



22 May 2026

Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

This half-term seems to have flown by! The last couple of weeks have been particularly busy with the children going on trips out of school, welcoming visitors into school and bringing the culmination of their learning at the end of their current topics. It was lovely to see so many of you in school for the presentations in Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 so the children could share their learning with you. Our children in Year 3 and Year 5 have benefitted from their geography field work trips around town, while Year 6 have had the opportunity to learn and develop more important life-skills at Crucial Crew, preparing them for the greater independence they will have as they move to secondary school. We know how beneficial these real-life, first hand experiences are for the children's learning and I appreciate all the extra effort put in by the staff and parents who have supported us to ensure they can run smoothly.



Our Year 6 children did us proud last week during SATs week. There was a dedicated and purposeful buzz around the Year 6 classrooms with the children going into the SATs confident in their ability to sit each test and do their best. SATs week gives us an opportunity to step back and see just how far the children have progressed academically over the past seven years and there was a real sense of pride and achievement for every child at the end of a challenging week. Well done to each and every one of them! I am extremely grateful to our staff who volunteered to come in early to provide an additional breakfast club for the children last week and ensure that they were calm and focused before each test. The tests have all been packaged up and sent off for marking and I will share the results with you before the end of the academic year.

We also had important Online Safety workshops led by the Two Johns last week. The sessions were adapted for each year group and focused on the main dangers the children face online. Some of the biggest concerns came from the children's access to devices and using them alone in their bedrooms. The Two Johns were clear that this is a real problem across all ages currently and it is important that boundaries are set on where and when children should be accessing devices. The recording of their parent workshop can be accessed [here](#) and it is available until 11th June. I strongly recommend everyone taking some time to watch it and get a better understanding of the current issues the children face and how we can best protect them while they are online. The feedback from parents who have already been on the training was really positive: *'Excellent talk and information, this should be mandatory!'*

Looking ahead, we have Interfaith Week on the first week back after the half-term holiday which will provide an opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the diversity in our school and wider community. Each year group will be focusing on a story from a different religion and getting an understanding of the meaning behind it and how it links to the values of that religion. They will then share their new learning with their buddy class and find out about the religion they have been studying.

The final half-term is also busy with many other events to look forward to, including Sports Days, Break the Rules Day, PTA Colour Run and a focus on supporting the children through the transition to their new classes. Please see the [calendar](#) for further details of dates and timings.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and fingers crossed we get some warm, sunny weather to enjoy. **A reminder that we have an INSET Day on Monday 1st June so the children will be returning at 8:45am on Tuesday 2nd June.**

Kind regards,

Stephen Jess
Headteacher



EYFS

Yummy Fruit and Veg!

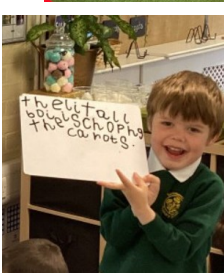
In Early Years, our learning has focused on growing plants and healthy food over the last few weeks, inspired by the stories *The Enormous Turnip*, *Oliver's Vegetables* and *Oliver's Fruit Salad* by Vivian French. The children have loved exploring the wide variety of fruits and vegetables we eat and discussing how they differ in colour, texture, taste and appearance. We talked about which fruits and vegetables can be grown in the UK and which need warmer climates, learning that some foods, such as bananas, must travel from other countries before they reach our shops. We talked about the variety of textures, shapes and colours of different fruit and veg and the children used a fantastic range of descriptive vocabulary such as smooth, shiny, crunchy, juicy and bumpy. In Nursery, the children then made their own fruit kebabs, choosing to include their favourite fruits and perhaps being adventurous and trying one or two they were less familiar with.

In literacy, the Reception children have been developing their speaking, reading and writing skills through a range of practical and creative activities. They wrote shopping lists for their favourite fruits and vegetables, sounding out words using their phonic knowledge and drawing pictures to match. We have also continued building vocabulary by describing different foods using adjectives, and practising reading and writing tricky words through sensory activities such as mark making in sand. The children greatly enjoyed learning and performing poems together, showing increasing confidence when speaking aloud and supporting one another during performances. Throughout the week, in both Reception and Nursery, there have been many opportunities for imaginative storytelling and role play, including pretending to run fruit and vegetable shops which helps to develop communication and collaboration skills.

