



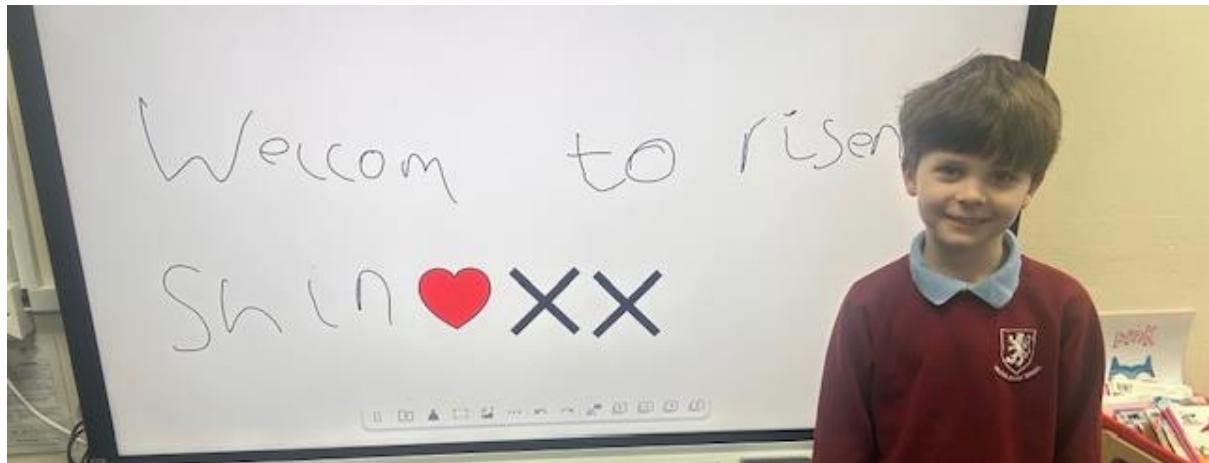
Walter Infant School and Nursery

Monday Mail

Dear Walter Families,

Welcome to the Monday Mail (rather than a Friday Flyer); we will be back to normal at the end of the week.

On Thursday (of last week) both Mrs Simpson and Mrs Adams-Price were poorly, so unable to join us for Rise and Shine Club! However, Mrs Janes stepped up and came to help out (she does not usually work at school on a Thursday)! This is how she was welcomed when she arrived:



Story Suitcase

Last week was national story telling week and Foundation Stage were visited by Louise and her story suitcase. The children had a very exciting time exploring the story and impersonating the characters. There was a lot of growling!



Walter joined in too!

Sycamore Class Assembly

On Thursday Sycamore Class welcomed their families into school to share their learning. It was wonderful to listen to them sharing facts and experiences with such confidence. They all sang beautifully and the gymnastics demonstrations were incredibly impressive. Well done Sycamore Class.





YouTube Kids



We are aware that many of your children access YouTube Kids, which has so much wonderful content for them to enjoy. As educators, we do worry that sometimes the children still see content that they shouldn't.

YouTube Kids promises a safe, child-centric experience with colourful visuals, age-filtered content, and robust parental controls. Designed to appeal to younger viewers, the app has grown rapidly, being used by tens of millions of children worldwide. But is it as safe as it seems?

Despite YouTube Kids' safeguards, reports have highlighted worrying issues, such as inappropriate content slipping through filters, subtle advertising, and the use of manipulative design to keep children engaged. Our guide explores how to navigate these pitfalls, offering practical advice for making sure children get the most from the platform.

How the algorithms work on YouTube Kids

The YouTube Kids algorithm is designed to provide a safe and age-appropriate viewing experience for children. It uses a combination of factors to determine what content is recommended to users.

These factors include:

Watch history: The algorithm considers the videos that a user has watched in the past.

Search history: It also takes into account the videos that a user has searched for in the past.

Channel subscriptions: The algorithm suggests videos from channels that a user is subscribed to.

Trending videos: It suggests trending videos that are popular among other users.

The algorithm considers the age and location of the user to ensure that children are not exposed to inappropriate content. Its primary objective is to maximise engagement, meaning it recommends content that it predicts will hold the attention of the users, including children. This approach helps keep users watching videos for as long as possible, which in turn leads to more time on line and more advertising revenue for platforms! Follow this link for more information [The YouTube algorithm & kids. How to protect kids on YouTube | Kidslox](#)

The YouTube Kids algorithm still has the potential to lead viewers, including children, down a path to inappropriate or harmful content.

