



Welcome back !

We hope you had a relaxing half term.

We are in the process of revamping the website so the site is frozen at the moment. We will keep you updated. Don't forget to download the piota app.

**Parent Council**—the meeting was on Tuesday and it was good to see a new face. We looked at the schools new journey as a Rights and Respecting school. This week in school the children had been looking at Article 3—the best interest of the child. The parent council asked if we could write on the newsletter the main article for the following week so that you are all aware. As we are wearing it Red on Friday for Remembrance day the article will be Article 38 protection in war. The Remembrance unities people of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds in honouring those who defend our democratic freedom and way of life. The UK has a long tradition of marking Armistice Day, calling to mind the moment when fighting ceased at the end of the First World War, at 11am on the 11th November.

The council also asked how the school felt the Parent Code of Conduct was working and we had a discussion around that.

The next meeting will be Tuesday 14th January 2025 @ 9am.

#### School Council Meeting

The children had their first official meeting of the half term. Here is some of the information that they wanted to share:

Friday 8th November—Non-Uniform , Wear it Red. The School Council and Captains met this week and there will be donation buckets in the playground on Friday and we have some Poppy merchandise on sale in the offices.

Book Fairs—they will be coming next week on North and the week after on south . The children recommended bringing between £7 and £10 for a book.

Children In Need—Friday 15th November—another Non-uniform day with donations welcome. The children want others to dress up as people who help us ( they said doctors, firefighters, police, parents) or wear yellow. Again, there is some merchandise on sale in the school office. Pens, wristbands and Pudsey pins, £1 each.

Thank you to the PTA for helping with the Spooky Disco. We don't have the final figure but it looks as if we raised in the region of £800 for the playground equipment funds. There will be a meeting hopefully next Friday 8th at 9am on the North site.

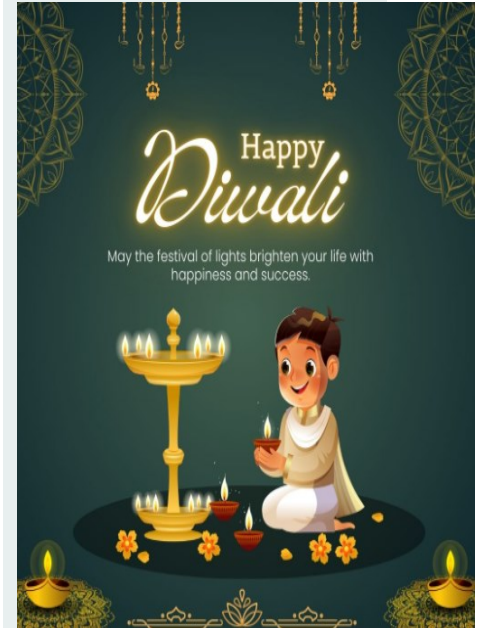
The deadline for applying for a year 7 place in September 2025 was yesterday. If you are having difficulties please let the office know. I helped 2 parents today complete the forms.

We have a lot of sickness going around. Please make sure you call the absence line or log on the app any sickness absence.

Happy Diwali

Katie Jennings

Head Teacher



## SPECIAL DATES IN NOVEMBER

You may have heard of a website set up by parents for the safety of children with smart phones. Here is the link and a little bit of information. It maybe something the Parent Council looks into.

### [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

In February 2024, friends Daisy and Clare set up a WhatsApp group to support each other in the decision to hold off on buying their kids smartphones. To their amazement, within 24 hours, thousands of other parents had joined the group after an [Instagram post](#) by Daisy about it went viral.

The initial group quickly maxed out at 1000 members, so they encouraged people to set up local groups to build the conversation in their areas. Within hours over 60 Smartphone Free Childhood WhatsApp groups had launched the length and breadth of Britain, kicking off a national conversation about the harms of smartphones for children.

### November

**4th** Swan & Sparrow swimming for 2 weeks

Steel Pan Band workshops

**5th** Year 6 Trip @ HMS Belfast

Reception 2025 Open day North site

**6th** Reception 2025 Open day South site

**7th –13th** Book Fair North

Kingfisher trip London Archives linked to Great fire of London

Phonics workshop South

Parents Evening

**8th** Blackbird Class Assembly

Wear it Red for Remembrance (Non Uniform)

PTA meeting 9am North site

**11th** Anti Bullying Week

Kestrel trip London Archives

**13th** Kittiwake trip London Archives

Reception Autumn walk trip to St James Park

Reception & year 6 Height and Weight

**14th** Book fair South site

Police presentation—year 5 & 6 parents in the evening

**15th** Children IN Need—Non uniform day—wear yellow or dress as someone who helps us.

**18th** Parliament week

Skylark and Swallow swimming for 2 weeks

**19th** KS1 Sports hall activities selected children

**22nd** KS2 Sports hall activities selected children

**27th** Year 5 & 6 Annual Trip to The Chicken Shed Theatre

### December

**3rd** South site Pantomime



If your child was born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021, they will be starting reception in primary school from September 2025.

