



# Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Joseph's,

6th March 2026

Spring has certainly been in the air this week, and school has been bustling with activity. We began with our World Book Day celebrations, themed Fantastic Fairytales. The children were full of excitement as they took part in theatre workshops inspired by Hansel and Gretel and The Elves and the Shoemaker. Thank you to all our parents for providing such wonderful costumes, and to the staff who joined in so enthusiastically to inspire a love of reading. We also welcomed Mrs Fordyce into school to share more about the important work CAFOD is doing around the world. We would like to say thank you to her for her volunteering her time so generously and for her continued commitment to leading our Sacramental Programme.

On Tuesday afternoon, we gathered in the school hall for our Lent Mass. The theme was having a generous heart, and Father Mark spoke beautifully about the scripture of the Poor Widow, who gave only two coins—yet gave everything she had. In Jesus' eyes, her gift was greater than that of the rich. Father Mark reminded the children of the simple but powerful call to be kind to one another throughout Lent and beyond.

Our busy week continued on Wednesday with an evaluation day led by Mrs Peel, an advisor from the Archdiocese of Liverpool. She observed Religious Education, Prayer and Liturgy across school and spoke with staff and pupils. She also met with governors and shared many positive reflections about the reverence, behaviour and Catholic life of our school. I am incredibly proud of all our children and staff. Well done to everyone at St Joseph's.

On Thursday, we interviewed Samantha Haydock for the role of School Business Support Officer. Following a successful morning, governors have appointed her, and we look forward to welcoming Mrs Haydock to the team from 1st May 2026. She has worked in schools throughout her career and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that will help St Joseph's continue to flourish. A reminder that Mrs Cox's final day will be Friday 20th March. We will hold a special Celebration Assembly at 2.50pm, and all are warmly invited to attend and thank Mrs Cox for her enormous contribution to our school over the past 9 years.

Thank you to the parents who joined our online PSHE information event last night. If you were unable to attend and would like further information, please contact the school office.

Please do make a note of the Lent fundraising activities over the next pages and support our School if you can. Have a wonderful weekend!

*Mrs Bridge*

*St Joseph, most loving and watchful father,  
Pray for Us...*



### Class Romero

It has been a beautiful, sunny and busy week in Class Romero! We have loved taking our learning outdoors— the children have thoroughly enjoyed exploring, investigating, and discovering new things in our outdoor environment. We began the week with an incredible World Book Day, filled with exciting activities and inspiring workshops. The children looked absolutely superb in their costumes!

Year 1 have been busy planning and writing their own adventure stories, and their work has been fantastic. They have all put in such great effort—well done, Year 1! Reception have continued developing their sentence writing, and they are all making brilliant progress. We also had a wonderfully messy outdoor art lesson, experimenting with mark-making and colour mixing. In RE, we have been learning about the first part of Holy Week and creating our own palm leaves ready for our parade. Alongside this, we have delved further into our explorers unit, looking at some extraordinary journeys made by significant people from around the world.

I am very much looking forward to meeting with you all at parents' evening.



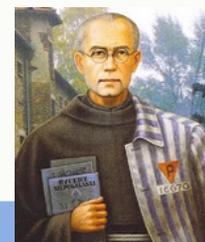
Miss McEvoy



### Class Acutis

This week has flown by! We had an exciting start with our World Book Day celebrations, the children looked great and were very enthusiastic during the drama workshop. I could definitely spot some future performers! On Monday we were also lucky enough to have a lesson from Mrs Fordyce on how CAFOD is helping around the world and how we can join in too. This linked perfectly to our work in RE which this week was based around The Parable of the Nations. The children also enjoyed the visit from Pat Peel and were very excited to invite her to join our daily meditation using the Open for Lent resource. In PE the Year 4 children have taken to their swimming sessions like ducks to water, meanwhile Year 2 and Year 3 have demonstrated how far their team building skills have come as part of our unit on OOA. We also checked in with our automaton prototypes and did some problem solving. The children know what their next steps need to be. These are just the highlights - no wonder the week has flown!

