



Carrington Junior School



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a busy start to the half term, with Ofsted calling in for a visit last week before we had even properly adjusted to the clock changes and the darker evenings. While I can't say much before the official letter is published, I can say how proud we can all be of the children. They excelled at showing off their hard work and spoke with great enthusiasm about the school and all the experiences that they have.

When Ofsted visits a school, they ask for registration lists and randomly highlight the children they want to talk to, so the children didn't have a lot of notice before they spoke to the inspector in their groups.

They showed off our school value of resilience in doing so.



Mrs Cameron

Believe. Achieve. Succeed.

School Survey

Thank you to all the parents who managed to complete the school survey before half term.

You might be wondering what we do with the results of this. The school governors will use the results of the survey to check on how the school is running, and the school leadership are going to be reviewing all your comments to look at improvements we can make over the coming half term and beyond.

As a result of the survey, by the Spring Term we will be reviewing:

- homework, particularly maths support
- adapting information shared at Parents' Evenings
- reviewing opportunities for nights away before Year 6
- looking at a different range of parent interactions and meetings, including different times and online opportunities
- trying to engage some more non-sports clubs



!!REMINDER!! No Nuts at School

We have some children with **severe nut allergies** in school, and we would like to remind you all that strictly **no nuts or products containing nuts are to be brought into school** for snack time or in your child's lunch box.

Many thanks for your cooperation in keeping our school safe for all.



Remembrance in School

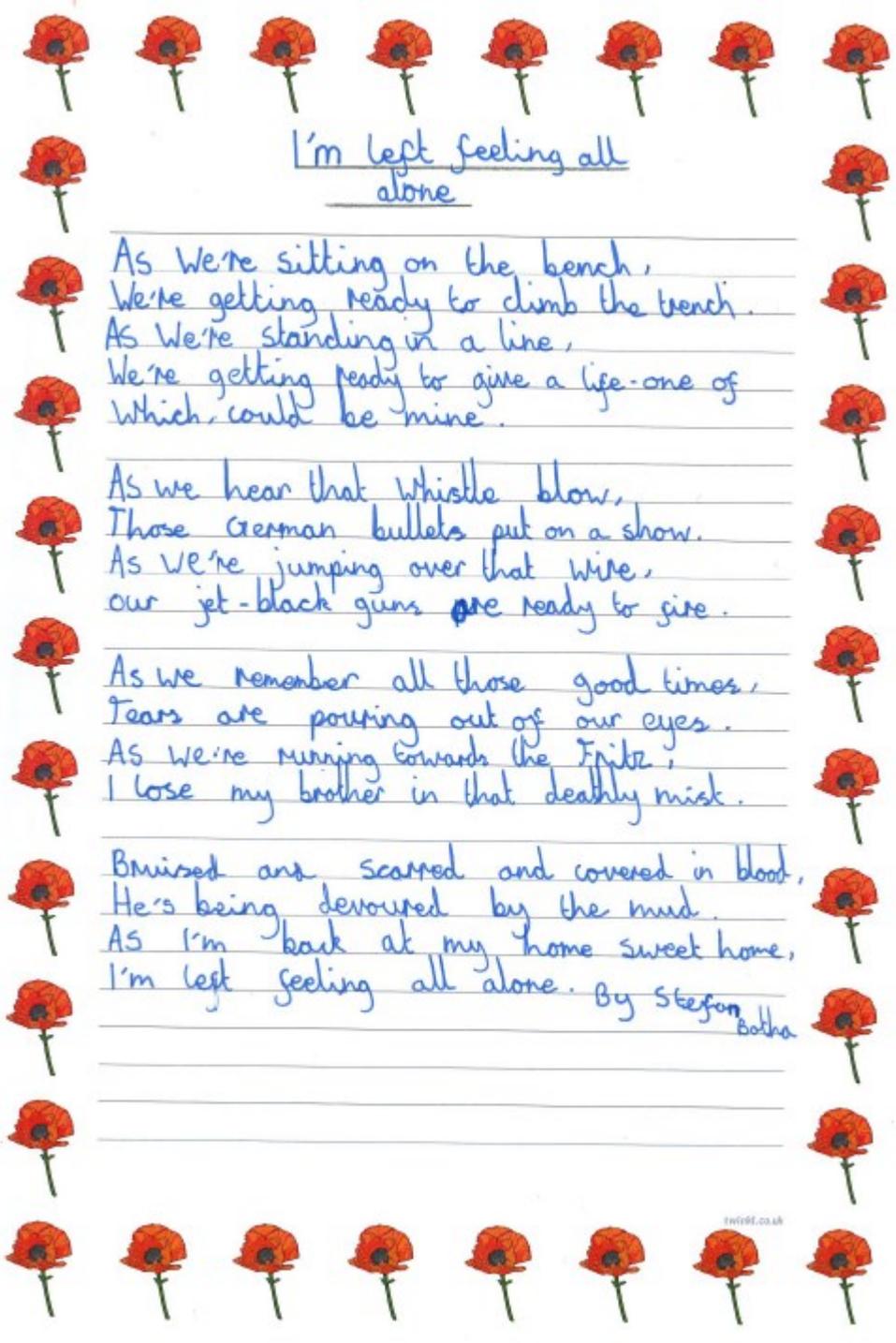
This morning, the children from Carrington Junior School were joined by our guests from Year 2 for a beautiful Remembrance Assembly, where we took some time to reflect and remember those who fought for our Freedom.

The Choir was joined by Mrs Dean at the piano and they gave us a beautiful performance of 'Keep the home fires burning'. We then all observed a 2-minute silence, and Mr Reid played 'The Last Post' on his trombone.