You can start applying for a school place from 1 September 2024 when the applications open. The application process closes on 15 January 2025 and the national offer day is 16 April 2025.

We have some open days for new parents to come and look around—book a visit [here](#).

## Phonics Workshops for Reception & Year 1 Parents – 7th, 14th, 21st November 9am [South Site](#)

In the Autumn term we run phonics workshops for parents and carers to find out more about the teaching of Phonics at Mission Grove. The workshop outlines what phonics is, how it helps your child with their early reading and writing and provides a range of ideas for activities and resources you can use to support your child at home. While this workshop is aimed at Reception & Year 1 parents and carers, we welcome anyone who would like to come along to learn a bit more about Phonics and how you can support your child in their early reading and writing.

Please see below links to our Phonics pages, where you can find out more about how we teach Phonics at Mission Grove and some resources that you might find useful for supporting your child at home.

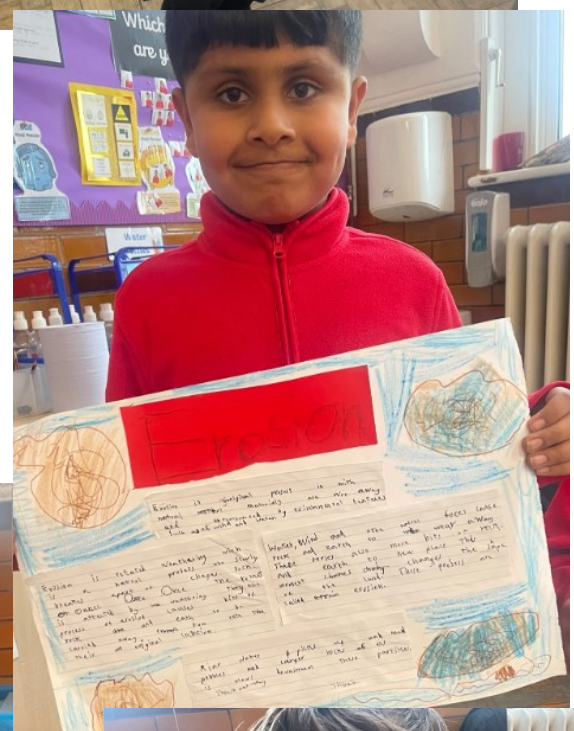
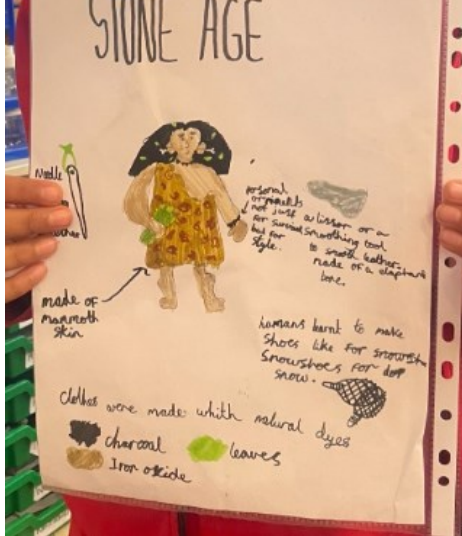
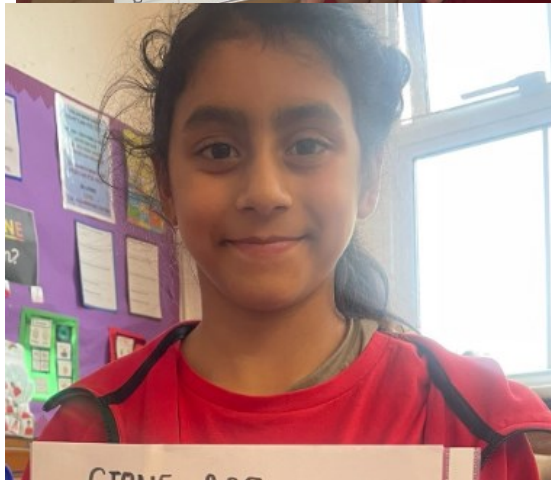
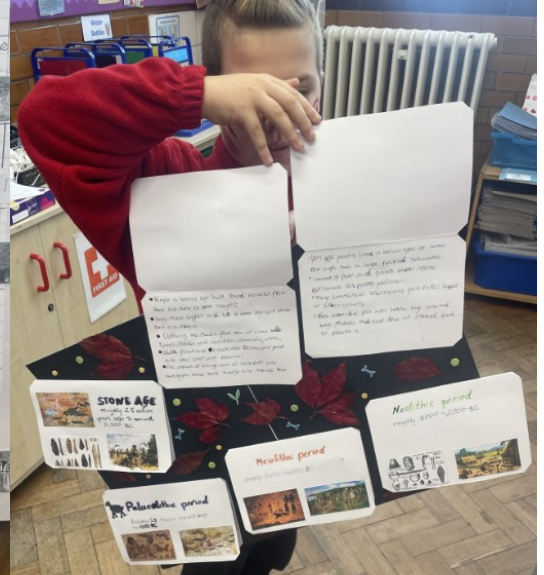
<https://www.missiongroveschool.co.uk/page/?title=Phonics+%2D+Read+Write+Inc&pid=2595>





