



St Bartholomew's CE Primary School



News in school 6.10.23

Good afternoon,

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came to support our Fun Run on Sunday. We can announce that we have raised £1000! We will split this and donate £500 to Brainbow and put £500 towards our mural fundraising. Thank you to Willoughby Foods for sending their very busy bee to share the day with us and meet all of our very excited children.



This week is National Dyslexia Awareness week, a time that individuals with dyslexia from all backgrounds and walks of life will be celebrated. The British Dyslexia Association website sets out the theme for the week:

'At the British Dyslexia Association, we know that each person with dyslexia experiences it in ways unique to them. Each will have their own set of strengths and challenges and tread their own path through life. We want to celebrate the diversity of the dyslexic community and the rich variety of lived experiences of dyslexia. That's why we have chosen the theme of Uniquely You for Dyslexia Awareness Week. You are special. You are distinctive. You are exceptional.'

What a powerful message *'You are special. You are distinctive. You are exceptional.'* This is clearly not just a message for Dyslexia Awareness week or those with dyslexia; it is a message I know our school focuses on with all pupils. As I move around St Bart's, I can see that this message is promoted through our church school

distinctiveness and theologically rooted vision, encouraging our pupils to be individual, unique and the best that they can be so that they can flourish in all areas of life.

Tree Climbing

We have noticed that a number of children are being left unsupervised after collection and they are climbing to the top of some of our tall trees on the field. Although, we think climbing trees is a great activity for children and would encourage learning how to do it with full supervision, our school trees are not strong enough and we take no responsibility for accidents or injuries that may occur after children have been collected. Please can I ask that you speak to your children about not climbing the trees on our school field and ensure that children are supervised at all times, after collection. Thank you.

Parents' Evening

Parent evenings will take place on Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th November. A form has been sent via ParentMail asking parents to indicate which day and times slots they would prefer. Teaching staff will allocate a day and time which will be emailed via ParentMail. Your children's books will be available in the hall for you to take a look at.

After School Clubs

After School clubs for Term 2 are now available to book. Please be aware that Yoga will not be running during this term. An 11+ club will take place on a Tuesday lunchtime during Term 2 and will be available to children in Year 5.

Underwear

Occasionally children have toilet accidents and require spare clothing. If you have any good quality boys or girls pants that are no longer in use that you would be willing to donate to school, please drop them into the school office. We are looking for sizes for all ages of primary school children. Thank you.

Whole School Trip – Panto – 15th December 2023

If you haven't done so already, please log on to ParentMail and complete the parent consent form and send payment for this trip. The consent form also requests information regarding an interval treat.

School worship

We thank you for the friends who give us the freedom to be ourselves. Help us to always be a friend to others, no matter who they are. Help us to always reach out in friendship to all those we meet.

Amen.

Bible verse of the week



Encourage
one another
and build
each other up,
just as in fact
you are doing.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

CrossCards

Take care
Miss Ingle

Attendance winner of the week

Willow Class are the attendance winners of the week!

Celebrated this week in Collective Worship

w/e 6.10.2023	Fantastic award	Excellence award	Team Points award
Apple Class	Woody	Ella	Oscar
Palm Class	Caitlin	Jack	Florrie
Oak Class	Poppy	Pippa	Lewis
Willow Class	Charlie-Mai	Gracie	Charlie-Mai

Dates for Your Diary

Date	Time	Event
12 th October		Apple Class trip to Ketton Pumpkins
13 th October	2.30pm	Harvest Service at the Church (Children to be collected from Church)
13 th October	3.15pm	PTFA refreshments in the church after the Harvest service.
18 th October		Flu Vaccinations
19 th October	3.15 – 4.30pm	PTFA Reception Welcome Disco (open to all)
20 th October		End of Term 1
31 st October		Beginning of Term 2
1 st November		Apple Class 'Fun with Fred Day'
29 th November		Apple Class trip to Tallington Farm
9 th December		Track Play
13 th December		Christmas Jumper Day
13 th December		Christmas Lunch
13 th December	3.15 - 4.30pm	PTFA Christmas Disco
14 th December	2.30 - 5pm	PTFA Christmas Fayre
15 th December		Whole school trip to Panto (South Holland Centre)
19 th December	6pm	Christingle & Carols by Candlelight at the Church

Any Other Information

PE/Swimming Timetable:

	PE	Swimming
Apple	Wednesday	Monday
Palm	Thursday	Tuesday
Oak	Monday	Thursday
Willow	Tuesday	Friday

School Mobile Phone

We now have a school mobile for afterschool care. The number is: 07396725986 It will be turned off during the school day. It will only be available for parents who have children attending afterschool care during afterschool care hours. **PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL OFFICE FIRST IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES.**

After School Kids Club

Please be aware that if parents/carers/guardians are more than 10 minutes late collecting from after school clubs at 4pm there will be a charge of a full hour, per child, childcare cost.

Pencil Cases

Thank you very much to everyone who has supported us by providing their children with stationery for their pencil cases, however a large number of children do not have glue sticks. Glue sticks are a staple part of school life and are used up very quickly. Please remember to ask your child regularly if they require anything replenishing.

School Opening

Our school office is open from 8.30am to 3.15pm, Monday to Friday. If you wish to contact the school out of these hours, please email enquiries@stbartholomews.lincs.sch.uk or call 01775 640357 and leave a message on our answerphone.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 80 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately – in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATTING

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit; likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and games, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

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