Trending videos, which showcase popular content based on factors like view count and engagement, can sometimes include sensational content that gains attention quickly. This makes engaging with your child as they use the platform all the more important, as they will often learn their habits from your guidance or behaviour.

One of the most concerning aspects of YouTube's algorithm is what researchers call the “rabbit hole effect” – where initial innocent content gradually leads to more extreme or inappropriate videos through a chain of recommendations.

The algorithm's method of ranking videos based on user engagement and retention plays a significant role in this process.

Here's how a content rabbit hole usually happens:

A child begins watching age-appropriate content, like a cartoon character or an educational video

- Based on engagement patterns from millions of users, the algorithm suggests slightly more sensationalist content that might hold attention longer
- With each video viewed, recommendations can drift further from appropriate content
- Eventually, the child may encounter videos with inappropriate themes, language, or imagery that weren't actively searched for

Here's an example you may know all too well: Your child might start by watching legitimate dinosaur videos but end up viewing conspiracy theories or frightening content about extinction events. Or they might begin with harmless prank videos only to be recommended increasingly extreme or dangerous stunts.

This guide examines YouTube Kids, a child-friendly version of the video-sharing giant, and explores the risks that may still persist despite the platform's safety-focused design.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about YOUTUBE KIDS

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT BYPASSING FILTERS

YouTube Kids is less likely to show inappropriate material than YouTube, but there have been reports of age-shoving age-inappropriate content to young viewers. One investigation found that YouTube Kids had shown videos that promote skin bleaching, weight loss, drug culture and dreams to children as young as two, as inappropriate content had bypassed the platform's algorithm and human moderators.

BEWARE OF ADVERTISING

Like Google's regular YouTube app, YouTube Kids features pervasive advertising before a video plays. While these ads are designed to be family friendly and are subject to a strict review process, it's worth noting that YouTube Kids collects information around children's viewing to inform targeted content and advertisements.

DESIGNED TO BE ADDICTIVE

YouTube Kids is designed to be addictive. The platform's design features, such as the constant stream of new videos and the reward system of points or virtual stickers, can be very engaging, and make it difficult for children to switch off. Research has shown that spending too much time using digital services such as YouTube can lead to screen addiction, affecting children's daily routines, studies, and even their social lives.

SETTINGS CAN BE CIRCUMVENTED

YouTube Kids offers built-in parental controls, including you to set maximum time and control the content children are able to view; however, children are often more tech-savvy than we think. They can easily bypass or break these settings if they have access to the associated Google account password, thereby exposing themselves to age-inappropriate and potentially dangerous content.

AI-GENERATED MISINFORMATION

There is also a risk of children accessing videos that contain disinformation and misinformation. A BBC investigation found that some YouTube channels are using artificial intelligence (AI) technology to create misleading 'scientific' videos that are recommended to children as educational content. These videos included conspiracy theories and ideas that lack scientific backing.

DATA COLLECTION RISK

While there are limits on the data that YouTube can collect on children under 13, children can still inadvertently give away sensitive information when using YouTube Kids. The platform collects data on children's viewing habits, content searches and location, which YouTube and third-party advertisers can use.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

YouTube Kids offers several settings that allow you to manage what content children can view. For example, you can choose what level of content you want them to access, such as 'Preschool' or 'Younger'. You can also turn off the search function, so that only those videos approved by the YouTube Kids team themselves will appear on a child's recommendations list.

CHECK WATCH HISTORY

YouTube Kids has made it easy for you to keep an eye on what the children in your care have been watching on the app. By clicking on the 'Recommended' icon on the top right of the home screen, you can see which videos they've been viewing, and how much of each. If a child watches YouTube Kids while signed into a Google account, you can check their history through Google's 'My Activity' page.

SET TIME LIMITS

The built-in parental controls let you keep a tab on how long children spend watching videos. You can set a timer that limits screen time and disables the YouTube Kids app once a specified length of time has been reached. It's also worth speaking to children about the dangers of spending too much time on YouTube, to ensure they remain focused on other, more important activities.

WATCH TOGETHER

It's important that you try to make YouTube Kids a fun and positive experience for children. One way to do this is by introducing watching sessions, where you all gather around and share the most enjoyable videos that you have recently watched. This can be a great way of giving you both new things to talk about and of keeping an eye on what they're watching.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced journalist with more than 10 years of experience covering the technology industry. Previously a senior cybersecurity reporter at TechCrunch, Carly is now a freelance journalist, editor, and copywriter. Her bylines include Forbes, TechRadar, Ars, The Inquirer, The Metro, Uswitch, and WIRED.