# History

	How people lived	Food	Clothes	Tools etc.
Palaeolithic Period 2.5m - 10,000 years ago	They lived in small groups and used caves or forests.	using the tools that were made they hunted mammoth, giraffe, bison.	They used animal skin, mammoth skin to make clothes.	Scrapers and chisels were used to help them carve from stone.
Meso lithic Period 10,000 - 4,000 years ago	Humans lived in huts made of mud, straw, wood and mud.	To get food they had to use the spear to hunt and eat animals.	They used plant stems to make and make fabric.	In the Mesolithic period they used wood and stone to make tools.
Neolithic Period 4,000 - 2,000 years ago	Houses were made of mud, brick or air-dried blocks.	They started to farm and grow wheat, barley, beans, peas and grain.	They used animal skin to make clothes.	They made more useful tools using flint.
Bronze Age 2,000 - 700 years ago	They had wickerwork floors and turf roofs.	They used bows to hunt wild boar, red deer and greyhound.	They wore clothes similar to the present clothes we have.	In the Bronze Age they started to use Bronze to make tools.
Iron Age 700 - 43 years ago	They had huts made of stone, wood, animal bones, thatch, wattle and daub and some stone.	They ate plants and animals.	They wore tunics, trousers, skirts, hoods, leggings, and shoes.	They had harpoons, spears, knives and bows and arrows.
Roman 43 - 410 AD	They used large timbered walls and daub and wattle and daub and mud and tiles.	They ate plants and animals.	They wore tunics, trousers, skirts, hoods, leggings, and shoes.	They used iron, iron tools, iron weapons and Bellbrooks and medicine.



Some amazing year 3 Home projects—excellent job everyone!





# MOVEMBER

This year Mr Lester, Mr Redding and Mr Connor are taking part in Movember and trying to grow some embarrassing mustaches to help raise funds and awareness for all the dads, brothers, sons and friends in everyone's lives. Any donation would be amazing, thank you!



Just a small selection of photos from this week .



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That’s partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as ‘chapters’ – and within these sit shorter ‘seasons’.

## ALWAYS ONLINE

There’s no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you’re out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

## IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic ‘skins’, music tracks and LEGO items – which don’t really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game’s store for real money.

## POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite’s appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

## CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. ‘Crossplay’ lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they’re on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the ‘party chat’ feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

## VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there’s no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there’s no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

## FREQUENT UPDATES

The game’s developers release content in ‘seasons’ that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment’s map and a different over-arching theme (such as ‘medieval’, ‘pirates’ or ‘party’). These regular renewals help to hold players’ interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child’s social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they’re getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite’s rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite’s seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a ‘battle pass’, unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

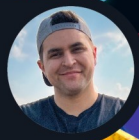
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there’s no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite’s loading screens, they never ask for a player’s account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child’s friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they’re playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

