



St Ursula's Convent School

The Ursuline News

Week Ending
12 November 2021
Issue Number 05



Dear all,

We have had a really positive start to the new half term. It is a focused one as all our students are undergoing key assessments and our year 11s are currently in the throes of their PPEs. Looking ahead to the end of this term, we will be having our KS3 and Year 10 examination week (w/c 6th December). This is such an important part of the term because it will pinpoint where students are in terms of progress made and it will also inform teachers and students of any areas that require further attention in lessons next term and beyond.

In order to prepare for this I would like to urge you to ensure good study habits are in place at home. This includes something of a structure (study timetable) and a focus on healthy eating, keeping well hydrated and resting well. We will support by preparing students in lessons and through homework activities.

Here are some key dates for you to be aware of:

- Monday 8th November: we will share a loom with families so that you know how to support this preparation at home.
- Monday 15th November: we will ensure that all revision lists and materials are available to all students on Google Classroom.
- Monday 29th November: we will publish all examination timetables and expectations for students.

In the lead up to the examinations, lessons will focus on preparing our students thoroughly (subject content and lessons on 'how to' revise).

As a Voluntary Aided School, the Governors of St Ursula's have responsibility for the running of the School, appointment of staff and the upholding of its Catholic atmosphere and influence. This has a number of advantages, including allowing us freedom to set the moral, ethical and religious tone of the school.

However, it also means that elements of the school's finances are not met by government funds. To make up the shortfall we ask parents / carers to make an annual contribution of £25 to the Governor's fund. This money provides essential financial support so we can continue to ensure our students have the best possible chance to succeed.

We appreciate that things are very difficult at the moment, but the current challenges have had a big impact on our school. So we ask, if possible, you pay into the Governor's fund this month. This is a voluntary contribution and we thank everyone who has already paid, but if you have yet to donate, and it will not cause you financial hardship to do so, please make your payment via Parent Pay.

Thank you, and best wishes,

Ms Kathleen M Faherty
Headteacher



The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to St Ursula's in December!



Thurs 9th Dec – Weds 15th Dec '21

The Scholastic book fair will be visiting St Ursula's from 9th-15th December. Pupils will be given the opportunity to make purchases on a rota system. Purchases can be made in cash or using a prepaid Scholastic voucher. Orders can also be made for books in the fair at this time for later delivery. Discounts will be available and all purchases will earn points for the school to purchase free books. More details to follow soon!



Library Highlights



Black Brother, Black Brother by Jewell Parker Rhodes
Age: 11+ Genre: Thriller/Teen Drama

NEW IN!

Donte wishes he were invisible. As one of the few black boys at Middlefield Prep, he feels as if he is constantly swimming in whiteness. Most of the students don't look like him. They don't like him either. Dubbed the 'Black Brother', Donte's teachers and classmates make it clear they wish he were more like his lighter skinned brother, Dre. Quiet, obedient. When an incident with 'King' Alan leads to Donte's arrest and suspension, he knows the only way to get even is to beat the king of the school at his own game: fencing. With the help of a former Olympic fencer, Donte embarks on a journey to carve out a spot on Middlefield Prep's fencing team and maybe learn something about himself along the way.

<https://tinyurl.com/ydthuyjt>

The Last Hawk by Elizabeth Wein

Dyslexia Friendly Genre: Historical Fiction

Nazi Germany is a dangerous place for a girl with a stammer, but when Ingrid soars through the skies in her beloved glider planes, she feels safe and free. ... But through her work with Hanna, Ingrid learns some dangerous truths about the Nazi regime and a shocking secret mission that could change the course of the war.

<https://tinyurl.com/yfb44w7y>



**READING
LIST
HIGHLIGHT:**

War Fiction & Non-Fiction Reading List:

<https://tinyurl.com/yenc6mtw>





STU Online Library

Every pupil at St Ursula's has access to our wonderful online library system and eBook platform. Pupils can search online for books to pick up in person or reserve, and also to read online. There are thousands of books to choose from and curated reading lists to assist book choice!

Oliver Library System

<https://stursulas.oliverasp.co.uk/library/home/news>



ePlatform Ebooks

<https://stursulascs.eplatform.co/>



ePlatform

An instruction manual on how pupils can access all online content is available (along with all other library links) on the library padlet page:
<https://padlet.com/stulibrary/klnusczmsjdv3qta>

Pupils should also join the Library Google Classroom Bulletin Board to receive service updates and ask questions. They must use their School Google Account to join: **n4wa3ii**

DOWNLOAD THE EPLATFORM APP FOR MOBILE READING!

In addition to the ePlatform website, pupils can download the ePlatform eBook reader as an app to their home device and read on a tablet, smartphone or mobile computer, and they can also download content to read offline!