Mrs Lawman



### Class Kolbe

It has been another incredibly busy yet wonderfully productive week in Class Kolbe. We began our week in the most exciting way on Monday as we celebrated World Book Day, with the children arriving in a fabulous array of costumes that truly brought the joy of reading to life. Throughout the day, we explored Anthony Browne's version of Hansel and Gretel through a variety of engaging activities, including comprehension work, symbol spotting in the illustrations, improving the story's ending, and even creating our own scenes inspired by the text. We ended the day with a fantastic 'West End in Schools' workshop, where the children took part in a range of drama and movement activities. Also this week, we enjoyed a CAFOD workshop that focused on the importance of Catholic social teaching and supporting communities around the world. The children became project managers and thoughtfully decided how they would best use funds to support communities in El Salvador as they face challenges such as crime and limited opportunities. We also had a wonderful PSHE lesson centred on making healthy lifestyle choices and understanding the importance of looking after God's creation—ourselves. All in all, another great week!

Miss Bottomley

# Updates, Attendance & Key Reminders

**Non-Uniform Day:** Next Friday (March 13<sup>th</sup>) will be a non-uniform day on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> March when we would like children to bring in donations of chocolate eggs in lieu of coming in their own clothes. These eggs will be used as prizes for the PTFA Easter Bingo.

**Easter Bingo ...** is taking place on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March at the Parish Hall. If you would like to attend, please send your money to the school office. It costs £1 per adult and 50p per child.

**Parents Evening:** Is on Monday (March 9<sup>th</sup>) starting at 3.30pm.

**Stations of the Cross:** Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 2pm in school. All are welcome to attend.

**Martin Mere trip:** This is taking place for pupils in Class Romero on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March. Please make sure you have completed the consent forms and made a contribution towards the cost of transport and the entrance fee.

**Let's Go Sing:** Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> March at Blackburn Ice Arena. Let us know who will be collecting your child at the end of the concert by completing the form on School Spider.

**Hoghton Tower trip:** The Class Acutis trip is taking place on Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> March. Please make sure you have completed the consent forms and made a contribution towards the cost of transport and the entrance fee.

**Easter Garden Competition closes:** 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**CAFOD Coin Battle:** 2<sup>nd</sup> March - 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

Attendance		
Year Group	Weekly	Year
Reception	<b>100%</b>	94.3%
Year One	87.7%	94.7%
Year Two	92.5%	97.3%
Year Three	<b>100%</b>	96.3%
Year Four	98.8%	95.7%
Year Five	99.1%	93.8%
Year Six	92.4%	95.5%
School Total	95.1%	95.4%

## Children's Liturgy St Bede's & St Joseph's Parish

This week is the 3rd Sunday of Lent. In the Gospel Jesus is thirsty and so he asks a Samaritan woman for a drink from the well. The woman is surprised because normally Jews and Samaritans did not get along.

It was also unusual at the time for a man to talk to a woman he didn't know.

But even though it is unusual, Jesus talks to the woman anyway. Why do you think he does this? Jesus is showing us that God loves everyone. No matter who they are, where they come from or the colour of their skin – man or woman, boy or girl, rich or poor.

Even though we are all different, we still need the same things to live. We all need water to drink. We need food to eat. A safe place to live, somewhere to learn and someone to look after us when we are sick. God also knows everything there is to know about us.

God calls us to love and care for all people no matter who they are, because we are all part of one global family. We are called to help each other when things are difficult and to work together to make the world a better place for everyone to live in.

So this week let's do what we can to help other people. Let's treat those who are different to us with kindness and respect. Let's share with others and try to live in peace.

It was lovely to see some of Year 4 children at St Bede's on Thursday as they start their Sacramental Journey.

Little Church 11am St Bede's. We would love to see you.  
Children's Liturgy Team

# ST. JOSEPH'S COIN BATTLE 2026

WHAT?	WHEN?	WHY?	WHO WILL WIN?
Bring in coins to school to help your class to collect the most points.	Lent 2026 2 <sup>nd</sup> March - 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026	To raise money for our Lenten Charity, CAFOD.	The class with the most points at the end of the period will win a class prize!
POSITIVE POINTS	NEGATIVE POINTS	YOUR CHOICE	HOW?
Bring in the following coins to add positive points to your class jar. 1p = 1 point 2p = 2 points 5p = 5 points 10p = 10 points	Bring in the following coins to add negative points to another class's jar. 20p = -20 points 50p = -50 points £1 = -100 points	You can choose to bring in coins to add to your classes jar and/or bring in coins to take points from the class of your choosing's jar.	Bring in all coins and add them to the jar of your choosing! Think carefully!

