

Bessemer Primary School Newsletter



Part of The Gem Federation

www.thegemfederation.co.uk

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Head of School: Elizabeth Whitehead

Dates for your Diary

Friday 17th January 2025

Term Dates 2024-25

September 2024						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October 2024						
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28	29	30	31			

November 2024						
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December 2024						
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30	31					

January 2025						
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27	28	29	30	31		

February 2025						
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24	25	26	27	28		

March 2025						
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31						

April 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

May 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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June 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2025						
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

School Holidays

INSET Days

Tutorial Day

Bank Holidays

This Year's Class Assembly Dates

Class assemblies take place at 9.15 am on Thursday mornings and last for about 15 minutes. Parents and carers are invited to come along and watch their children present their learning from their half termly topic.

Years 1,2 and 3		Years 4,5 and 6	
Thursday 21 st November	1NS	Thursday 28 th November	5FM
Thursday 30 th January	3/4BW	Thursday 6 th February	6LM
Thursday 13 th February	2SD	Thursday 13 th March	6KL
Thursday 20 th March	2LT	Thursday 27 th March	4BG
Thursday 3 rd April	3LS	Thursday 8 th May	5RS
Thursday 15 th May	3NI	Thursday 22 nd May	4GS
Thursday 5 th June	1ST	Thursday 12 th June	6SB
Change of date			
Thursday 19 th June		Thursday 26 th June	5OF
Thursday 3 rd July	1JM		

Dates for your Diary

Upcoming Events for the Spring Term:

- 31.01.25 – Years 5 and 6 to author talk at JAGS
- 31.01.25 – F@B second hand clothes stall and bake sale after school
- WB 03.02.25 – Children’s Mental Health Week
- 03.02.25 – Year 5 Young Voices concert at the O2
- 05.02.25 – Wear bright colours / colours that make you feel good for Children’s Mental Health Week
- 06.02.25 – Reception children’s eye tests in school
- 07.02.25 – NSPCC Number Day (number themed dress up)
- 11.02.25 – Safer Internet Day
- 12.02.25 – Year 5 trip to The London Eye
- 13.02.25 – Year 1 trip to The National Maritime Museum
- 13.02.25 – last day of this half term for children
- 14.02.25 – Tutorial day, school closed to children
- WB 17.02.25 – Half term holiday
- 24.02.25 – Children return to school
- 06.03.25 – World Book Day (book themed dress up)
- 07.03.25 – International Women’s Day
- 13.03.25 – Year 4 multiplication check parents’ and carers’ workshop, 9.15am
- 19.03.25 – Early Years Celebration Day (for parents and carers) 9.15 – 10.15am

Please check this page weekly as dates will be added throughout the term.

Spring Term Library Visits

Each term every class has the opportunity to visit Grove Vale library. Children spend some time exploring the library, younger children often have a story session and then all children borrow a book to bring back to school with them. If you are able to accompany your child’s class on their library visit please speak to their class teacher.

	10.20-11.00		10.20-11.00
Thurs 9 th Jan	6LM	Thurs 27 th Feb	3LS
Fri 10 th Jan	6MS	Fri 28 th Feb	2LT
Thurs 16 th Jan	6SB	Thurs 6 th March	2SD
Fri 17 th Jan	5RS	Fri 7 th March	1JM
Thurs 23 rd Jan	5FM	Thurs 13 th March	1NS
Fri 24 th Jan	5OF	Fri 14 th March	1ST
Thurs 30 th Jan	4GS	Thurs 20 th March	Moonbeam
Fri 31 st Jan	4BG	Fri 21 st March	Sunshine
Thurs 6 th Feb	3/4BW	Thurs 27 th March	Ladybird
Fri 7 th Feb	3NI	Fri 28 th March	Butterfly

News and Reminders

Diary Dates

There are a few focus days coming up this term, some of which have a dress up element. These dates are listed on the previous page to ensure you have plenty of notice when costumes are required. More information about the activities taking place will be shared in the next few weeks.

Parking

You will have noticed the presence of parking control officers outside the school at drop off and pick up time. This is due to the dangerous situation created when cars park on double yellow lines, in the road across the barriers and on the pavements. There is very limited parking available in the streets around school, please keep this in mind and allow enough time to park further away and walk to school for drop off and pick up.

