and in a paragraph, share the inspiration behind your creation while highlighting the materials you recycled.

Email it to QASEND@thurrock.gov.uk

Remember to include your name, age, year group and current school setting.



THINK ABOUT:

What message does your creation convey about recycling?

How did you recycle materials to create something new and exciting?

How can your creation inspire others to join the movement?

Important Information



FREE School Uniform
free for everyone,
no referral needed!

Events

Fridays
3 - 4.30pm

19th January
16th February
15th March
19th April
17th May
21st June

Saturdays
10 - 11.30am

20th January
17th February
16th March
20th April
18th May
22nd June

Community Church Chadwell St Mary
Defoe Parade (enter from Brentwood Road)
RM16 4QR

Save the planet 🌍, and your pennies 💰!
Hundreds of items in stock:

- Polo shirts
- Shirts & blouses
- Skirts
- Trousers
- Socks
- Pinafore dresses
- Jumpers & cardigans
- Blazers & ties
- PE kit incl football socks
- Plimsolls
- Black shoes
- Coats

Clean, good condition school uniform donations accepted when space allows. Please check our facebook page to see if we are currently collecting. Search facebook for "The 180 Project"

An event run by The 180 Project, part of Community Church
Registered charity no. 1062301. Tel: 01375 484 101

We have a very limited stock of uniform due to our uniform store being in the RAAC area of the school. If you are in need of uniform please visit the 180 project at the Community Church in Chadwell St Mary.

If your child has an injury and has been given medical advice that we need to follow as a school, please bring them to the school office for 8.15am on their first day back at school following the injury so that we can complete a risk assessment. Thank you for your cooperation.

Absence

If your child is too ill to attend school, this must be reported to us by no later than **9.00am**. Please telephone the school, press one and leave a message on the voicemail box stating your child's full name, class, the reason for absence and when we can expect them to return to school (if known).

Home Visits will be carried out for any child that is absent for 3 or more school days without reason.

We need you



If you are collecting Year 1 or 2 pupils from the school playground, please go back out of the blue gate you came onto the playground through rather than waiting on the inside of the Key Stage 2 silver gate.

Thank you

Please label all children's school uniform. This helps us return lost property to the correct child and prevents parents from having to replace missing uniform as often. This is particularly important as the weather is cold and children are wearing jumpers/cardigans to school.

We need some additional Lego for our pupils to play with. If you have any at home, that you no longer need, donations will gratefully be accepted via the school office.

Thank you



Please be reminded that pupils should not be wearing jewellery to school. Children with pierced ears may wear stud earrings but hoops are not permitted.

Thank you for your support

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school at all times. If you need support providing this, please contact Mrs Jarvis or Mrs Allen via the school office.

We are continually updating our OPAL resources and would gladly accept donations of:

- Dolls buggies & prams
- Dolly's
- Buckets & Spades
- Scooters
- Dressing up clothes



Diary Dates

Monday 11th – Friday 15th March 2024	Science Week
Thursday 14th March 2024	Reception Parent Workshop and stay and play
Friday 15th March 2024	Comic Relief/Red Nose Day – Wear red to school
Friday 22 nd March 2024	Curriculum enrichment day 22 nd Friday
Thursday 28th March 2024	Non Uniform Day
Friday 29 th March 2024	Bank Holiday – No school
Monday 1 st April – Friday 12 th April 2024	Easter Break
Monday 15 th April 2024	Pupils Return to School
Monday 22 nd & Tuesday 23 rd April 2024	Parents/Teacher Consultations, YR, Y1 & Y2
Wednesday 24 th & Thursday 25 th April 2024	Parents/Teacher Consultations Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6

Do you need support?



East Tilbury Primary Schools Online Pastoral Support.

We are very excited to launch our new Pastoral service to our school community. From today you can access support by completing a simple and quick online form.

We have been working hard over the last few months to set up extra support for our families which is very much needed at this challenging time. If you require support, then please do not hesitate to reach out. We are hoping this service will be a fantastic addition to the support we can provide for our school community. Please reach out if you need anything, we are always here to offer you support.