## The Sacramental Programme Information

St Bede's Sacramental Preparation 2026  
All preparation sessions are held in St Bede's Church at 6.30pm and will be over before 7.30pm.

~~Session One 26<sup>th</sup> February~~

~~Session Two 5<sup>th</sup> March~~

Session Three 12<sup>th</sup> March

Service of First Reconciliation 19<sup>th</sup> March  
6.30pm

Session Four 18<sup>th</sup> June

Session Five 25<sup>th</sup> June

Session Six 2<sup>nd</sup> July

Celebration of First Holy Communion  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 11am

# Brindle St. Joseph's Easter Reflection Garden Competition

On Friday 27th March,  
we are going to hold a  
competition for the  
finest Easter Reflection  
Garden



PRIZE  
for each  
class  
winner!

to enter with all  
money going to  
our charity,  
CAFOD.

£1



Anyone from  
EYFS to Year 6  
can enter.





This Week in Pictures



St Joseph, most loving and watchful father.  
Pray for Us...



# ART COMPETITION

## **Design a Picture to Celebrate An Historic Year for St' Josephs**

**This year marks a truly significant moment in the life of our school and parish community. We invite all children and families to take part in a special art competition. We are looking for a design that captures the spirit, memories, and hope of this historic year—something that reflects who we are, where we have come from, and the legacy we will carry forward. This competition is open to both children and adults. Entries must be on A4 paper or card (Portrait or landscape) and sent into school before the closing date: 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, and the winning design will be made into a large, permanent mural displayed at the heart of our school. We look forward to seeing your fantastic creations. Good luck!**

**Entries must be sent to:  
Main Office at St Joseph's Catholic  
Primary, Brindle, PR5 0DQ  
or email a photograph/copy of your  
design to [secretary@st-josephs-  
houghton.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:secretary@st-josephs-houghton.lancs.sch.uk)**



Wednesday 4th March 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

In this Sunday's Gospel we have a witty dialogue between Jesus and the Samaritan woman drawing water at the well, where each seems to be teasing the other.

Water is a sign of life. The 'living water' is the sign of everything that Jesus offers us to satisfy our need of God's love and guidance. With its serious message, this Sunday's Gospel is a lovely example of Jesus' willingness to engage with people just as they are – and that includes us too!

God has no favourites; we are all loved equally by God. The season of Lent presents a great opportunity for everyone to enter afresh into the living and nourishing water of God's love which surpasses any food or drink.

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's words, which are **GOD'S LOVE**.

Dom Henry Wansbro



A Word from the Saints

*"God's love is a spring of living water which flows constantly into the hearts of those who pray." St Louis de Montfort*

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2026



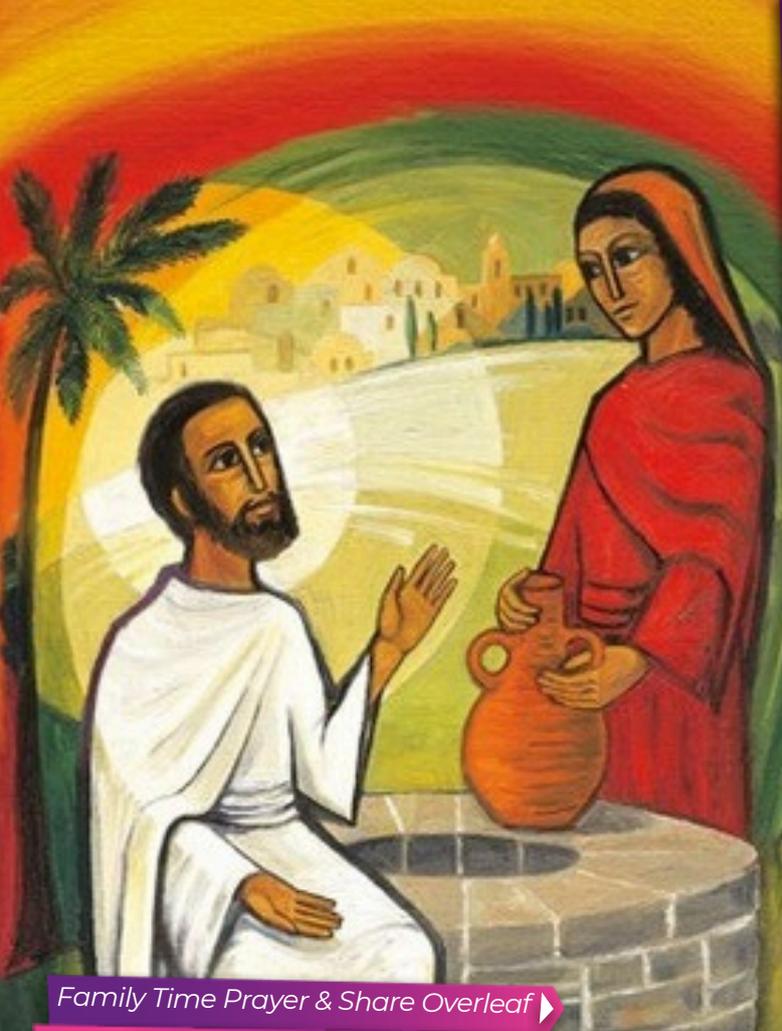
Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar and, tired by the journey, sat straight down at Jacob's well.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." She