In maths, we have continued exploring addition, subtraction and sharing through practical, hands-on activities in Reception. The children used cubes, ten frames and playdough to solve simple number problems and explain their thinking. We have also been learning about equal sharing, carefully dividing groups of fruit between bowls and checking that each group had the same amount. Alongside this, across Early Years the children have explored shape and construction through building models and creating representations using a range of resources. It has been wonderful to see their growing confidence when counting, recognising numbers and applying mathematical ideas during play.

Our creative activities this week have focused on looking carefully at fruits and vegetables. The children used magnifying glasses to examine the inside and outside of different foods, noticing seeds, segments, textures and patterns before creating detailed artwork using paint, pastels and collage materials. The Nursery children made fantastic patterns by printing with vegetables and noticing the different shapes that different vegetables made. They also developed their fine motor skills through weaving, painting and cutting activities.

Outdoors and in Forest School, the children continued exploring the natural world through sensory scavenger hunts and planting activities. The children are taking great care of the seeds they planted in our veg patches and are hoping to have the first shoots of our very own vegetables soon. 🌱🥕🥦





Year 1

Animal Experts

Year 1 ended their *Going Wild* topic with a brilliant visit from Spirit of the Wild. Ben brought a huge range of animals to Summercroft. We started the session with Steve the millipede and Nope the spider. We then were introduced to a python, a barn owl, a frog, a fruit bat and a blue-tongued skink lizard. The children were on stink watch when Ben brought out a skunk! Ice the husky finished the show by showing off his tricks to the children. It was a super morning.

In English, the children have completed their alternative version of *One Day on our Blue Planet...on the Savannah*. We are incredibly proud of their books. They have used their ostrich expertise to share the story of an ostrich chick and have created illustrations to accompany their writing.

Year 1 have also become nature explorers, using their knowledge on trees to venture around our local area and spot the evergreen and deciduous trees within Summercroft. We used the leaves to identify the name of the tree. We found nearly all the trees which the classes are inspired from.

The parents and carers joined the Summercroft Safari. They were led by our team of Year 1 African experts. Just like our hero David Attenborough, they could impart their learning confidently and knowledgeably. It was a great showcase of the children's learning. Thank you to the parents for their continued support and enthusiasm.





Year 2

Ambulance Please!

Another half term has flown by and so has another topic! The children demonstrated empathy and understanding when learning about the life of Mary Seacole. They learnt about the prejudices that she had to overcome and how brave she was. They then used their knowledge about her to write biographies. Our work on her led us on to learn about how medical care has changed over the years and we made a comparison between Victorian hospitals and hospitals today. The children had the opportunity to taste a variety of herbal tea. This included lemon and ginger, berries, chamomile and peppermint – we had a mixture of which tea was the favourite!



To help bring this topic to life, we were very lucky to have a visit from Andy, who is a paramedic. He talked to us about the very important job he does and showed us their lifesaving equipment bags. The children were very enthusiastic and were keen to be involved, asking questions and volunteering. They particularly enjoyed entering the ambulance and trying on some of the uniform. Andy showed us how to bandage people with injuries, so we decided to have a go ourselves. Some were more successful than others!

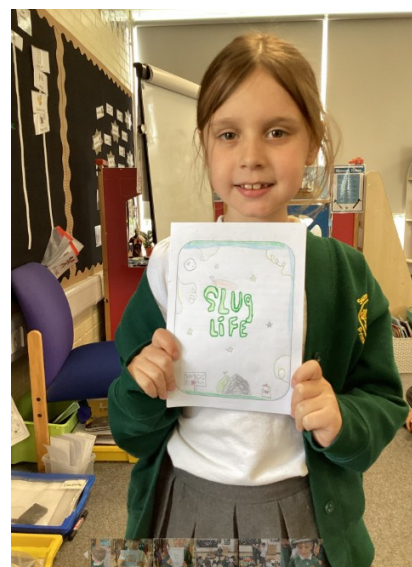
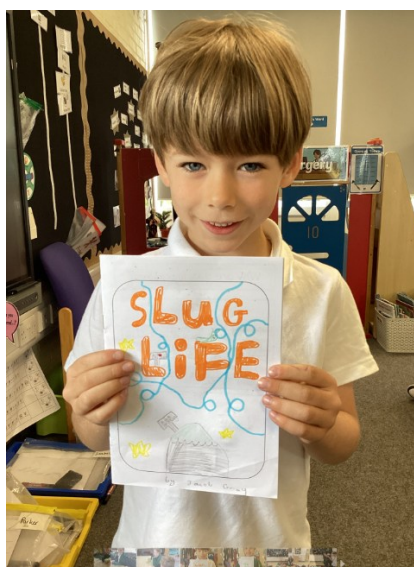


Our learning in English has continued to be inspired by the book *Slug Life* and it culminated with the children writing a fact file about slugs. They thoroughly enjoyed making mini books to share their information.