#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://nationalcollege.com/policy/youtube-kids-2025>

[youtube-kids-2025 \(1\).pdf](https://nationalcollege.com/policy/youtube-kids-2025)

Dancing in PE

The children in Year 1 have been creating their own Winter Dances to 'Let it Snow: they have been extremely imaginative and their performances were magical.



Happy Birthday

We had lots of birthdays this week; the children love celebrating their birthdays in our singing assembly every Thursday.



Stars of the Week

Here are our amazing Stars of the Week who have all worked so hard in class this week; we are so proud of them.



Number Day at Walter

Thank you so much to all of you who donated money to the NSPCC; we don't know how much we have raised yet as there was so much that we haven't counted it all yet. We did, however, have enough coins to go all around the roundabout. The school councillors (along with Mr Dale), did an excellent job (in the rain). Well done all of you.





WALTER INFANT SCHOOL PTA

would like to invite you to provide any cakes or sweet treats for the

SPRING TERM BAKE SALE

FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY
in the playground after school

All treats welcome!
Homemade or bought -
just **no nuts** please.

Please email
WalterInfantsPA@gmail.com
if you can help, and bring
any contributions to school
drop-off on 6 February.

Thank you in advance!

Funtastic Kids

Funtastic Kids will be starting at our school on Monday 23rd February 2026.



Wrap Around Care at Walter Infants!

Funtastic Kids is excited to be providing nurturing and dependable childcare at Walter Infant School.

Opening February 2026!

After School Club

Monday - Friday, from 3:15pm - 4:30pm
£7.80, includes a healthy snack.

Monday - Friday, from 3:15pm - 6pm
£14, includes a healthy snack plus a light afternoon tea.

Monday - Friday, 4:15pm - 6pm
£8.75, includes a light afternoon tea

Open to all children who attend Walter Infant School from Nursery (age 3) to Year 2.

We are an Ofsted Early Years Childcare Provider and accept Childcare Vouchers.

Activities provided include arts, crafts, sports, games, and outdoor play!

10% Sibling Discount.

Follow us on social media for updates of what we get up to at our clubs!

 @FuntasticKidsWrapAroundCare  @funtastickidsuk  @funtastic_kids

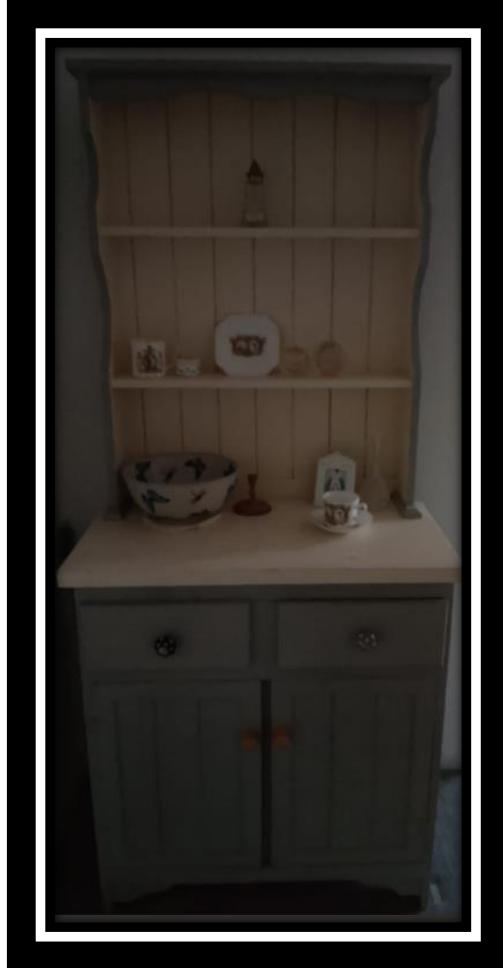
funtastickids.co.uk bookings@funtastickids.co.uk [07715643412](tel:07715643412) / [01189799253](tel:01189799253)



You can start booking your spaces by the following the links. This is very exciting as it will make a huge difference in cost for our parents and they come very strongly recommended. You will notice that it is also open to Robin children (for Robin children you will need to phone to book them on as cannot book online due to having the correct adult/child ratio). There will be no children in the club older than 7 so it will be a lovely, gentle fun environment for our very young children.

Free to a good home!

This wooden dresser (which actually belongs to my mum) is available for free and can be delivered anywhere in Wokingham. It is small and need and painted in grey chalk paint. If you would like it, please message me on head@walter.wokingham.sch.uk I'm afraid it is not a very good picture (my sister took it and she is very old! Even older than me!)