was taken by surprise because Jews and Samaritans rarely spoke to each other. She replied, "What? You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink of water when Jews and Samaritans don't have anything to do with each other?" Jesus replied: "If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: 'Give me a drink,' you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water." "You have no bucket, sir," she answered, "and the well is deep: how could you get this living water?" Jesus replied:

"Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside them, welling up to eternal life." "Sir," said the woman, "give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty again."

*Adapted from John 4:5-15,19-26,39-42  
The 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year A*



Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf ▶

### Good News for Everyone

The living water which Jesus talks about in this Sunday's Gospel reminds us of the powerful way that God's love flows into people when they are baptised. As we hear of Jesus' love for people throughout the Gospel stories, we can be certain of God's love for each one of us today.

# Thrive activities useful for parents of children up to 11 years old – week one

Parents and carers can support and acknowledge children's emerging values and morals and individual ways of doing things. Parents can teach children the significance of rules and regulations and support them to develop their negotiation skills. Children enjoy sharing their options and using their skills.

We have put together some daily activities to support social and emotional development through the arts, play and creativity.

Monday	Devise an exercise routine using funky moves. We would love to see them; share with us on social media!
Tuesday	Design your own game and play with the people in your house.
Wednesday	Draw a jar and fill it with all the things you appreciate.
Thursday	Do the dog and hippo dance with all your family. <a href="#">Watch it here.</a>
Friday	Sort the recycling from the rubbish and make a junk model with what you can find – send us a photo!
Saturday	Cook something you have never cooked before for everyone for dinner.
Sunday	Play the game 'Beetle' with all the family. Find out how to play <a href="#">here.</a>

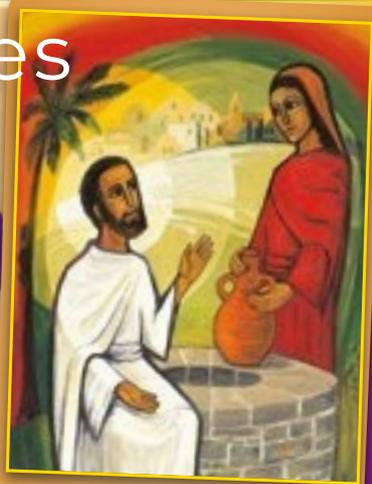
## Top Tips:

- ✓ Draw up a routine of what you are doing and when.
- ✓ Keep cardboard boxes or clean recycling objects to use for arts later.
- ✓ The emphasis is to be alongside and have fun, even if they do not win the game or things don't quite go to plan.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



Sunday Gospel Gallery  
Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

### 1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Jesus came to a town called Sychar and, tired by the journey, sat down besides Jacob's well. A Samaritan woman came to fill her jug with water from the well. Jesus asked her for a drink and said: "Whoever drinks the water from this well will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the living water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will be like a spring of flowing water inside them that gives everlasting life." "Sir," said the woman, "please give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty again."

What is special about the water that Jesus offers?

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.

### 2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love : This Wednesday's Words...

"God loves each of us as if there were only one of us to love." *St Augustine of Hippo*

### GOD'S LOVE



God is love and all love comes from God. Ask your child what the words 'God's love' mean to them. We can often see God's love at work through the goodness in people around us. Where does your child see God's love? Who are the people who stand out as someone who shares God's love with others? How does that person show love? It may help your child if you can give an example of your own.