A few reminders of the exciting things going on next half term:

- Sports day on Monday 15th June - children will need a t-shirt in their house colour
- Music festival at South Mill Arts Centre on Monday 22nd June

We hope you have a lovely half term break.



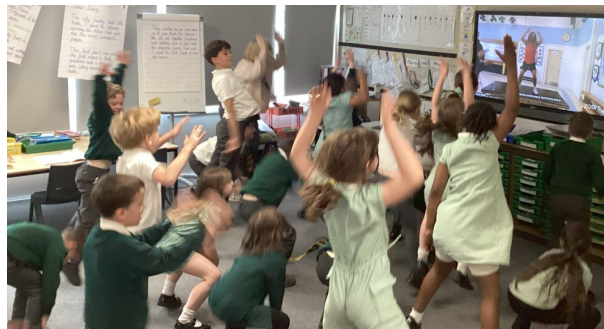


Year 3

Global Celebrations & Active Minutes!

This week, Year 3 joined millions of children worldwide for two spectacular online events. First, we tuned in to a historic global broadcast to celebrate the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough! The children loved learning more about his incredible lifetime of work protecting our planet, and it sparked some wonderful classroom discussions about how we can look after our own local environment.

Following that inspiration, we traded our pencils for trainers and took part in a high-energy Joe Wicks online workout. This phenomenal event was broadcast to schools all across the globe, breaking records as over 1 million people took part at the exact same time! Year 3 gave it 100% effort, jumping, lunging and smiling their way through the session. It was a fantastic way to celebrate health, fitness, and global community spirit.



Poetic Stars Performance

In addition to our global adventures, Year 3 has been bursting with creativity as we dove into the CLiPPA (Centre for Literacy in Primary Poetry Award) shortlist! Working hard together in groups, the children explored the shortlisted poems, chose their absolute favourite piece, and collaborated on how to bring it to life. They decided on actions, expressions and how to perform the verses together as a team. We have filmed their fantastic performances and sent them off to the official competition. Fingers crossed, we may have a finalist this year to follow in the footsteps of Jack and Cuddus, students from our current Year 6 classes.



Year 4

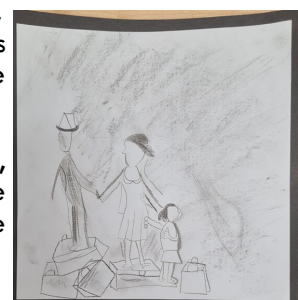
Don't Worry, About a Thing, 'Cause Every Little Thing, Gonna Be All Right!

This week saw the culmination of the children's hard work with their Windrush presentation. We were so proud that all the children had something important to convey through art, singing, dance, performance poetry and creative writing. They did an impressive job demonstrating their understanding of the Windrush Generation's experiences and their fabulous singing was a fitting finale to this topic.

The children also impressed us last week with their brilliant poetry performances when we took part in the shadowing scheme for the CLiPPA, which is the UK's leading prize for poetry for children. They chose poems from a selection from the shortlisted poetry collections then worked hard to prepare engaging performances which will be entered into a competition. Fingers crossed that one of our performances will catch the judges' eyes!

In recent science lessons, the children have built on their knowledge of animal groups, focusing on common carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. They explored how an animal's diet influences the structure of its teeth and discovered why humans have more than one type of tooth.

The children have been busy learning their times tables at school and at home. In class, they have been looking at some handy ways to break down their times tables and make them easier. Using 'Soundcheck' on TTRS we can see how far the children have come. We are very proud of your progress - keep up the hard work over half term!





Year 5

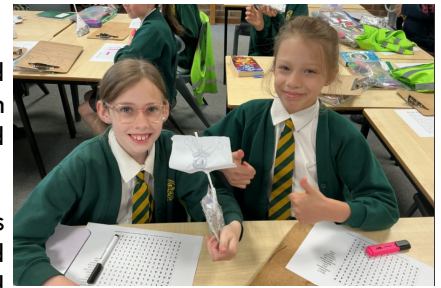
Year 5 Go with the Flow!

Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic river trip packed with investigation, teamwork and plenty of fun! As part of the visit, the children designed and made their own boats, carefully thinking about streamlining to reduce water resistance and making them waterproof using foil and tape.

Once the boats were complete, they were released from the bridge in groups of five. Many made it successfully to the finish line, while some landed awkwardly and didn't quite make it off the starting line! Others were slowed down by obstacles along the way, but lots of fun was had by all and the children enjoyed seeing how their designs performed in the river.

During the more geographical part of the trip, the children investigated the speed of the river. They split into six groups and timed how long it took a stick to travel over a 10-metre stretch of water. Each group took three recordings before calculating an average time and presenting their findings in a graph. From their results, the children discovered that the flow of the river slowed as it got closer to the park.

A huge thank you to Mrs Walton, Mrs Verbrugge and Mr Perdigao for accompanying us on the trip and helping to make the morning such a success.



Poetry Superstars in Hazel and Sycamore!

The classrooms have been absolutely buzzing with creativity over the last two weeks as we dived headfirst into CLPE's CLiPPA National Poetry Competition! Spurred on by our year group's incredible winning entry last year, the children could not wait to explore this year's shortlisted books. From the irresistible actions of *Five Little Friends* and the fascinating world of *A First Book of Bugs*, to the video-game-inspired verses of *Press Start to Play*, the powerful words in *This Is Not A Small Voice*, and the legendary work in *The Poetry World of John Agard*, there was truly something to capture every single imagination.

The children have been busy choosing, developing and practising their favourite poems, beautifully combining their speaking and listening skills with a real passion for performance. We have been absolutely blown away by the initial outcomes; the children have shown incredible determination, support for one another, and a fantastic growth mindset. We will be filming their final performances shortly to send off to the competition judges, and regardless of the results, we are already so proud of them all! Be sure to ask your child which poem they chose—we are certain they will be more than happy to give you a spectacular sneak-peek performance at home!



Year 6

Performance, Poetry, and Pride

We are incredibly proud of the children for their attitude and efforts during SATs week. They truly put into practice everything they have learnt, and it was wonderful to see their confidence grow as they got more papers under their belt. Well done to everyone involved! We also want to extend a big thank you to the team of adults who gave up their time to help, including those who came in early to prepare and host the SATs breakfast each morning.

Post SATs, the children had a chance to reminisce on a special memory from Year 5: their visit to the National Theatre to watch Jack and Cuddus perform after winning the CLiPPA award performance competition. This served as perfect inspiration as we prepared our entries for this year. After a "poetry papering" session, where the children browsed a wide range of poems from this year's award nominees, they prepared performances individually or in groups. These were performed in front of the class and filmed for submission. We were so pleased to see a wide range of interpretations and were impressed by the children's creativity.

On another performance vein, the cat is finally out of the bag! Our end-of-year play title has been revealed, and the children have been given their scripts to begin learning their lines. Rehearsals will start in earnest after half term. We were really proud of all the children who took risks to audition for parts. While we wish every child could have received the specific lines they wanted, we are excited to see every student shine in their given role.

In the classroom, a small group of children have been working hard to finish a special project based on the Suffragettes where they have been exploring the historic places and buildings associated with the campaign for franchise. Oliver, Henry, Skye, Aisha and Ella have researched diligently and presented their learning creatively. It has been a fantastic way to showcase their hard work and historical understanding.