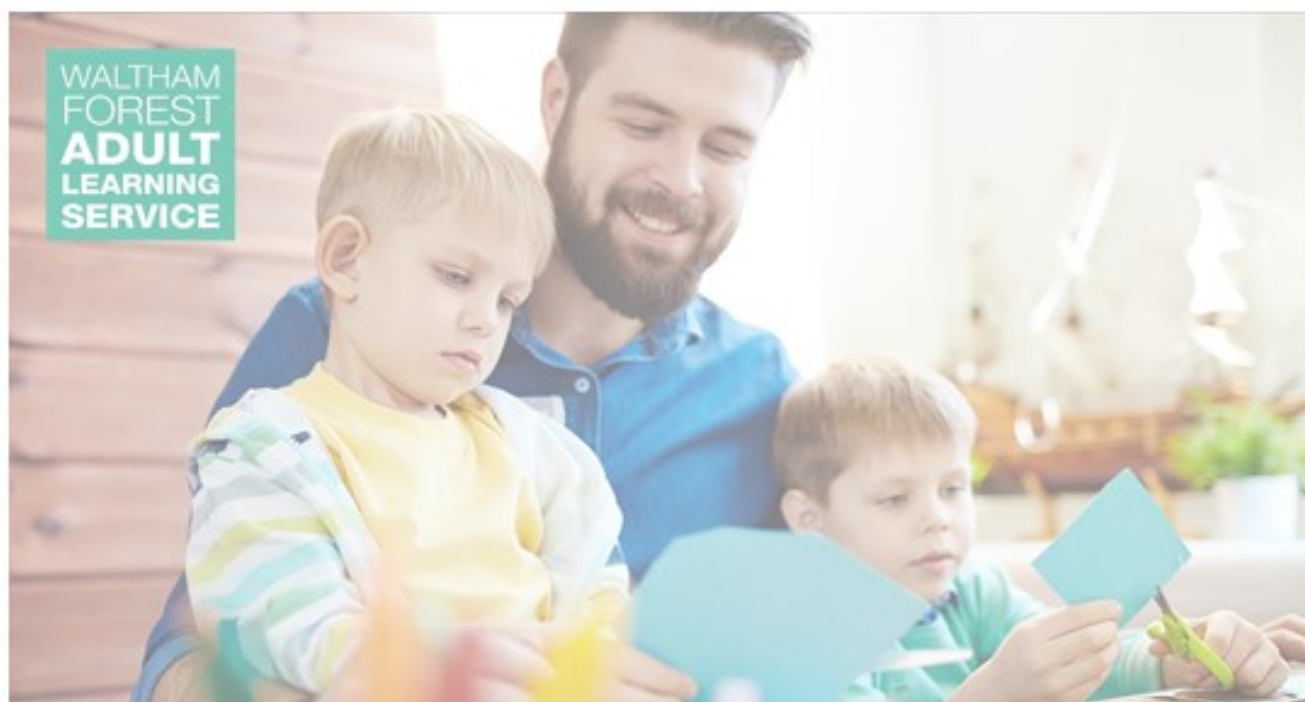
## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRcon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.





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## Help your child grow and thrive! Family Learning



Our family learning programme delivers a variety of courses, workshops and events both in person, online and at different venues in Waltham Forest - courses and workshops are free for families.

### List of upcoming courses / workshops

Course Code	Course Title	Venue	Date	Time	Day
FA0291C5	Improve your Digital skills for Parents	Queens Road Learning Centre	06.11.2024 – 4.12.2024	10:00 - 12:00 pm	Wednesday
FA0255C4	Calm Parents, Calm Children - Parenting	ONLINE	07.11.2024 – 05.12.2024	7:30 – 9:30 pm	Thursday
FA0300F1	Create a Seasonal Wreath - Families learning together	Walthamstow library	09.11.2024	12:30 - 2:30pm	Saturday
FA0146C3	A Parent's Guide to Understanding Phonics KS1	Queens Road Learning Centre	13.11.2024	1:00 pm- 2:30pm	Wednesday
FA0382F1	Sewing & Textile Crafts: A Beginner's Course for Parents	Queens Road Family Hub	13.11.2024 – 11.12.2024	10:00 – 12:00pm	Wednesday
FA0399F1	Decorating Festive Iced biscuits	Community Farm Kitchen, E11 3NH	30.11.2024	2:00pm – 3:00pm	Saturday
FA0189C4	Create a Festive Christmas Tree Decoration	Lea Bridge Road Library	07.12.2024 – 07.11.2024	12:30 - 2:30pm	Saturday

Enrol now through our website - [www.lbwfadultlearning.co.uk](http://www.lbwfadultlearning.co.uk)  
For more information email [adult.learning@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:adult.learning@walthamforest.gov.uk)



## FREE Family Learning Courses and workshops 2024/25



**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS** – 90 minute workshops for families

*Availability: weekdays from 3pm*

- Family cookery workshops (pizzas or energy balls)
- Family craft workshops (making board games or origami)



**PARENTING SKILLS** – 2 hour classes x 5 weeks for parents

*Availability: Mon, Tues, Weds or Thurs between 09:30 and 14:30*

- Calm Parents, Calm Children
- Raising Resilient and Confident Children



**SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING** – 2 hour classes x 5 weeks for parents

*Availability: Mon, Tues, Weds or Thurs between 09:30 and 14:30*

- Keeping up with the children in Maths or English
- Everyday English for Parents (ESOL)
- Understanding Coding
- Navigating the world of prepaid cards and debit cards for children