Go Fund Me request to help some children living locally!

We need your help.

We are seeking help to raise funds to build a fit-for-purpose space for our children with severe disability.



**PLEASE
DONATE
HERE:** 

Any donations to our fundraiser are gratefully received.

We can help!

If you are struggling to provide anything essential for your child's well-being, such as pyjamas, coats, shoes, socks, underwear, school uniform, bedding etc please ask us as we are here to help. We do not want any of our children to miss out on the basic fundamentals that they are all entitled to. As before, please just ask.

Walter's Pantry

Don't forget about Walter's Pantry; you can collect food to cook a hot stove top meal each day, collect breakfast for the following morning, or pick up necessary sanitary products, such as toothpaste, nappies, toothbrushes etc. We would be very grateful to receive boxes of cereal, if you would like to donate to the pantry.

Pupil Premium Funding

Some of our families are entitled to Pupil Premium Funding for their children; this is a wonderful addition to our school's budget and helps us to provide curriculum enrichment and support for our Pupil Premium children and all other children too!

Your child may be entitled to this funding which can be used to pay for clubs, uniform, additional support, one to one nurture, Canine Assisted learning etc.

If you are in receipt of one the following benefits you may be eligible for free school meals or the pupil premium:

- 1) Income Support.
- 2) Income based Job Seeker's Allowance.
- 3) Income related Employment and Support Allowance.
- 4) Child Tax Credit - Where the family's annual income is not more than £16,190 and Working Tax Credit is not in payment.
- 5) Guarantee Pension Credit.
- 6) Support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- 7) Universal Credit.

Please contact Mrs Janes in the office to find out more or follow this link

<https://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-information-and-services/free-school-meals-and-the-pupil-premium/>

Judy Hargreaves: Headteacher

Dates for your diary



Calendar Dates for Parents 2026

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 3 rd February	Story Suitcase – Foundation stage	
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th February	Parent Consultations	
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th February	Mental Health & Well-being Week – 'This is My Place'	
Wednesday 11 th February	'WOW' Wednesday!	8.40am – 9am
Wednesday 11 th February	Willow Class Assembly	2.45pm
Thursday 12 th February	Pine Class Assembly	2.45pm
Friday 13 th February	'Come as yourself' Non-uniform day	
Friday 13 th February	Last Day of Half Term ~ Finish Normal Time	
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	Half Term	
Monday 23 rd February	Start of Spring Term 2	
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day – Bedtime Stories	Children invited to wear their pyjamas
Tuesday 10 th March	Governor Day	
Friday 13 th March	Non-Uniform Day in return for Chocolate Donations for the School Council Chocolate Tombola	
Wednesday 18 th March	Robin & Foundation Stage 2 PTA Disco Year 1 & Year 2 PTA Disco	4pm – 4.45pm 5pm – 6pm
Thursday 19 th March	Drama4all Workshop Day	
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day	
Friday 20 th March	iRock Concert for Parents	2.30pm
Wednesday 25 th March	'WOW' Wednesday	3.00pm – 3.20pm
Thursday 26 th March	School Council: Chocolate Tombola	
Friday 27 th March	PTA Break the rules day	
Friday 27 th March	Last Day of Term (Children finish 1 hour early)	
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Easter Holiday	
Monday 13 th April	Start of Summer Term 1	
Monday 4 th May	School Closed – Bank Holiday	
Wednesday 6 th May	Year 1 Trip to Beale Park	
Thursday 14 th May	Beech Class Assembly	2.45pm
Tuesday 19 th May	Story Suitcase – Foundation stage	
Tuesday 19 th May	Larch Class Assembly	2.45pm
Thursday 21 st May	Oak Class Assembly	2.45pm

Friday 22 nd May	Last Day of Half Term ~ Finish Normal Time	
Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May	May Half Term	
Monday 1 st June	School Closed – INSET	
Tuesday 2 nd June	School Open – Start of Summer Term 2	
Monday 8 th June – Friday 12 th June	Year 1 Phonic Screening Week	
Tuesday 7 th July	Story Suitcase – Foundation stage	
Friday 26 th June	Summer Fair 3.20pm – 5.30pm	
Tuesday 14 th July	PTA Year 2 Leavers Disco	4-6pm
Friday 17 th July	Last Day of Term (Children finish 1 hour early)	
Monday 20 th July	School Closed – INSET	
Tuesday 21 st July	School Closed – INSET	
Wednesday 22 nd July	School Closed – INSET	

Further dates to be added. All Dates may be subject to change. Please continue to check the website calendar and the Friday Flyer.