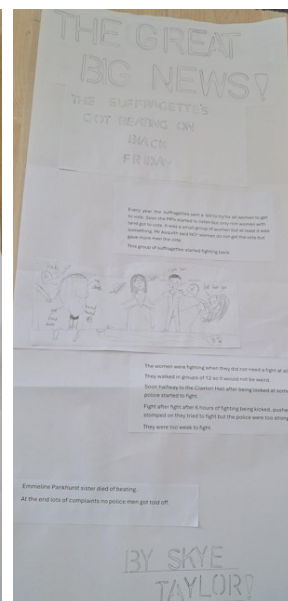
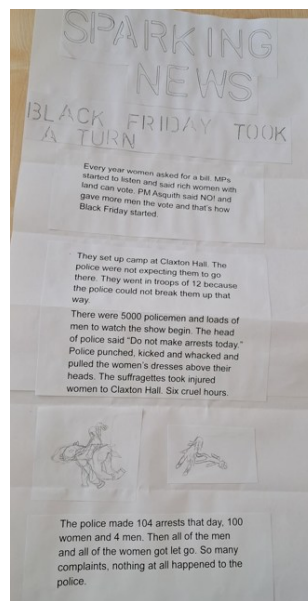
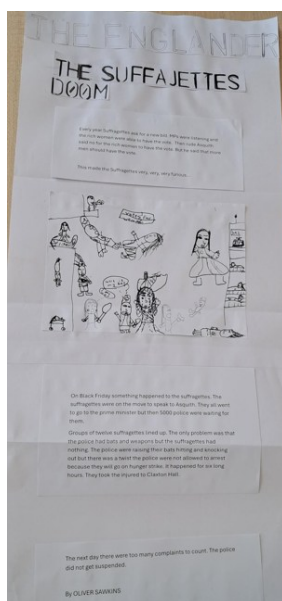
Building on these themes of history and change, the children have also been busy starting to create piece of artwork focused on activism. They have begun to use various artistic mediums to express their views on important social issues, learning how visual imagery can be a powerful tool for advocacy. The passion and thought they are putting into these pieces show a deep maturity and a desire to make a positive impact on the world around them.



Finally, our trip to Crucial Crew at the Barnabus Centre was an incredibly informative experience. The children heard from a range of organisations and professionals, learning valuable lessons about how to keep themselves safe as they move towards the increasing independence of secondary school.

We hope you all have a restful and safe half term break and the children come back to school ready to make the most of their final half term at Summercroft!

The Year 6 Team





SEND Updates

We would like to make you aware of some of the local support available for parents of children with SEND.



You can find lots of articles to support children's wellbeing and emotional health [here](#).

Please access the Developing Special Provision Locally, Area 3 (DSPL3) website and Facebook page linked below. There you will find a range of helpful information, advice, courses and further SEN support.

DSPL3 Website- [Developing Special Provision Locally \(DSPL\) 3 - Home](#)

DSPL3 Facebook page- [Delivering Special Provision Locally Area 3 - East Herts | Facebook](#)

There are also a range of other support groups, including:

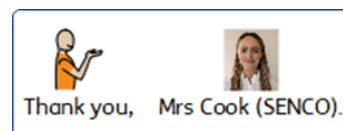
[SPACE Hertfordshire – Supporting families in Hertfordshire | Autism | ADHD | Neurodiversity](#)

[ADD-vance](#)- The ADHD and Autism Trust- courses include 'Understanding my ADHD'.

[Families in Focus | Courses for Parents, Hertfordshire](#)

[Families Feeling Safe](#) • Protective Behaviours training, courses and workshops.

SENDIASS- [Home](#)- Info, advice and support with the SEN systems.



New SEN Signposts:

Most recent DSPL3 Parent Newsletter available [here](#).

Flyer for the next DSPL3 Coffee Morning on page 9.

Flyer for 'All Abilities Active' SEN sports club with free trial available on page 10.



Punctuality Matters!

Thank you!

There has been only one day since Easter that our attendance has been below 96%! Thank you for your support in our drive to improve attendance. It makes such a difference to your child's wellbeing and learning.

Did you know?

The early work in our classes helps the children to embed and practise the skills that they have learnt previously.

Our registers close at 8:55am.

Missed minutes = missed learning = missed opportunities!

Being frequently late for school means lost learning:

- o Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days lost each year.
- o Arriving 15 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 2 weeks a year.
- o Arriving 30 minutes late every day is the same as being absent for 19 days a year.

Our school attendance policy can be found [here](#).

If you need advice or support regarding attendance or punctuality please contact our Pastoral Lead, Mrs Willis, at jo.willis@summercroft.herts.sch.uk.





Delivering Special
Provision Locally



DSPL3 Parent Coffee Morning, 20th May 2026 10am - 11.30am, St Michaels, CM233SN

You are invited to a relaxed and supportive coffee morning designed to offer valuable information and networking opportunities.