**LIFE SKILLS & WELLBEING** – 2 hour workshops for parents

*Availability: Mon, Tues or Weds between 09:30 and 14:30*

- E-Safety
- Making the most of AI and Chat GPT
- Budgeting/Saving Money on Your Food Shopping
- Seed sowing, plant propagation or vegetable growing (*Thurs only*)



**DIGITAL SKILLS COURSES** – 2 hour classes x 5 weeks for parents

*Availability: Mon, Tues or Weds between 09:30 and 14:30*

- Microsoft Word
- Microsoft Excel
- Using Canva to produce posters, videos and social media content



**CAREER BASED WORKSHOPS** – 2 hour workshops for parents

*Availability: Mon, Tues, Weds or Thurs between 09:30 and 14:30*

- Exploring a career in Customer Service
- Working with Food and Food Safety



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Course code	Course Title	Venue	Date	Time	Day
FA0382F1	Sewing and textile crafts, beginners course for parents	Queens Road Family Hub Queens Road E17	13.11.2024 – 11.12.2024	10 -12pm	Wednesday

Join us for a fun and engaging beginners course designed specifically for parents looking to dive into the world of sewing and textile crafts! Whether you're eager to create unique clothing for your little ones, make personalised gifts or simply explore a new hobby, this course offers the perfect starting point. Learn the basics of sewing techniques, fabric selection, and essential tools in a supportive environment. Each session includes hands on projects that will boost your confidence and ignite your creativity. Connect with fellow parents, share ideas, and leave with beautiful creations that you can cherish or gift. No prior experience necessary—just bring your enthusiasm and let's get crafting!

If you have any questions regarding family learning activities, please contact [cherie.cowan-smith@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:cherie.cowan-smith@walthamforest.gov.uk) Curriculum Manager Family Learning

Enrol now through our website - [www.lbwfadultlearning.co.uk](http://www.lbwfadultlearning.co.uk)  
For more information email [adult.learning@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:adult.learning@walthamforest.gov.uk)





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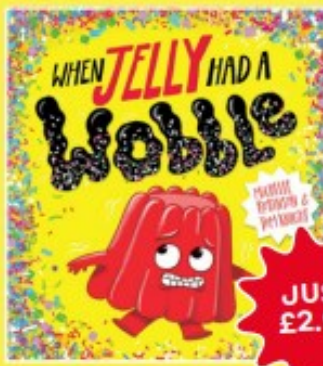
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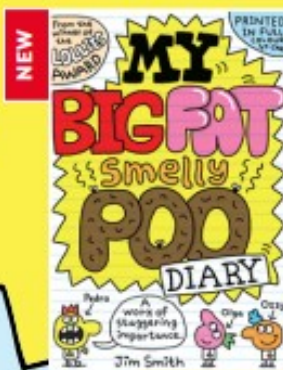
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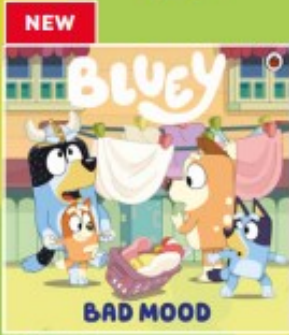
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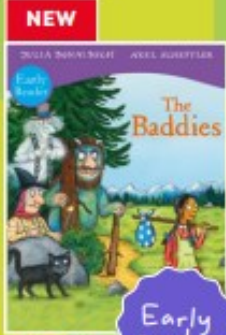
# Ages 2+



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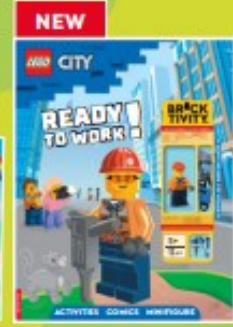
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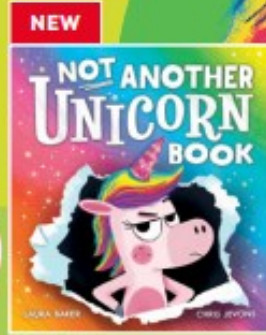
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Illustration from Not Another Unicorn Book by Laura Baker and Chrisjevons © Chrisjevons, 2024.

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- Pre-paid gift vouchers are available in £5, £10, £15, £20 and £25. Go to [www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers](http://www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers) to buy vouchers for your child before the Fair.
- If you can't attend the Fair in person, your child can order books via a Wish List - please ask your school for details.

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