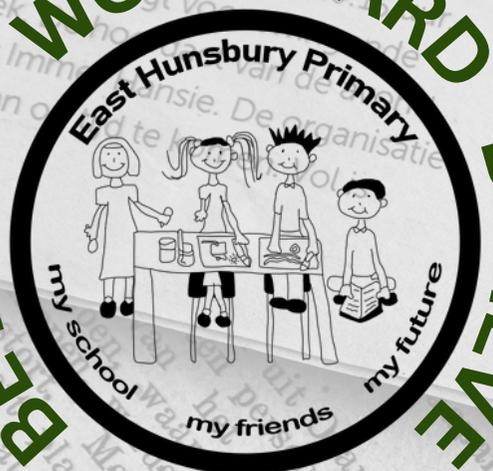


BEKIND

WORK HARD

BELIEVE



IN THE **SPOTLIGHT**
YOUR WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

The weekly newspaper for children

WHAT'S IN THE
NEWS THIS WEEK?

What do you think about this week's news?

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Paddington Takes a Bow!

Paddington Bear is now starring in his very own musical at the Savoy Theatre in London, England. Children and adults can watch him begin his journey in Peru, travel to London, and join the Brown family – with plenty of funny moments along the way!

Paddington is well known for loving marmalade sandwiches, and the show includes lots of music, bright costumes, and a few sticky marmalade surprises. The songs are written by Tom Fletcher, an author and singer.

The Paddington in the musical looks like the one from the first books, written in 1958. The designers looked at the old pictures to help them create the

Pictured: A jar of orange marmalade, Paddington Bear's favourite sandwich topping!
Source: Canva.



bear for the stage. People who have seen the musical say it is cheery and makes them smile. One person called it 'jaw-droppingly good'. Another said, 'it tells a really important story' about kindness and welcoming others. If you could go to the show, would you take a marmalade sandwich for the interval?

Do you know where Paddington Bear keeps his marmalade sandwiches?

Black Friday or Buy Nothing Day?

Friday 28th November is 'Black Friday'. Many shops have big sales on this day, and lots of people buy presents, toys, or things for their home. Some people enjoy finding a bargain, and shops can get very busy. But the same day is also called



Pictured: A Black Friday Sale sign.
Source: Canva.

'Buy Nothing Day', when people choose not to buy anything all day. Instead, they might go for a walk, play a game, or spend time with friends and family.

People who follow Buy Nothing Day say it helps them think about what they really need, rather than just buying something because it is cheaper on sale. Others say Black Friday can be fun and helpful if you are saving up for something special.

Both happen on the same date, so everyone can choose what feels right for them.

What would you prefer the idea of – Black Friday or Buy Nothing Day?

What would you tell world leaders if you were at COP30?



I would tell world leaders to all make sure they keep ALL their promises!

Connie

Driverless Electric Bus

Passengers have been able to board a driverless electric bus at Casa de Campo park in Madrid, Spain! After five years of testing, the vehicle has entered the real-world phase of the experiment with driverless vehicles for public transport. The 100% electric, caterpillar-shaped vehicle operated for ten days during five busy hours, driving around to pick up passengers at six stops. The bus was developed by the Madrid Transit Authority (EMT) and Automotive Technology Centre of Galicia (CTAG). The vehicle is described as fully



Pictured: CTAG Autonomous Shuttle.
Source: EMT Madrid on Facebook.

autonomous, and capable of detecting things it may need to brake for, such as people, animals, crossings, stop signs, traffic lights, and roundabouts. Developers say it can make decisions on when to brake, accelerate, turn, and open/close the doors. A safety officer has been on board throughout, just in case. 'This bus is one of the best I have ever tested,' said César Omar Chacón Fernández from EMT. 'It behaves very well dynamically. Let's say that the technology is very well integrated, it doesn't behave erratically or robotically like other buses. The vehicle detects any object, from a bicycle to an animal, and reacts accordingly to avoid collisions. It is a fully autonomous line, but we never leave anything to chance.'

Do you enjoy bus rides?

Do you think you would use this bus?



Pictured: People boarding the CTAG Autonomous Shuttle during tests.
Source: EMT Madrid on Facebook.

Shout at Stealing Seagulls

A recent study has shown that seagulls trying to steal food can be scared away by simply shouting. Researchers from the University of Exeter tested 61 herring gulls in nine seaside towns in Cornwall. They played recordings of a male voice shouting, 'No, stay away, that's my food!', along with recordings of the same words being spoken instead, and also the neutral birdsong of a robin, all at the same volume. The scientists experimented to find the best way to stop the birds from snacking on a box of chips on the ground. Dr Neeltje Boogert, from the university, commented, 'Normally, when someone is shouting, it's scary



Pictured: A seagull.
Source: Canva.

because it's a loud noise, but in this case, all the noises were the same volume, and it was just the way the words were being said that was different. So, it seems that gulls pay attention to the way we say things, which we don't think has been seen before in any wild species, only in those domesticated species that have been bred around humans for generations, such as dogs, pigs and horses.'

