

What to do today

IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.

1. Read a letter

- Read [Letter to the Editor](#).
- How would you summarise this letter in one headline sentence? What do you think you can tell about the writer from the letter?
- Use [Annotation Prompt](#) and label and highlight the [Letter to the Editor](#).

2. Practise writing a paragraph

- Read [Schools Should](#). Which of these ideas do you agree with? Which do you disagree with? Why?
- [Write a paragraph](#) about one of the ideas from [Schools Should](#). Read the example about [Cooking Lessons](#) and then write in the same style.

[Well done. Share your paragraph with a grown up. Show them the different reasons that you have given.](#)

3. Prepare a talk

- Imagine you have been asked to speak to the council about the Letter to the Editor. You want ball games to be allowed.
- Make notes of your main points on [Talk Planner](#)
- Practise explaining your ideas confidently out loud.

Try the Fun-Time Extras

- Record your talk and share it with somebody else.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir,

I wish to draw your attention to a problem which must be dealt with. As a local citizen and park volunteer, I must urge that the council ban ball games in the park. There are three main reasons why this has to be done.

The first and most important reason is the damage caused by ball games. Our delicate blooms and fragile flowers are squashed and broken every time a large, heavy ball is sent blasting through the flowerbeds. These rough games encourage thoughtless youths to skid and slide across our carefully tended lawns, leaving deep gouges like scars. The park spends thousands of pounds on new shrubs and plants each year. How much more money will be wasted before good sense wins?

My second point refers to the risks to people and animals caused by aggressive ballgames. The park is used daily by many families with young children and older people who may be unsteady on their feet. It is clear that balls crossing paths like bullets may cause painful injuries to those innocently passing by. What about our precious wildlife? Our park should be a safe haven for the curious squirrels and charming pigeons that live peacefully in the trees. How can we explain to them that the ball that smashed through a nest was only meant to be a bit of fun?

My last point is that ballgames are pushing out the activities that everyone should be able to enjoy, like picnics, peaceful walks and sunbathing. It is not safe to sit or lie anywhere in the park because of the threat of speeding footballs and tennis balls. Sunbathing dropped by 20% last year.

To sum up, ballgames must go. Some people might say that I am spoiling everyone's fun by demanding an end to ballgames. However, it is the ballgames that are spoiling the fun. It is the ballgames that are spoiling the park.

*Yours faithfully,
A concerned citizen*

Annotation Prompt

Letter to the Editor

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I wish to draw your attention to a problem which must be dealt with. As a local citizen and park volunteer, I must urge that the council ban ball games in the park. There are three main reasons why this has to be done.

The first and most important reason is the damage caused by ball games. Our delicate blooms and fragile flowers are squashed and broken every time a large, heavy ball is sent blasting through the flowerbeds. These rough games encourage thoughtless youths to skid and slide across our carefully tended lawns, leaving deep gouges like scars. The park spends thousands of pounds on new shrubs and plants each year. How much more money will be wasted before good sense wins?

My second point refers to the risks to people and animals caused by aggressive ballgames. The park is used daily by many families with young children and older people who may be unsteady on their feet. It is clear that balls crossing paths like bullets may cause painful injuries to those innocently passing by. What about our precious wildlife? Our park should be a safe haven for the curious squirrels and charming pigeons that live peacefully in the trees. How can we explain to them that the ball that smashed through a nest was only meant to be a bit of fun?

My last point is that ballgames are pushing out the activities that everyone should be able to enjoy, like picnics, peaceful walks and sunbathing. It is not safe to sit or lie anywhere in the park because of the threat of speeding footballs and tennis balls. Sunbathing dropped by 20% last year.

To sum up, ballgames must go. Some people might say that I am spoiling everyone's fun by demanding an end to ballgames. However, it is the ballgames that are spoiling the fun. It is the ballgames that are spoiling the park.

Yours faithfully,
A concerned citizen

- Read the letter.
- Label the **introductory** paragraph and **concluding** paragraph.
- Decide the main points of the letter and underline them (there are three).
- Highlight the text that elaborates on each main point. Use a key to show which:
 - explains further
 - supports with facts or evidence
 - asks a rhetorical question

Schools should...

Schools should teach children to climb trees.

Teachers could give sleep lessons.

Children will learn about reducing sugar in English and Maths lessons.

Children ought to have compulsory cooking skills sessions.

Driving should be added to the curriculum.

Students must learn life-saving skills at school.

Taken from <http://www.parentsandteachers.org.uk/resources/what-should-schools-teach>

Write a paragraph

Read the paragraph about cooking lessons. Write a similar paragraph about a new topic.

If we had cooking lessons each week, it could encourage children to eat more healthy food. Preparing fresh fruit and vegetables means that children will want to eat them more often. Children are more likely to try healthy new foods when they have cooked the food themselves. Food cooked by people in their homes must be more healthy than fast food and takeaways.



Talk Planner

Write the reasons why you think ball games should be allowed and then practise explaining them out loud.