The more we experience and share God's love, the happier we become. Each of you say how you usually experience God's love. Perhaps it is through: the love of your family or other people; help from others; the sacraments; spending time with Jesus in prayer, at home or in Church. Then each of you choose a way in which you will especially share God's love with someone in this coming week.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, please help our family to grow in your love and to share your love with others through the way we live our lives. Amen.



J S E J J V N B L W V N  
E E V E R L A S T I N G  
L C S S M I M W L L N R  
D U N U A V O P V I A N  
S G H S J I W F T V T P  
L W N V W N H S B I I W  
N O V I B G A R H G R N  
U M S L V L G W E N A E  
S A M A R I T A N T M B  
W N M E V V L T R M A S  
G I V E S N R E W N S W  
U E S L I F E R E F I L

### WEDNESDAY WORD SEARCH

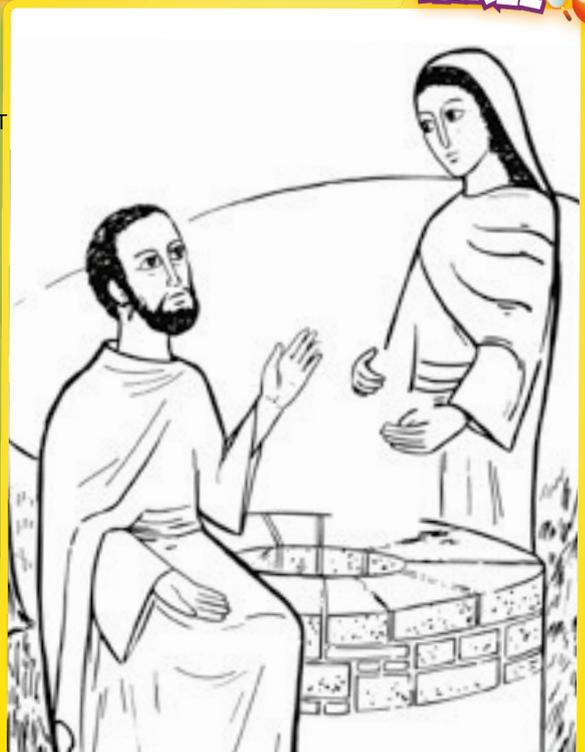
SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- SAMARITAN
- WOMAN
- JESUS
- GIVES
- LIVING
- WATER
- EVERLASTING
- LIFE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters o l m in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.  
wolaterm thimrsolty lodrimnks gimovel

"Anyone who \_\_\_\_\_ the living \_\_\_\_\_ that I shall \_\_\_\_\_ will never be \_\_\_\_\_ again."



Find the 3 differences, then colour the picture



Through the person he was, and through his teaching and miracles, Jesus showed people that God's love is for everyone. God shares his love with us and calls us to share it with others too.



This week I will try my best to ...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



BRINDLE ST JOSEPH'S  
PTFA

# Easter Bingo

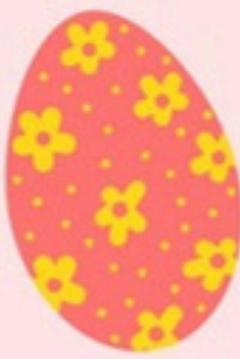


**Ticket Prices:**  
**ADULTS £1**  
**CHILDREN 50p**

FRIDAY 27TH MARCH  
DOORS OPEN - 6PM  
EYES DOWN - 6:30PM

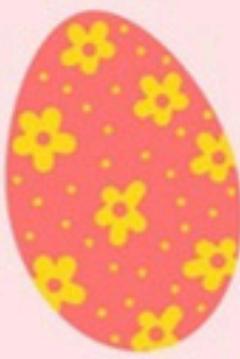


BRINDLE ST JOSEPH'S PARISH HALL  
PR5 0DE  
BRING YOUR OWN BOOZE!



TICKETS ON SALE FRIDAY 6TH MARCH FROM  
THE SCHOOL OFFICE

WE ARE EXPECTING A SELL OUT!



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about STREAMING SERVICES

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVOD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2023.

### ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

### EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

### BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

### HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

### MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some TV shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

### TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

### SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

### Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College