How would you stop a seagull from trying to eat your food?

What would you tell world leaders if you were at COP30?



I want them to talk about clean air and how to sort our rubbish properly so there is no more rubbish in the sea.

Ralph



Online Safety Newsletter

January 2026

Instagram Teen Accounts - update

You must be over 13 years of age to set up an account. Instagram is used to post photos and videos as well as send direct messages, make voice/video calls, and send disappearing messages.

Teen accounts are automatically set up for users aged 13 – 17. Instagram have announced that teens will now see content similar to content that they would see in a PG-13 movie.

Instagram have also updated their policies around content to include “hiding or not recommending posts with strong language, certain risky stunts, and additional content that could encourage potentially harmful behaviors”

Finally, for parents who would like to apply more stringent settings, Instagram are also introducing a new, stricter setting called ‘Limited Content.’ This setting will mean your child is not able to see, leave, or receive comments under posts as well.

You can read about the updates here: <https://about.instagram.com/blog/announcements/instagram-teen-content-safety-pg-13>



Playing games online

Does your child play games online? We have outlined some risks that you should consider:

Chatting to strangers / risk of inappropriate language

Some games will allow communication via text chat, direct messages or chatting. Some games do offer the ability to switch communication off and/or the option to restrict bad language, so make sure settings appropriate to your child are applied. If your child is playing online with strangers, then you need to be aware that there is a risk of grooming. Some games do allow you to restrict communication to ‘friends only,’ however you would need to monitor that their online friends are real life friends. It can be difficult to moderate online chat so ensure your child knows how to block and report other players.



Cyberbullying

It can be very easy online for children to behave in a way that they would not if they were face to face. Talk to your child about how they speak to others online and encourage them to talk to people online with respect. Other forms of cyberbullying whilst playing games could be excluding others, criticising the ability of other players and ganging up on others.

In app purchases

Many games include the option to purchase additional items/ subscriptions so ensure you do not have payment cards saved or set up restrictions/ a password to approve purchases.

What can I do?

- **Set up parental controls** - as well as setting up appropriate parental controls through the game’s settings, ensure you have set them up on the console/device your child is playing on.
- **Check age ratings** - before buying the game, check that your child is old enough to play it. All games will either have a PEGI rating or be rated by the App Store/Google Play.
- **Chat to your child regularly** about the risks above so that they are aware of what can happen online and remind them to always talk to you or a trusted adult if they have any concerns

Further information

CEOP provides further guidance and support regarding this topic: <https://www.ceopeducation.co.uk/parents/articles/gaming/>

Snapchat

Snapchat is a popular social media app used for messaging and sharing photos and videos. **You must be 13+ to sign up.** Users can send messages (snaps) to others that are only seen for a set time, and users can also upload snaps to stories, which disappear after 24 hours.

Key Concerns

There are potential risks such as:

- the risk of your child viewing content that is not appropriate for their age.
- location sharing (via Snap Map).
- cyberbullying.
- contact from strangers.
- excessive screen time – children may have a fear of missing out (FOMO) as well as pressure to maintain “streaks”.
- “disappearing” messages can lead to more risky behaviour and a “false sense of security.” These messages could be screenshot or another device used to take a photo, so they’re not actually deleted as the sender believes. The image could then be shared.
- in app purchases.



Parental Controls / Safety settings

Snapchat's Family Centre is a set of parental controls and includes tools such as allowing you to:

- see who your child is friends with.
- see who your child has sent messages (not the contents of conversations though), photos or videos to in the last week.
- view a list of group members for groups that your child has been active in.
- restrict content to limit access.
- report any accounts that you are concerned about.

You can learn more about Family Centre here:

<https://parents.snapchat.com/parental-controls?lang=en-GB>

If your child is using Snapchat, then make sure the appropriate privacy settings are set up, including who can see their location and who can contact them. Also ensure your child knows how to block and report other users if necessary:

<https://help.snapchat.com/hc/en-gb/articles/7012343074580-How-do-I-change-my-privacy-settings-on-Snapchat>

More information

For more detailed advice and information:

- <https://parentzone.org.uk/article/snapchat>
- <https://parents.snapchat.com/safeguards-for-teens>

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Family Smart Start

Family Smart Start is a free toolkit designed to help you and your child navigate the milestone of getting their first phone. The toolkit provides support on how to set up their new phone, how to talk to your child about digital safety and a template family agreement. Find out more here:

<https://familysmartstart.com/>

Cyber security

Cyber security is the process of protecting your information and data whilst online against scams and cyber-attacks. Cyber-attacks are the process of maliciously targeting individuals or organisations to disable networks or steal data for example.

The National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) have an area on their website with guidance to help protect you and your family. The guidance includes how to manage your digital footprint online, information about anti-virus software as well as top tips for staying online such as:

- Using a strong password
- Setting up 2step verification

You can find the resources here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/you-your-family>

The NCSC also provide advice on what you should do if you are the target of a scam or cyber-attack. Find out more here:

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/respond-recover/you>

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