After School Club

While we know this is not possible for everyone, if you are able to please could you book your child's After School Club sessions before the start of each week. This will enable us to share weekly lists with teachers and reduce the number of updates made during the week.

Activity Clubs

All of our after-school activity clubs started this week. There are still spaces in the clubs listed below, if you would like to book a place for the remaining sessions please call or email the school office.

Year 1/2 football on Mondays – only 1 space left

Year 3/4/5 football on Tuesdays

Key Stage 1 Singing and Percussion on Tuesdays

Key Stage 2 Wellbeing on Wednesdays

Year 4/5/6 Football on Wednesdays

Year 1/2/3 Football on Thursdays

Children who are attending after school activities club are encouraged to bring a snack to eat before their club. Snacks should be quick and easy to eat and follow our packed lunch guide lines – no crisps, cake or chocolate bars please. Plain biscuits, a small sandwich, cheese and crackers or fruit / vegetables are all a great choice.

Lost Property

Once again we have a lot of lost property! If your child has lost anything please encourage them to look for it in lost property or in their cloakroom. In the Year 4 cloakroom in particular there are a lot of jumpers, snack boxes and water bottles to be collected.

Please make sure that your child's jumper, coat and water bottle are named as named items are nearly always successfully returned to their owners!

Inclusion and Family Support

There are a lot of new flyers with information about support for families attached at the end of the newsletter, please have a look.

You can find further information and support in the Inclusion section of our website:

<https://www.thegemfederation.co.uk/bessemer-primary/learning-hub/our-curriculum/send/>

Sharing Children's Learning

Demonstrating our core values of being *Academically Ambitious* and *Creative and Practical*

This week we have two fantastic examples of academically ambitious and creative and practical learning across the curriculum in Year 1:

At the end of last half term Year 1 children had a great opportunity to link their science and art lessons through the exploration of materials. For their DT (Design and Technology) project the children made their own boats. They started by evaluating existing boats, noticing some of the key features of a boat; what material it was made of and if it was an effective boat. This informed the designs of their own. They learned about Origami and practised the skill of folding before using this technique to make their own boats.



This half term the Year 1 children are learning about teen numbers and how they are made. They have been looking at the tens and ones in each number using maths apparatus and have practised writing the teen numbers in numerals, matching the written numerals to the physical representation. Here they are making teen numbers on the rekenreks so that their learning partner can work out the number they have made by observing the tens and ones.



Rekenreks are new pieces of equipment which we are using in Early Years and Key Stage One. While a rekenrek looks like a small abacus, they are not used in the same way. You can find out more about them here:

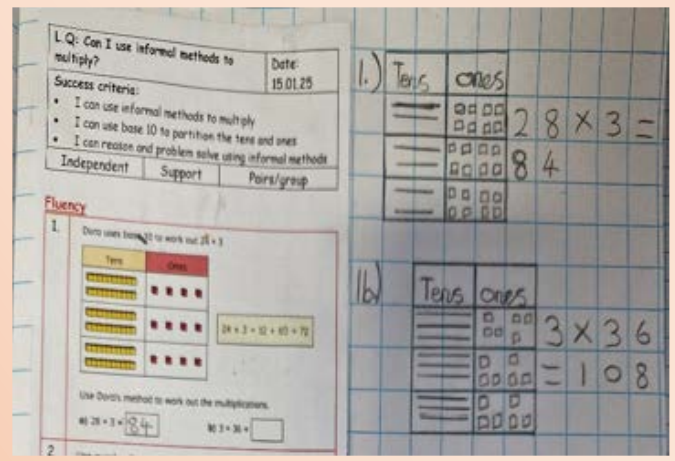
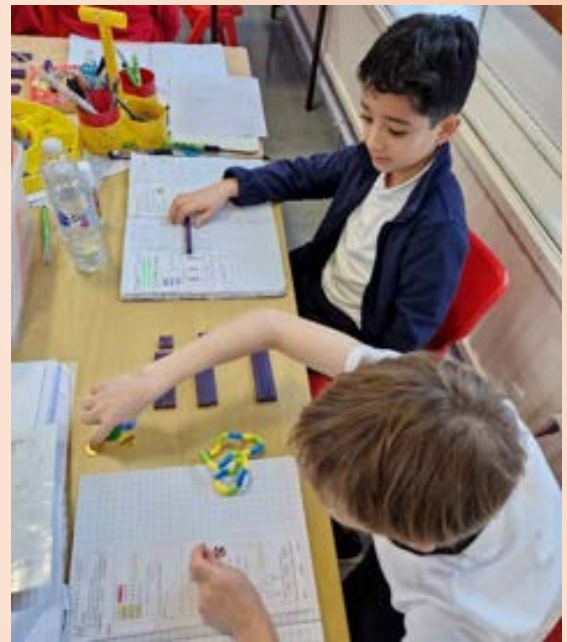