To make the process simple we have created a QR Code (at the top of the poster) which you can just scan, and this will take you directly to the form.

WE CAN HELP WITH

- Food
- Wellbeing
- Trip Payments

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.easttilburyprimary.thurrock.sch.uk

Our school uniform shop is currently closed due to our stock room being affected by RAAC. If you need support with school uniform please visit the 180 project in Chadwell St Mary.

mycommunitychurch.org.uk/community/projects

The next Non-Uniform day is on Thursday
28th March 2024



Non-School Uniform Day

To support our daily biscuit time, we will be holding a non-uniform day on the last day of each half term.

For this day we are asking for a small voluntary donation or a packet of plain digestive biscuits.

Dates for these events each half term can be found on the weekly newsletter.

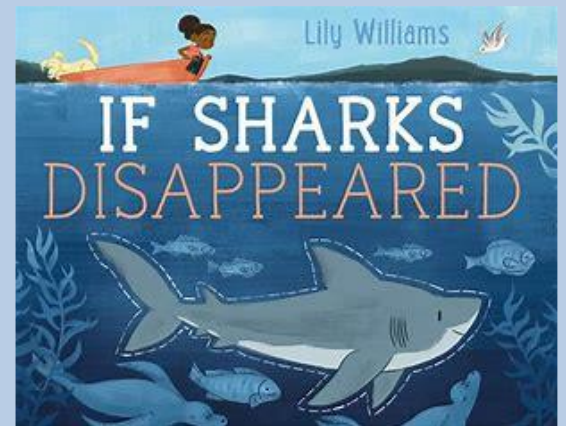


Class News

Reception

This week in Reception we have been reading a story called 'If Sharks Disappeared' by Lily Williams. We have been creating our own reports about what a happy and sad sea look like and what we can do to look after our sea. We have started to write our own short phrases and captions all on our own and we are very proud!

In Maths we have been looking at 9 and 10 and different ways these can be represented and trying our best to spot patterns in the numbers. We have started to be able to recognise amounts of objects without having to count each object.



Year One

It has been another exciting week in Year One, where the highlight was undoubtedly celebrating World Book Day! All the children looked wonderful in their costumes and it was so lovely to all share our favourite stories and characters together. We completed a range of activities throughout the day, such as making bookmarks, writing a book review, completing a book scavenger hunt and enjoying ourselves at our World Book Day parties!

Also this week, in our R.E lesson we discussed the Christian celebration, Easter. We shared our own experiences of celebrating Easter and discussed the ways in which Christians celebrate. We considered the meaning behind Christian's celebrations of Easter, such as the giving of eggs to symbolise new life. We then created a poster to demonstrate our understanding of some of the ways that Christians might celebrate Easter.

In Geography, we built on the knowledge we acquired last week where we looked through a variety of maps and identified the similarities and differences between them and the aerial photography. The children then created a 'messy map' showing the location of objects to help an alien to make their way around our classroom. It was lots of fun!

In Music, we learnt a new song called the Name Song which the children all enjoyed. We practised finding the pulse/beat - the heartbeat of the music, the rhythm - long and short sounds over a steady beat or pulse, pitch (Melody) - high, low, rising, falling, tempo - fast, slow and dynamics - loud, quiet.

Class News

Year Two

This week, year 2 have been continuing to divide in maths. We have been looking carefully at the patterns that we can find within our times tables- particularly within our 2s and 10s. To check our answers are accurate, we have been using the inverse operation (multiplication). In English this week we have begun our new topic about plants. By the end of the unit we will have completed an information text featuring key facts and appropriate information about plants. On Thursday, we completed lots of World book day activities and even had the opportunity to share our favourite books with one another. Our favourite part of the day was our world book day party where we learnt the lyrics, reading them line by line, to a Matilda: The Musical song.

Year Three

This Thursday, Year 3 had an absolutely brilliant time celebrating World Book Day! From enchanting costumes to thrilling activities, it was a day to remember. Here's a glimpse of our magical day:
Fantastic Costumes: Our children showcased their creativity with a mix of stunning shop-bought outfits and marvellous homemade costumes. Every character brought a story to life!

