

Cheapside C of E Primary School

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Monday 3rd February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

A number of children across Key Stage 2 have mentioned that they have watched all or some of the series Squid Game/Squid Game 2 on Netflix. If you are not aware of this television series, it contains graphic scenes of violence and sex that children might find upsetting and which are highly unsuitable for primary-aged children. It has a 15 certificate on Netflix and is at the top end of that certification with some elements nearer an 18 certificate. We had a similar situation when the first series came out a few years ago.

We are also aware that versions of, and excerpts from, Squid Game are available on Roblox, Tik Tok, Minecraft and Fortnite, so although children may not necessarily have watched the programme they can still be exposed to the same graphic themes via these platforms. Popular YouTubers such as Mr Beast have also created their own versions of Squid Game which whilst not necessarily violent to the same level as the TV series, reference the show constantly and may result in children wanting to know more about the show and investigating for themselves. We have also noticed many of children starting to discuss and/or play their own versions of some of the elements of Squid Game in the playground; sometimes games which are initially innocent in theme have a violent undercurrent.

In school, we have spoken to all the children in Years 4, 5 and 6 about age restrictions and the dangers of viewing materials which are not considered suitable. All social media apps, films, games for consoles such as Xbox and PlayStation have legal age restrictions. Age restrictions are in place to safeguard children from any inappropriate dangers online. We have also discussed the manner in which children are referencing the show on the playground and are helping them to navigate this.

We wanted parents and carers to be aware of our concerns regarding this programme so that you can monitor at home and also to raise awareness of the content that is circulating on many social media platforms. Our priority is to keep children safe.

We appreciate your support in working alongside us in this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please also see the leaflet with further information.

Yours sincerely,

The Senior Leadership Team