https://www.learningresources.co.uk/blog/what-is-a-rekenrek/?srltid=AfmBOorzkmowrmXYPXbkZL_hog7Eowtdfj53BLOBtq_jEszfhBK7YHAX

Sharing Children's Learning

Demonstrating our core values of being *Academically Ambitious* and *Creative and Practical*

Our maths mastery approach means that we continue to use manipulatives (maths apparatus) throughout the school to ensure that children have a really deep, secure understanding of what they are doing before moving on to using more abstract methods. These Year 4 children are using dienes equipment while learning written methods to multiply two-digit numbers.



Sharing Children's Learning

Demonstrating our core values of being *Academically Ambitious* and *Creative and Practical*


We always aim to ensure that children have a purpose and an intended audience for their writing and we often use drama to create excitement and enthusiasm for the task. On Tuesday children in Year 2 arrived at school to find footprints all over their classrooms, courtyards and corridor! The children had to follow the footprints, searching for the animals that may have left them and making predictions about their appearance and character. They then created missing posters for the animals they had described.




LQ: Can you explore how to create a noun phrase?
 Success Criteria
 I can use adjectives to describe.
 I can describe using an expanded noun phrase.
 I can use commas correctly.

We are searching for a furry, bulky animal who is timid


Achieved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Independent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Date: 13.01.25
Working towards	<input type="checkbox"/>	With Assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Did not achieve	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pairs/Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	



We are searching for
a furry, bulky animal that is
timid and friendly!



We are searching for a
hairy, thin animal that is
very dangerous! (and cute)



We are looking
for a playful, timid
animal that is smooth and
friendly!

Check missing words: g g g g g




Success Criteria
 I can write statements with a capital letter and full stop. A
 I can write exclamations with a capital letter and exclamation mark. A
 I can write questions with a capital letter and question mark. A
 I can write compounds with a capital letter, modal verb and full stop. A

Independent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Groups/Pairs	<input type="checkbox"/>	Assisted	<input type="checkbox"/>	Date: 15.01.25
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Missing!

Missing!



Have you seen this footprint?

We are searching for a giant, yellow
animal who is silly.

Have you seen this animal?

Help us now!

Word of the Week

Word of the Week is all about developing children's vocabularies by increasing the number of words they know and use. Making these challenging words part of their vocabulary improves children's speaking and listening, reading and writing skills.

The Word of the Week next week is **steep**. Please help your child to find out the meaning of the word and try using it in different ways in sentences.

Try to use the word of the week as much as possible so that it becomes part of your child's vocabulary. Children will receive gems in school for using the word in their speech and writing and for explaining its meaning and origin.

F@B Update

After school event: Friday 31 January

We're holding a second hand clothing stall with uniform, sports kits and World Book Day costumes too! It's going to be a bumper stall - we hope you can support the event.

And if that wasn't enough to tempt you we will also have a stall selling delicious home-baked cakes ☺. Yum!

Please come along and support us to raise much needed funds for Bessemer.

Donations of uniform, costumes and sports kit are welcome on the day or bring them to the school office during the week before. Thank you!

Birthday party hire

Did you know Bessemer families can hire the nature garden and football astroturf for birthday parties? Email F@B to find out more: fab@friendsatbessemer.co.uk

Online Safety Tip of the Week

Sharing Personal Information Online:

Does your child know what information is okay to be shared online and what should be kept private?

When children are accessing the internet via gaming and social media apps, they may be sharing information they shouldn't. It is important to have conversations at home to remind children of what can be shared and what should remain private.

CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) has some useful advice and some key questions to help parents start conversations at home:

What information is it okay to share with a trusted friend or family member?

What information would you be happy for a stranger to know? What information is personal?