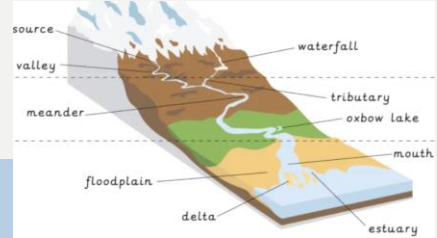
Mystery Escape Room: The day was filled with adventure as the children delved into a virtual escape room inspired by The Eerie-on-Sea mystery books.

Secret Santa Style Book Swap: In the afternoon, our children participated in a Secret Santa style book swap. They shared their love for stories and recommended their favourite reads to peers. Each child received a peer's name and carefully chose a book recommendation based on their friend's favourite genre. They wrapped and decorated books, which proved to be a delightful surprise to unwrap!

It was incredible to see the love for books and creativity shining bright in our Year 3s!

Let's keep the magic of reading alive beyond World Book Day!

Class News



Year Four

Another week complete in the busy world of Year Four. This week has been incredibly hands-on, practical and well outright busy... again! In English, we have started writing up our own interpretation of the story 'The Iron Man'. Our narrative involves the pupil's protagonist exploring the mystery of a robot which has been spotted around their location. 'Where had it come from? Nobody knows. 'Where was it heading? Not a soul knew. What was its purpose? We have no idea.' Well, our narratives end off a cliffhanger, so these questions hold relevance throughout the whole of their written piece...

Maths – this week has been a fraction challenging for our pupils; some might say so challenging we have been getting mixed... Pupils have been working exceptionally hard on fractions this week and it has ended up with the conversion of mixed numbers to improper fractions.

Geographical creativity: Our budding geographers have been creatively representing the way in which rivers flow through different places. They had to create a model which showed the journey from the upper sources, through the middle source and all the way to the lower source. They only had this image to inspire them and here are the results.



World Book Day:

Pupils have celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite characters. We enjoyed exploring the characters as well as the books we loved. The pupils took part in a live lesson and some activities around books throughout the day. We were all challenged by the 'Reading Escape Room', whereby pupils had to solve puzzles using their reading, inference and deduction skills.



"Celebrate the magic of reading on World Book Day; it's a journey that never ends and a treasure that never fades."



Class News

Year Five

What a busy week! On Wednesday 4 of our students went to Gateway to take part in a maths competition where they had to answer over 200 questions, and they finished 4th out of 18 schools.

Later that day, for our English experience lesson, we researched and sketched rivers and the water systems that lead to them. We then created large art pieces on the playground using chalks to show our learning.

And on Thursday, we enjoyed an escape room, designing fingers puppets and lots of other book based activities for World Book Day.



Year Six

This week Year 6 enjoyed celebrating World Book Day. It was wonderful to see the children dressed as their favourite characters and immersing themselves in reading.

On Thursday we had a day full of activities to foster our love of reading, including lots of class reading of our current books which are all part of the Little Badman series. The staff also joined in with the dress-up – choosing our favourite characters from Little Badman.

Throughout the day, we also participated in live virtual lessons, including one provided by Literacy Trust, which was football themed. The children enjoyed participating in the The Great Big Footy and Booky Quiz, hosted by Kit Brown and with Football School author Ben Lyttleton. Another live lesson was provided by the BBC, where we were able to join hosts Maddie Moate and Joe Tasker, alongside a line-up of incredible authors including Alex Falase-Koya, space scientist Dr. Sheila Kanani, comedian and author Rosie Jones and official World Book Day illustrator Vivian Truong.

We also delved into the book series 'The Eerie-on-Sea Mysteries' and worked in small groups to solve escape room style puzzles based on the books.

Finally, we celebrated with a World Book Day party, where the children attempted to remain in character throughout the afternoon.



Reach for the Stars



Our 'Stars of the Week' are the children that have gone over and above in their efforts. We are very proud of them for their achievements and thought they deserved an extra-special mention!