<https://stursulascs.eplatform.co/help/apps/eplatform-app>



OVERDUE AND LOST BOOK FEES



The library does not charge overdue fees; however, some books have been overdue for more than a year, and over 1,000 in total are overdue. Pupils have been given printouts of any books that are overdue by more than 30 days. If the book has been lost or irreparably damaged, it should be paid for on ParentPay in the 'Library Fee' section. The cost of the books are on the printout. Arrangements for book swaps can be made if necessary upon request.

A 'Library Fee' section is available in ParentPay and it will show as "£1-£75" on your ParentPay account; this is not a charge, but simply a facility for you to enter your own amount should your child have lost one of the books on the overdue notice. No action is required until you are contacted. You can also use this facility to donate towards the library for book-buying.



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 app of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents Need to Know about SQUID GAME

AGE RESTRICTION
15+
Suitable only for 15 years and over.

With themes of horror and violence, it's important for parents and carers to understand the potential risks posed for young audiences by the viral TV show, Squid Game. The nine-episode Netflix-exclusive TV show is rated 15+ and is about a world where contestants who are deeply in debt play children's games in order to win cash prizes. The losers, however, are violently killed. The show's popularity has meant it has spread across online platforms, and there is a great risk of young people being exposed to unsuitable scenes, meaning parents and carers have to be vigilant when allowing children to use devices.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some might argue that Squid Game contains content that might not even be suitable for older teens, let alone young children. Characters are brutally tortured and killed through stabbings or getting shot as a result of rules developed and enforced by a masked game master. The show also features sexual content and threats of sexual violence, as well as a strong theme of gambling that runs throughout the whole show.

APPEAL TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Whilst the content is very much adult-themed, some features of the show seem to appeal to young children at face-value. The name "Squid Game" may be interpreted as a programme aimed at children rather than adults. The content itself, such as the bright and childish aesthetics, may also appeal to young children, particularly as there's a focus on playground games to go with it.

SIMILAR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS

When using social media and streaming sites, content is recommended based on what is the user has consumed i.e. what they have watched or searched for. Therefore, there is a greater chance of your child being exposed to similar violent or horror-themed content on social media after watching a show like Squid Game.

VIRAL SPIN-OFFS

As well as Netflix, Squid Game has grown in notoriety and prevalence on other platforms, like TikTok and YouTube, with clips of the show going viral. On YouTube Kids, a number of successful channels have taken advantage of the Squid Game trend, creating content such as "How to Draw Squid Game Characters" videos. Its popularity has also led to the creation of app games that put the player in the role of a contestant who is killed if they lose a game.

SCENE RE-ENACTMENTS

Squid Game's pervasive presence on social media has encouraged many content creators to re-enact scenes from the show, which has led to reports of children wanting to also imitate those scenes displayed on social media at home and in school. Much of this content stems from the "Red Light, Green Light" game from the first episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them. episode, where contestants attempt to make it past a giant animatronic girl before she shoots them.

Advice for Parents & Carers

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Netflix has easily accessible built-in parental controls that allow you to set up a profile for your child with a specific age rating, block them from watching certain shows and even lock their account so it can't be accessed by anyone else. Netflix also allows you to access your child's viewing history to make sure they're not watching anything inappropriate for their age.

CHECK AGE RATINGS

Age ratings on TV shows and films are a way to gauge what is suitable for audiences of different ages. If you are unsure about the content your child is watching, check the age rating to see if the TV show or film is deemed suitable for their age group. If not, try watching the show yourself or talking to other parents who have seen it before to get a better understanding of why it's been rated a certain way.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

Squid game has become a social media craze and it's possible your child will see some content related to the show on various platforms. Therefore, it's important to be aware of which websites your child has visited on their smartphone, tablet or laptop, and to also keep an eye out for which accounts they are following on social media platforms, such as Instagram and TikTok.

HAVE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Making sure your child is comfortable telling you about what they see online can go a long way to ensuring you are kept in the loop about their online use. Showing an interest in what your child is doing online gives you the opportunity to discuss what is and is not appropriate for their age group, and how they might recognise their own feelings towards content they see.

MONITOR BEHAVIOUR

Due to the viral nature of the show, even if your child has not seen Squid Game, it's important to keep an eye on their behaviour. There have been reports from schools of children "playing Squid Game" in the playground and acting aggressively towards the losers as a way to replicate the consequences of losing in the TV show. Viewing content that makes your child feel uncomfortable could also cause them to feel distressed or distracted, so it's important you can easily spot the signs.

WATCH THE SHOW

If you're trying to figure out whether you should let your child watch Squid Game, it might be a good idea to watch the show yourself first. Doing so will allow you to get a better understanding of the show's content and themes, as well as help you decide if this is something you'd feel comfortable with your child being exposed to.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced and highly respected freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant. Previously the editor of tech tabloid THE INQUIRER, Carly now works as the news editor for Computer Shopper and IT Pro and writes for a number of publications including Forbes, TechRadar, Tes, The Metro, uSwitch and WIRED.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2021/oct/26/squid-game-netflix-parental-controls>
<https://theinquirer.com/en/rate/254/> <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-59400309> <https://www.thesun.com/news/technology/squid-game-violence>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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Prayer for the COP26 climate summit

Loving God,
We praise your name with all you have created.