What different online places is it okay to share personal information?

Is what we might share in an email the same thing that we would want shared in a public space like a social media app?

For more information about how to talk to children about sharing information online, please visit:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/parents-guide-to-personal-information2/>





Celebrations!

Certificates

	Star	Writer	Mathematician	Presenter	Scientist
Sunshine	Annabel	Amelia	Kalijah		
Moonbeam	Noah	Catalina	Steph		
1JM	Janaya	Leo T	Maseyr	Felix	Storm
1NS	Violet	Marlow	Godwill	T'Mari	
1ST	Sienna	Maya	Olivia	Alaia	
2SD	Mylah-Monae	Troy	Jeremiah	Leila	
2LT	Josiah	Sadie	Briyit	Sara	Teo
3LS	Sarai	Ibrahim	Elliot	Zak	Isobel
3NI	Humaira	Stephany	Margot	Lucas	
3/4BW	Maya	Ben	Aymar	Zahra	
4BG	Vidak	Leila	Eustache	Leonel	Beau
4GS	Wilfred	Hari	Temi	Elliott	
5RS	Cavalli	Rose	Lucie	Harley	
5OF	Adam	Amelia	Nicolas	Sam	Runaah
5FM	Ramadan	Holly	Isabella	Remy	
6LM	Emily W	Hameed	Carter	Toferati	Gloria
6SB	Emily	Sophie	Ozgur	Lenny	
6KL	Frankie	Ruby	Aimanya	Bill	

Individual Timestable Rockstars

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Yonathan	Eve	Aymar	Phoenix M	Cruize	Sophie

Timestable Rockstars Winnng Classes

Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
1ST	4BG	6SB

House Winners	Rubies!
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Have a great weekend!

Elizabeth



PARENT SPACE

A QUARTERLY ONLINE & IN PERSON PROGRAM

A QUARTERLY COFFEE MORNING FOR PARENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN TO SHARE THEIR ISSUES AND CHALLENGES AS WELL AS GOOD TIPS ON HOW THEY SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN

DATES

WEDNESDAY 15TH
JANUARY 2025 TIME: 9:30 - 11AM

WEDNESDAY 2ND
APRIL 2025 TIME: 9:30-11AM

WEDNESDAY 16TH
JULY 2025 TIME: 9:30-11AM



FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER

✉ Admin@parentskills2go.com
🌐 parentskills2go.org

OR CALL:

07507443737
07725818283
02035369609
07394662602

**PLEASE NOTE 1:1 DROP IN SESSIONS
ARE MONTHLY BASED ON REQUEST**



Impact
on Urban
Health



MY CHILD & ME

**A 10 WEEK
INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP
FOR BLACK AND MINORITY FAMILIES**



DATES:

■ JANUARY 16TH - 20TH
MARCH 2025

■ 1ST MAY - 9TH JULY 2025

TIME: 10:00AM - 12:00PM

VENUE:

THE LEWINGTON CENTRE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
9, EUGENIA ROTHERHITHE SE16 2RU

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER

02035369609, 07394662602

✉ Admin@parentskills2go.com

🌐 parentskills2go.org

Parent feedback

"This program taught me
that I am not alone..."

**crèche
will be
provided**

Supported by

Impact
on Urban
Health





BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF **AUTISM & SEND**

(SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES)

ISSUES FOR BLACK AND MARGINALISED FAMILIES

(5 WEEKS ONLINE PROGRAM)

Monday 20th January

TIME: 6:00PM - 7:00PM (ONLINE)


FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER
02035369609, 07394662602
✉ Admin@parentskills2go.com
🌐 parentskills2go.org


**ZOOM
DETAILS
WILL BE SENT
AFTER
REGISTRATION**

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SAFETY IN THE HOME

A ONE DAY COURSE

**ACCIDENT PREVENTION & AWARENESS WORKSHOP
FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN**

DATE: TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY, 2025
TIME: 10AM - 12:00PM

**VENUE: THE LEWINGTON CENTRE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
9 EUGENIA ROAD ROTHERHITE SE16 2RU**

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER
02035369609, 07394662602
Admin@parentskills2go.com
parentskills2go.org

Proudly supported by



SEWING SKILLS

10 WEEKS DRESSMAKING COURSE FOR BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS



FREE SEWING MENDING STATION



(SUPPORT ON HOW TO MEND CLOTHES)