RJG	Leon	For having a great attitude to his learning.
REC	Toby	For his improved attitude to his learning and making positive choices.
RES	Rory	For having a great attitude to his learning.
1GC	Jenson	For showing resilience in maths.
1FK	Faith	For working hard and challenging herself in English this week.
1BA	Louie	For great efforts in his writing.
2BG	Patrich	For his outstanding effort in all areas of the curriculum.
2RS	Jenson	For his improved attitude to writing.
2CH	Kara & Woody	For their outstanding effort in all areas of the curriculum.
2RM	Neariah	For working really hard in maths this week.
3VP	Alfie S	For supporting his peers and being inclusive during World Book Day.
3ML	Daanya	For always being a positive role model and demonstrating self-help.
3SG	Robyn C	For having the confidence to read their English work aloud.
3SA	Macey N	For making positive choices and being a kind member of the class.
4CP	Harvey C	For being a good friend when helping his peers during lessons.
4NM	Oliver	For positively supporting his peers, working in small groups cooperatively and showing enthusiasm to reading and maths tasks.
4JP	Tola D	For using a range of expressive vocabulary and engaging features when writing independently.
5AB	Jenson	Showing persistence with fractions, decimals and percentages in maths.
5TH	Aimee	Challenging herself during English lessons.
5MR	Amalia	For discussing her incredible science knowledge about space with the class.
6LC	Callum P	For perseverance and completing the 'Escape Room' Challenge on World Book Day.
6NB	Paula N	For showing enthusiasm in her role as a Reading Ambassador during World Book Day.
6JM	Lexi T	For showing enthusiasm in her role as a Reading Ambassador during World Book Day.



Maths Marvels



All pupils at East Tilbury Primary have logins for Times Tables Rockstars and are able to log on at home to practice their times tables.

3rd March - 8th March 2024



6LC

262

6NB

105

6JM

77

3rd March - 8th March 2024



5MR

12

5AB

6

5TH

3

3rd March - 8th March 2024



3SG

147

3ML

68

3SA

5

3VP

4

3rd March - 8th March 2024



2BG

9

2CH

7

2RS

3

2RM

0

3rd March - 8th March 2024



4NM

160

4JP

0

4CP

0

Keep in Touch



Our school office is open to receive calls between 8:30am and 3pm.

Tel: 01375 846181

Email: office.etp@osborne.coop

East Tilbury Primary School

Princess Margaret Road
East Tilbury, Essex, RM18 8SB



We are also regularly updating our Facebook page and Twitter feed. Log on and have a look!



Twitter:
[@EastTPrimary](https://twitter.com/EastTPrimary)



At East Tilbury Primary School our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) are:

- Mrs Bates
- Mrs Dawson

Due to the size of the school, we have the following designated staff who can deputise in the Headteacher's absence:

- Mr Gowland
- Mrs Jarvis
- Mrs Mylam
- Mrs Allen
- Mrs Sheridan

Pupils can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child? You can phone or write to MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

Thurrock MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding hub), Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL, Tel: 01375 652802.

Emergency Duty Team (for out of hours) 01375 372468. · Police Child Abuse Investigation Team 01277 266822 or call 999 if you are concerned a child needs immediate protection. · Childline 0800 11 11 www.childline.org.uk · NSPCC 0808 800 5000

www.nspcc.org.uk; www.facebook.com/nspcc



Tues 14:00-16:00: St. Mary's Church hall, St. Mary's Church, Dock Rd, Grays, RM17 6EX.