You are present in the whole universe,
and in the smallest of creatures.

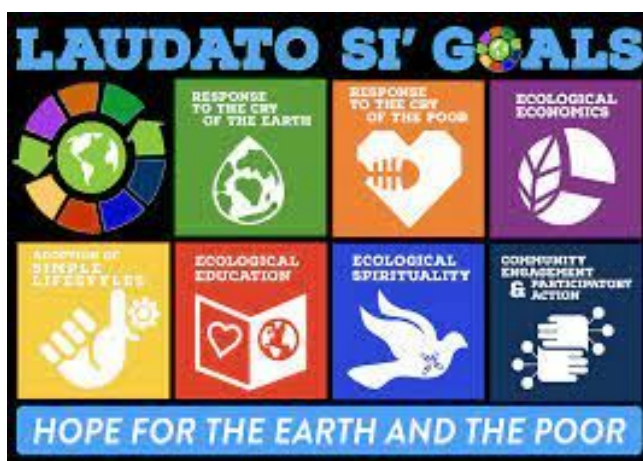
We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us
as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they
seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.

Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions
for the poorest and most vulnerable,
and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son.

Amen





Gospel reading - Sunday 14th November

Mark 13: 24-32

Jesus said to his disciples: "In those days after that tribulation the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. "And then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in the clouds' with great power and glory, and then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the end of the earth to the end of the sky. "Learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branch becomes tender and sprouts leaves, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see these things happening, know that he is near, at the gates. Amen, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."

Reflection

Heaven as it is now and Earth as it is now will pass away. The Gospels and the Book of Revelation speak to this truth. As we draw close to the end of this liturgical year, we are reminded of this fact.

We are reminded that Jesus will return in splendour and glory and will make all things new. The world as we know it will be made anew and Heaven will be joined to this new Earth and all will be one. Jesus will reign in this new world as the glorious King of all.

One thing this tells us is that we should not become overly attached to the things of this passing world. Earthly wealth and possessions may offer a temporary satisfaction to our lives, but never a permanent satisfaction. In time, the things of this world will all disappear. So, if we work to build up only earthly wealth and possessions, we should know that all those things will eventually pass away and we would be left with nothing.

So what is it that is eternal? Jesus says that His "words will not pass away." Namely, all that is true and revealed by God as true is eternal and worth holding on to. This reveals to us that Jesus' words are the true riches that we must seek.



WINTER WREATH MAKING EVENT



FOSTUR
Friends Of
St. Ursula's

FRIDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2021—4.00pm until 5.30pm
St. Ursula's School—All visitors sign in at Reception please.

Create your own gorgeous door wreath using beautiful seasonal foliage, festive decorations and ribbons!

We will provide a frame, foliage, shatterproof baubles, ribbons and wire and instructions. Adults will need to bring secateurs or strong/craft scissors and gardening gloves (we will provide some spares).

Tea, coffee and light refreshments provided.

Cost £10.00 per wreath.

Parents/Guardians and pupils of St Ursula's welcome!

Purchase tickets via Parent Pay by November 22nd.



FRIENDS OF
ST URSULA'S

Get ready to enjoy Christmas at St Ursula's

Carol Concert Raffle, Bingo Nights,
Summer Fair, Raffles and online
Quizzes are the events that we're
planning to organise, come and enjoy
with us!

What's next: 3rd December 2021

Create your own winter wreath

Come at St Ursula's on the 3rd of
December from 4 to 5:30 PM to
create your own gorgeous door
wreath.

Tea, coffee and light refreshments
provided, £10 per wreath.

Tickets on Parent Pay by November 22nd

We will provide everything you'll need, just to bring your own secateurs or
strong/craft scissors and gardening gloves.

What we have achieved so far

Thanks to the many events we have organized and **your amazing help**, during the past 6 years we raised £40,000 so far. We recently helped to buy 3 large mirrors for the toilets, one big LED screen, supplied 50 skipping ropes, 30 hula hoops, aprons for the DT departments.

Many thanks for your future support - with your help we can build on this success!

Shop & Raise



Signup to easyfundraising &
raise FREE donations every
time you shop online with
over 4,300 retailers, John
Lewis, Argos, Uswitch, eBay
and many more are waiting to
give a free donation.

Firsttime signup here:
[Easyfundraising.org.uk/
invite/GMXPC4](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/invite/GMXPC4)

Login here:
[Easyfundraising.org.uk/
causes/friends-of-st-
ursulas](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/friends-of-st-ursulas)

*We get £15 free
donation for
every new
signup in
November and
it's free for you!*



*FOSTUR want to say a
big thank you to the
school community for
funding this amazing
school notice board for
the pupils.*