BASIC /BEGINNERS SEWING CLASS STARTS
WEDNESDAY 15TH
JANUARY 2025

INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS SEWING CLASS STARTS
FRIDAY 17TH
JANUARY 2025

VENUE:
THE LEWINGTON CENTRE
COMMUNITY CENTRE
9 EUGENIA ROAD
ROTHERHITE SE16 2RU

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER
02035369609, 07394662602

Admin@parentskills2go.com 
parentskills2go.org 

10AM TO 12PM

COST FEE

£20

BEGINNERS

£30

INTERMEDIATE

crèche will be provided

Southwark
Council

Supported by
Impact on Urban Health



Southwark Children & Family Hubs

Drop-in Sessions for Young people

11-19 years (up to 25 with SEN/D) are welcome to attend alone, with a friend or with a trusted adult

Parents/Carers

with children 11-19 years (up to 25 with SEN/D)

A chance to learn about the services in Southwark, ask questions to the Adolescent Sure Start team and access support

Get support with the following:

- School/higher education advice and support
- Mental and physical health
- Family relationships
- Finances and benefits
- Sexual health
- SEN/D
- LGBTQ+ support
- Parenting challenges
- Domestic Abuse

and much more....

Monday

2.30-5.00pm: Kingswood Arts, Palm Court Room Seeley Drive, Kingswood Estate SE21 8QN

Tuesday

2.30-5.00pm: 1st Place Family Hub, 12 Chumleigh St SE5 0RN

Wednesday (with DWP & Lead Nurse Specialist)

2.30-5.00pm: Brandon Library, Maddock Way SE17 3NH

Thursday

1.00-5.30pm: Damilola Taylor Centre, 1 East Surrey Grove Peckham, SE15 6DR

Friday

2.30-5.00pm: South Bermondsey Children and Family Centre, Tenda Road, Bermondsey SE16 3PN

Please contact the team if you need more information or are unable to attend a drop in session - AdolescentSureStartTeam@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark
Council



ALLEYNIAN RUGBY

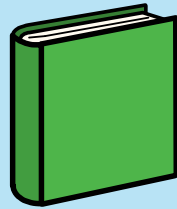
GOAL

SCAN HERE



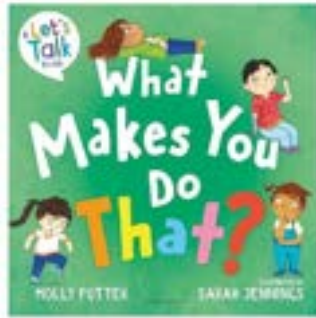
If your child would like to give rugby a try, then please use the QR code to register your interest and for more information. We are an RFU Accredited and Age Grade Rugby Champion Club.

EYFS/KS1

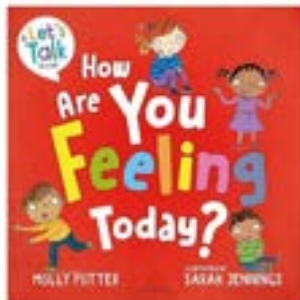


Book

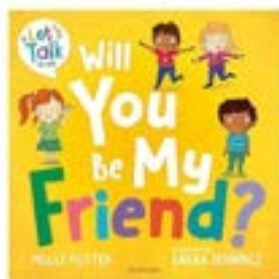
Recommendations



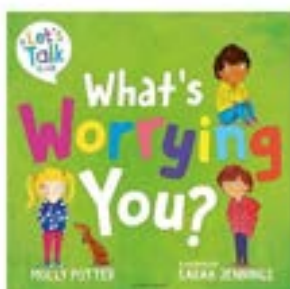
This important book prompts children to question certain behaviours and why they happen. Addressing common situations sympathetically and humorously, What Makes You Do That? answers key behavioural concerns and encourages children to self-reflect, consider how their actions affect others and manage their emotions.



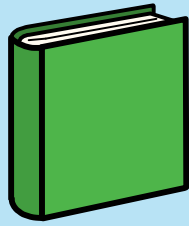
How Are You Feeling Today? is packed with fun, imaginative ways to help children understand and cope with a whole range of different emotions.



Practical advice on helping children understand how to make friends, what it means to be a true friend and how to cope with the tricky parts of friendship.