Tues 11:00-13:00: St. John the Baptist Church, Tilbury, Dock Road, Tilbury, RM18 7PP

Weds 11:00-13:00: Gateway People's Centre, High Street, Stanford Le Hope, Essex, SS17 0EY

Weds 13:00 -14:30: Sockets Heath Baptist Church, Premier Avenue, Grays, RM16 2SB

Thurs 11:00-13:00: St. Francis Centre, Somerset Rd, Linford, SS17 0QA

Thurs 11:00-13:00: All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

Fri 10:12:00: St. Stephen's Church of England, London Rd, Purfleet, RM19 1QD

Sat 09:30-11:30: Emmanuel Church of England, Sleepers Farm Rd, Chadwell St. Mary, RM16 4TP

Sat 10:00-12:00: All Saints Church of England, Foyle Drive, Sth Ockendon, RM15 5HF

Sat 10:00-12:00: Christian Gates of Praise International Christian Centre, 79-83 London Rd, RM175YF

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about TEKKEN 8



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Thirty years after its debut on the original PlayStation, the Tekken franchise is back with its eighth mainstream instalment. A one-on-one fighting game series in the same vein as Street Fighter and Mortal Kombat, Tekken 8 can be commended for its relative lack of in-game purchases – but there's still plenty to consider in keeping young players safe from potential hazards.

FUTURE SPENDING?

Tekken 8 carries a PEGI 16 rating, with the assessors noting its violence, occasional profanity and in-game purchase options. The latter issue, however, is a little different to what you may expect from a modern game: unlike many high-profile releases, Tekken 8's content is all accessible without spending any extra money. The exceptions are new characters, which will become available to purchase separately in the future.

COPYCAT RISK

With characters flying across the screen using a mixture of authentic and fantastical fighting styles, younger children and impressionable teens may find themselves tempted to copy their favourite characters or set out their epic fights in real life. This could simply amount to harmless fun – but could also easily lead to accidents, injury and distress if young gamers start actually landing blows.

VIOLENT GAMEPLAY

As a fighting game, Tekken 8's gameplay is heavily based on punching, kicking and throwing opponents around – while some characters' attacks occasionally involve weapons. Most of the violence is comparatively cartoonish in its execution and lacking in gore, but the fact remains that the action still revolves entirely around intense combat and inflicting damage on an opponent.

FAMILY CONFLICT

Tekken 8's story mode, 'The Dark Awakenings', focuses on two of the series' most important characters – Kazuya and Jin, a father and son who have been warring for years. The sight of two family members physically fighting each other may be hard to understand (and difficult to deal with) for some children – causing confusion and concern over why relatives would want to hurt one another.

RANKED ONLINE PLAY

Tekken 8 features an array of online modes – most notably its 'Ranked' section, where players battle to reach the top spot of a worldwide leaderboard. Many players will dedicate significant amounts of time to practising and – while the challenge can be fun – some of these matches can get extremely competitive. Children could become obsessed with climbing the rankings and dedicate an unhealthy amount of time to the game or grow angry if they wind up on a losing streak.

ONLINE CONTACT

Tekken 8 doesn't offer voice chat by default, but a player's platform ID is visible (such as their PlayStation Network ID, Steam account or Xbox gamertag). Rival players can, therefore, reach out via messages if they wish. Given the game's fiercely competitive nature, these communications can potentially put children at risk of online abuse if their opponent is a particularly sore loser.

Advice for Parents & Educators

TRY IT OUT YOURSELF

As with many popular games, we'd recommend checking it out for yourself in advance if you have any concerns. In the case of Tekken 8, there's a free demo version available (for all platforms) which lets you experience fights with a handful of the characters. A useful way of establishing first-hand whether some children might find the game's violence to be too intense.

MARTIAL ARTS MOTIVATION?

With characters utilising real-world fighting styles such as jiu-jitsu, boxing and kickboxing, Tekken could represent an opportunity to channel a child's fondness for the game into a beneficial interest in real-world martial arts. Classes can help to build young people's confidence and physical fitness, as well as providing avenues for making new friends.

EXERCISE YOUR JUDGEMENT

While Tekken 8 features a sort of 'spray' impact effect when attacks land, it's not the kind of game that most observers would describe as gory (unlike, for instance, the Mortal Kombat franchise). Of course, any fighting game worthy of the name will include a significant degree of violence – but the level of which the battles in Tekken are pitched may not be an issue for some children.