The Year 6 pupils have been working on WWI poetry this term, and some of them read their thought provoking poems to us all. They are also proud to share their poems with you all in this newsletter.

In classes, some children watched the BBC animation 'Poppies' while others looked at Newsround resources linked to remembrance.





I'm left feeling all alone

As we're sitting on the bench,
We're getting ready to climb the trench.
As we're standing in a line,
We're getting ready to give a life - one of which could be mine.

As we hear that whistle blow,
Those German bullets put on a show.
As we're jumping over that wire,
our jet-black guns are ready to fire.

As we remember all those good times,
Tears are pouring out of our eyes.
As we're running towards the Fritz,
I lose my brother in that deathly mist.

Bruised and scarred and covered in blood,
He's being devoured by the mud.
As I'm back at my home sweet home,
I'm left feeling all alone. By Stefan Botha



Waiting

I'm waiting,
Where could he be?
The day has come,
But where is he?

I'm still waiting,
The bells ^{have} been ring,
Everyone's arrived,
But my son.

I'm still waiting,
for him to appear,
Where could he be?
Has he forgotten about me?

I've received the letter,
A moment of silence,
Tears filled my heart,
Forever waiting for my son,
My son.

By Samia



Over the top

The whistle goes the lads go over the top
almost the second they cl; half get shot.
As they they sprint so fast and lose their breath
like a race track that leads only to death.

Now there are no men but graves
to celebrate the boys who were so brave.
It's almost time for me to conclude
so if you see a veteran, try not to be rude.

These men fought for their lives
with so little chance of coming out alive.
Now we have remembering days
where we can close our eyes and say "thank you for allowing us to be great"

Raiden 65



School Value Focus: Learning & Resilience

Across the school and during assembly, we have been talking about learning and resilience.

Class teachers have been talking to their children about what it feels like when we find things easy versus when we find things challenging. The children came up with some good examples of how it feels to be in the learning pit, and how rewarding it is to get out of the pit too.

If you're not familiar with the learning pit, why not visit our [school website](#) to watch the short video about it with your child.



Harvest Assembly and World Kindness Day

Thank you so much to our Year 5 pupils and staff for delivering a beautiful Harvest Assembly on the last day before half-term. We spent some time to reflect and to express our gratitude for the food we have, and our thankfulness to the farmers who work so hard to grow our food. We also remembered the less fortunate who are struggling and where food isn't easily available.

To celebrate **World Kindness Day this Monday, 13th November**, the Carrington Schools will be coming together to donate to our local community pantry. Many thanks for all the donations received so far. A group of children will help deliver all your kind donations on Tuesday.



To celebrate **World Kindness Day on Monday 13th November**, the Carrington Schools are coming together to donate to our local community pantry.

On Tuesday 14th November, groups of children will help deliver much needed items to the pantry. During the day, we will explain to children the importance of local community pantry and what a difference they are making.

If you can, please donate the following item/s from your child's year group. The items can be dropped to school **from Thursday 9th November**.

Year Group	Community Pantry Needs
Reception	Household cleaning products
Year 1	Nappies and wipes
Year 2	Dried pasta and sauces
Year 3	Basic laundry supplies
Year 4	Tea, instant coffee, squash
Year 5	Basic laundry supplies
Year 6	Basic hygiene items (shower gel, shampoo)

Flackwell Heath's local community pantry is most grateful for your kindness and generosity!



E-safety

Keeping our children safe online is hard! Things are always evolving, and new games and apps are always appearing. The best way we can help with this is to ensure we talk to children in school and at home about the dangers, set limits and make safety checks. 'Google parent link' and 'Microsoft Family Safety' are apps that can help you by setting time and content limits on what your child can see and download. 'Apple Screen Time' also does a similar job. This [linked article](#) gives more information about how to use these apps to keep your child safe, including on X-box.

Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary: emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.

BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 16 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Dates to Remember:

- *Monday 13th November — **World Kindness Day**
- *Thursday 16th November — **Mufti Day + School Disco**
- *Friday 17th November — **Children in Need**. Wear something spotty for a £1 donation to Children in Need
- *Tuesday 21st November— **Year 6 Peer Mentor Training**
- *Wednesday 22nd November — **Show Racism the Red Card** at Wycombe Wanderers / Year 5
- *Tuesday 28th November— **bag2school** clothes collection
- *Tuesday 28th & Wednesday 29th November — **Dogs Trust Workshops** for all Year Groups
- *Friday 1st December — PTA Second Hand **Christmas Jumper Sale**
- *Saturday 2nd December — **Christmas on the Heath**, Carrington Choirs sing @3pm
- *W/c 4th December — **Last week of clubs and intervention groups**
- *Thursday 7th December — **Save The Children's Christmas Jumpers Day** for an optional donation
- *Thursday 7th December — **Year 4 Christingle** @2.15pm
- *Friday 8th December — **Year 3 Stone Age Day**
- *Friday 8th December — Carrington Junior Choir sings with Wycombe Concert Band, **Christmas Concert** at School @7.30pm
- *Wednesday 13th December — **Year 4 Roman Day**
- *Wednesday 13th December — PTA **panto evening** at Wycombe Swan @7pm
- *Thursday 14th December — **Christmas Lunch** (available to order now via [SchoolGrid](#))
- *Thursday 14th December — **SENDCo drop-in session** at 1.30pm
- *Thursday 14th December — **Year 3 Nativity** @2pm
- *Friday 15th December — **Year 3 Nativity** @9.15am
- *Tuesday 19th December — **1.15pm finish** for Christmas Holiday
- *Thursday 4th & Friday 5th January— **Inset Days**
- *Monday 8th January— Children **back to school**



[Click here](#) for the full calendar on the school website (also available on the Eschool App).