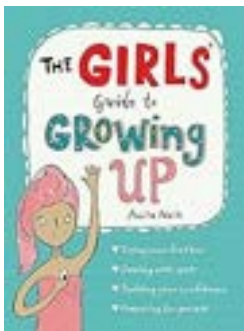
What's Worrying You? is a book all about helping children understand their worries, and what to do when they feel overwhelmed by their thoughts and feelings.



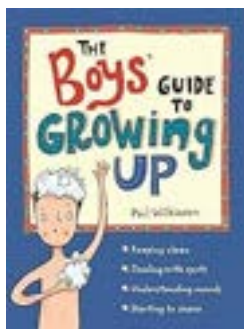
KS2 Book Recommendations



Use this book to teach children how you used to amuse yourself before the internet in this fun and engaging book. Children will discover that 'old-fashioned fun' was more rewarding than playing with technology.

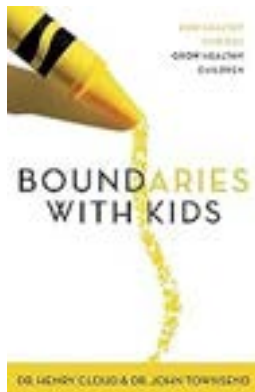


Puberty is a natural and inevitable part of growing up, and having accurate knowledge about it helps children navigate the changes they experience with confidence and understanding. Knowledge is key because it helps children feel prepared and less anxious about what's happening to their bodies.



Death is a natural part of life, and while it can be a difficult topic to approach, stories that involve death allow children to explore and process the emotions related to loss. Reading about characters who experience death helps children understand grief and may help them cope with any personal loss they may experience in the future.

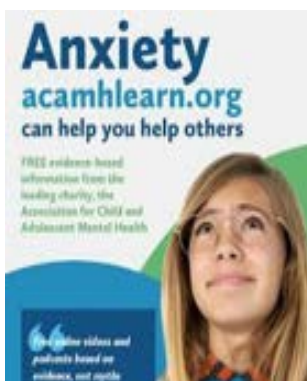
Adult Book Recommendations and Signposting



One of the most loving things you can do for your children is set firm boundaries with them. Boundaries with Kids will help you raise your kids to take responsibility for their own actions, attitudes, and emotions. In eight sessions, Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend help you bring order to problematic circumstances and cultivate healthier ways of relating with your kids.



In this Sunday Times bestseller, leading psychotherapist Philippa Perry reveals the vital do's and don'ts of relationships. This is a book for us all. Whether you are interested in understanding how your upbringing has shaped you, looking to handle your child's feelings or wishing to support your partner, you will find indispensable information and realistic tips in these pages.



The Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health has launched a new CPD platform for anyone interested in supporting young people's mental health.

<https://www.acamh.org/>



BREATHE
ARTS HEALTH RESEARCH



No singing
experience
needed



Breathe Melodies for Mums

Free weekly group singing sessions for new mothers (and their babies) to boost emotional and mental wellbeing.

Join our 10-week programme open to London Borough of Southwark residents with babies aged 0–9 months

Find out more:



   @BreatheAHR
#BreatheMelodiesForMums
breatheahr.org



Experience the joy of group singing to help alleviate feelings of low mood and anxiety.

This is a nursery-rhyme-free zone that is about YOU expressing yourself and feeling good through music.

Breathe Melodies for Mums is evidence-based and can:

- provide an opportunity for you and your baby to bond
- alleviate feelings of low mood and anxiety
- be a natural stress-reliever
- help build your confidence
- connect you with other mums in your community

10 weekly sessions throughout spring 2025:

Tue 28 January – Tue 1 April 2025

11.45am to 12.45pm or 1.30pm to 2.30pm

Rye Oak Children and Family Centre,
Whorlton Road, Peckham, SE15 3PD

Thu 30 January – Thu 3 April 2025

12pm to 1pm or 1.45pm to 2.45pm

Ellen Brown Children and Family Centre,
145 Grange Road, Spa Park, SE1 3EU

Fri 31 January – Fri 4 April 2025

10.30am to 11.30am or 12.15pm to 1.15pm

Dulwich Wood Children's Centre,
Lyall Avenue, London SE21 8QS



Scan the QR code to register



For enquiries contact:

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