

BURLEYFIELDS BULLETIN



WEEK BEGINNING
15TH SEPTMEBER

Spotlight on our learning

We have been so busy this week at Burleyfields, I am not sure where the time has gone to?

This week Reception made Gruffalo crumble using ingredients left by the mouse and were each given an apple to take home to recreate the recipe. Nursery children retold the story of Owl Babies and created their own owls using collage materials. Our two-year-olds have enjoyed using the Squiggle programme to practice their big movements in our outdoor area.

Next week our Reception children will continue to explore the story of The Gruffalo whilst Nursery will move onto Elmer and our two-year-olds will explore a series of 'That's not my...' books.

Don't forget to follow us on social media for more updates.

Burleyfields Primary School Stafford



walktheburleyfieldsway



Have a lovely weekend.
Mrs Thorley



Just a reminder...

There is no parking available at Doxey Academy for Burleyfields families. We kindly ask that families park respectfully in the surrounding area and walk to the school entrance.

Attendance

This week's attendance is...
96.8%



All weather play

As we like to get outdoors in all weathers, can we please remind you that **Nursery children** need to have a named puddle suit and pair of wellington boots in school. **Reception children** need to have a pair of named wellington boots too.

Upcoming

Reception Phonics Workshop - Monday 22nd 3:30pm or 5pm in the classroom.

Prospective Parents' Open Evening - Wednesday 15th October 4:30-6:30pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CONSPIRACY THEORIES

Conspiracy theories are false or misleading beliefs that explain events as secret plots, often involving powerful groups. While once fringe, they are now more accessible through digital media, online influencers and because of algorithmic recommendations. The DfE guidance document, 'Keeping Children Safe in Education' (KCSIE) explicitly recognises conspiracy theories as potential content risks. This guide will help parents and educators understand the risks, spot the signs, and build children's resilience to conspiracy theories.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNDERMINING TRUST

Conspiracy theories can lead children and young people to distrust democratic institutions and British Values, teachers, and even their own families and loved ones. This erosion of trust makes young people more vulnerable to extremist narratives by isolating them from reliable sources of information.

ONLINE ALGORITHM TRAPS

Social media platforms can often recommend sensationalist content. Once a child engages with one conspiracy-themed video or post, algorithms push more of the same, thereby creating an echo chamber that can intensify their beliefs.

MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Exposure to frightening conspiracy content, such as global plots, viruses, or government control, can fuel feelings of anxiety, paranoia, or hopelessness. For some young people, it can trigger prolonged distress or obsessive thinking.

GATEWAY TO EXTREMISM

Conspiracy theories can often overlap with extremist ideologies. Narratives that blame specific groups, such as politicians, scientists, or particular ethnic groups, can groom children in ways that foster hate, bigotry, and radicalisation.

CONFLICT WITH PEERS

Belief in conspiracy theories can lead to isolation or conflict at school. Children may struggle with peer relationships if they express these beliefs or become distrustful of others who disagree; sometimes, confrontation can even result in a strengthening of the belief in the conspiracy theory.

ERODED CRITICAL THINKING

Young people influenced by conspiracies may reject evidence-based learning. This risks undermining their academic progress and weakening their ability to think critically, assess risks, or engage in healthy debates.

Advice for Parents & Educators

I WANT TO BELIEVE

CREATE SAFE CONVERSATIONS

Don't mock or dismiss any questions that children and young people ask about conspiracy theories. Instead, create open, judgement-free spaces to talk. This strengthens trust and makes it more likely they will confide in you.



PROMOTE CRITICAL THINKING

Teach young people how to assess information critically. Encourage them to ask appropriate questions, such as: 'Who is telling me this?' 'What evidence is there?' 'What do other trusted sources say?' Use real examples from current media to explain your answers and reasoning.



MONITOR DIGITAL BEHAVIOUR

Be aware of the content children are accessing, especially on platforms such as TikTok, YouTube, or Reddit. Use parental controls, but more importantly, maintain ongoing dialogue about online experiences and influencers.



REINFORCE RELIABLE SOURCES

Point children toward trustworthy and reliable sources of news and information in a variety of formats tailored to the young person's age. Build habits of verifying facts using reliable sources, and teach them how to spot misleading content.



Meet Our Expert

Brandon O'Keefe is a headteacher and digital education consultant with over a decade of experience in education. As Director of Digital Strategy across multiple schools and an advisor to The National College, he specialises in digital safety, PREVENT, and pastoral care.



Source: See full reference list on guide page 62. <https://www.thenationalcollege.com/guides/conspiracy-theories>



Burleyfields

PRIMARY



Is your child starting Nursery or Reception in 2026?

We would like to invite you to come and see what it means to 'Walk the Burleyfields Way'

-Wednesday 15th October 4:30-6:30pm at Beaconfields Primary School

-Monday 20th October 10:00am-11:00am at Beaconfields Primary School

-Sunday 16th November 10:30am-11:30AM at Burleyfields

Please call 01785 564869 to confirm your attendance