CONTROL COMMUNICATIONS

If a child plays Tekken online with anyone apart from their friends, then parents and carers could consider restricting communications – such as shutting off the facility to be messaged by other players (although the child's profile name will still be displayed) – to reduce the chance of contact from strangers. This can be done via the console's account settings or through the child's Steam account (if playing on PC).

Meet Our Expert

Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GOBeacon, Lloyd Coombes has worked in the games media industry for five years. He's played every Tekken title since the series began and, as a parent, also values the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators PROMOTING STORYTIME

Being read to regularly can help the under-fives in acquiring literacy; teaches them the value of books and stories; and sparks their imagination and curiosity. Reading to babies, meanwhile, provides the building blocks of language development and the beginnings of social and emotional skills. Here are our top tips for helping children discover the wonder of stories.

1 BE A READING ROLE MODEL

Children thrive on copying the behaviours of adults around them, so it's vital to model regular reading habits: if your child sees you reading, they're likely to copy you. Reading on a screen could be misinterpreted by a child as a different activity, so a printed book is preferable.

2 JOIN A LIBRARY

Local libraries are a cost-effective way of introducing your child to new books. Libraries often host free events to build engagement with reading. Librarians can recommend books based on age, interests, genre or author. Having their own library card and choosing their next read can be exciting for little ones.

3 TAKE IT IN TURNS

Taking turns to read and turn the pages can build your child's confidence and lets you model what's expected. For younger ones, reading doesn't have to mean the exact words on the page – they might prefer their own version! Reading to different audiences is useful: toddlers are excellent listeners!

4 CATER TO THEIR INTERESTS

Like adults, children tend to favour books with themes they're interested in. If they're less keen to move away from their preferred subject matter, you could vary the type of book they read by swapping between fiction and non-fiction. There'll be plenty of scope to diversify as they grow up.

5 BUILD READING INTO YOUR DAILY ROUTINE

Building reading into your daily routine will have a positive impact. Just before bedtime is ideal for many families, helping settle the child to sleep. The adult usually reads the story, but children enjoy more interactivity as they get older, it can be handy to have books with you when out and about.

6 USE PICTURES AND PROPS

Most children's books contain beautiful illustrations which enrich the text. Spend time discussing these with your child and pointing things out. As well as doing voices for different characters and making any relevant noises, you could also enhance story time with props such as toys or puppets.

7 RELISH THE LANGUAGE

The language in children's books is varied and rich; sometimes they might include words children are less familiar with, so you can take the opportunity to explain what they mean. With younger children, you could try paraphrasing certain sentences afterwards to help with understanding.

8 A COMFORTABLE ENVIRONMENT

Where possible, read to your child in an environment that's free from distractions. This helps children to get fully immersed in the experience, supporting their concentration and engagement. Doing this often can help to build up the child's ability to focus for greater lengths of time.

9 TAKE REGULAR BREAKS

Although reading can be hugely enjoyable, children can sometimes struggle to sit for long periods or to engage with texts fully. Have regular breaks: reading a few pages is better than none. You could also have some movement breaks – there's no particular 'right' or 'wrong' way to enjoy a story.

10 RE-READ FAVOURITES

Most children have certain stories that they love hearing again and again. This repetition lets them become familiar with language patterns and more engaged by feeling able to join in. Choosing other books by your child's preferred author can help them to discover new favourites.

Meet Our Expert

Kara Korman has worked in senior leadership positions (both in the UK and internationally) for 15 years, supported by an EdD in Educational Leadership. As an educational consultant, she now delivers training for a range of organisations – notably on DfE practice and child development. Previously, Kara was head of a nursery and junior school and has also been a director of early years.







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September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							December 2023						
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Autumn Term:	Monday 4 September 2023 – Wednesday 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 3 November</i>	73 days
Spring Term:	Thursday 4 January 2024 – Thursday 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February - 23 February</i>	56 days
Summer Term:	Monday 15 April 2024 – Tuesday 23 July 2024 (22-23 July twilight inset payback) <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday - 6 May</i>	66 days
		195 days

	School Holiday
	Additional autumn half term
	Inset days, schools closed to students
	Trust conference, schools closed to students