- Connect with other parents and carers
- Share experiences and gain insights into various topics that matter to you
- Practical advice & emotional support
- Meet and chat with others in a similar situation
- Bring any questions or topics you'd like to discuss
- Professionals in attendance including Early Years, Outreach, Family Support, Behaviour Support, DSPL and SENDIASS

We look forward to seeing you there and fostering a strong, supportive community together!

Young Carers

Many young people qualify to be classed as a young carer. A young carer is a young person who, due to the needs of another family member (including siblings), has adaptations to their general childhood.

If you feel that your child may be eligible to be classed as a young carer, or has been identified and you think that we may be unaware, please contact Mrs Willis via the school office.

For more information, please see the link below, plus details of how the service is changing.

[Young carers in Hertfordshire | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

From 1 April 2026, Hertfordshire County Council will be bringing support for young carers in-house, when the young carer contract with Carers in Hertfordshire comes to an end, integrating it fully within the council's services.

The existing Carers in Hertfordshire contract for adult carers will remain in place.

Work has been ongoing with young carers, families and professionals to make sure the change is smooth, and the support will continue and stay very similar. This includes assessments, help with managing caring responsibilities, regular reviews, ensuring the voices of young carers inform the support they receive, and support in preparing for adulthood.



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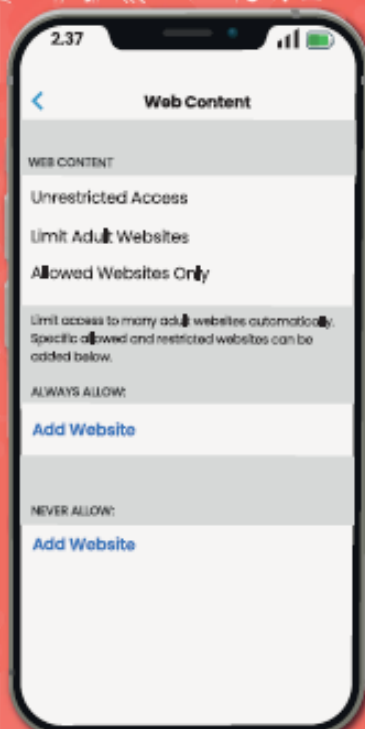
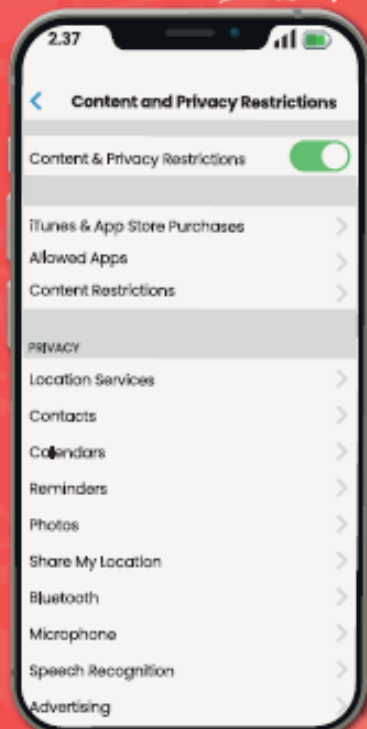


At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one issue of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware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

How to Set up PARENTAL CONTROLS to limit age-inappropriate CONTENT iPhone



The parental controls on iPhones allow you to block or restrict certain apps, features, content, downloads, or purchases. Setting limitations on content ratings, Siri and web searches enables you to filter out age-inappropriate content and vastly reduce the likelihood of your children being exposed to unsuitable material and information.



18+ Set up content rating restrictions

Content filters keep your child from viewing unsuitable material. They block apps, films and TV shows with specific age ratings, and music and podcasts with explicit content.

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Enable Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions
- 5 Choose the Settings for each feature you wish to restrict



Set up web restrictions

Website content filters restrict age-inappropriate content on Safari. You can also blacklist certain websites or allow access only to approved sites.

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions
- 4 Tap Web Content
- 5 Choose between Unrestricted Access, Limit Adult Websites and Allowed Websites Only
- 7 Choose which websites you wish to allow/block

Set up Siri web search restrictions

You can screen out explicit language to avoid Siri displaying inappropriate results. You could also disable Siri entirely, so your child can't use it to search the web.

- 1 Open Settings
- 2 Tap Screen Time
- 3 Tap Content & Privacy Restrictions
- 4 Tap Content Restrictions
- 5 Scroll Down to Siri
- 6 Choose to block either or both Web Search Content and Explicit Language