

# St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

06/10/2023



*'Let your light shine'*

## Good attendance is the key to success

**Attending school on time every day is really important for your children's future success.** We all want the best for their children and for them to get on well in life. Having a good education is important to ensure that they have the best opportunities in their adult life. They only get one chance at school, and your child's future may be affected by not attending school regularly. If children do not attend school regularly they may:

- Struggle to keep up with school work. So much important learning takes place every day and it is difficult to find the extra time to help a child catch up.
- Miss out on the social side of school life. Poor attendance can affect children's ability to make and keep friendships; a vital part of growing up.

Setting good attendance patterns from an early age, from nursery through primary school will also help your child later on in their life. Children who have a poor school attendance record may have less chance of securing a job when they are adults. Being on time is also vital and is a really important life skill. Being just a few minutes late each day adds up to hours of lost learning over a year. At St Barnabas, we are always here to help – if you are having any difficulties getting your child to attend school or getting them to school on time, please speak with Mrs Fisher or I and together we can find a solution to enable your child to 'let their light shine' in school every day.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Miss Hodgkinson

## LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE: HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS WE HAVE LET OUR LIGHT SHINE THIS WEEK...



### Our Christian Value for this half term is:

#### *'Generosity'*

"A community flourishes when people plant trees under which they will never sit."

A Greek proverb

This week we pray for all those living in food poverty due to climate change.

#### **This week's big question is:**

Can you be too generous?

#### **Thank you so much!**

We raised £206 for Macmillan Cancer Support in our cake sale last week. Thank you for your support.





### Start and Finish Times

School opens at **8:40am** and all children should be in school by **8:45am**. Gates are locked at 8:50am and anyone who arrives after this time will need to enter via the school office and be marked as late. At the end of the day, doors open at 3:10pm and all children should be collected by 3:15pm. Being just a few minutes late each day adds up to days of lost learning over a year - **BE ON TIME!**

### Nut Allergy

Our school is a **nut free zone** as we have children in school with severe allergies. Please do not send any food in packed lunches containing nuts or traces of nuts, including chocolate spread. Thank you.

### Playtime Snacks

We are a healthy school and constantly reinforce with our children that healthy eating and regular exercise lead to positive mental and physical health. Part of this is to educate our children to eat as healthily as possible, as this contributes to future success. The only snacks we allow at playtimes are **toast or fruit**, these can be brought in from home or toast can be purchased via ParentPay. Thank you

### Water Bottles

Children are asked to bring a bottle to school filled with water which they can drink throughout the day. Drinking water throughout the day keeps children's brains hydrated and helps them to learn well. Only water is allowed in these bottles, as drinking juice throughout the day causes tooth decay. Children can drink juice or with their lunch. If any children persist in bringing juice in their water bottles, parents will be contacted.

### Staying Safe Online

This week our e safety guide focuses on Among Us, which has become extremely popular over the last few years. It has become one of the world's most downloaded games. Even though it has a 7+ age rating, cartoonish and colourful graphics which appeal to young audiences, there are more serious risks that parents and carers need to be aware of. This week's e safety guide gives hints and tips on hazards we need to be aware of.

### Grand Theft Auto

Some of our children have told us they are playing Grand Theft Auto. This game is rated 18 and has a lot of content that is **TOTALLY UNSUITABLE** for children. Please monitor your children's gaming carefully.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to have an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## 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 60 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.

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
7  
PEGI

### 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 is not far removed from traditional games like Wolf, 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 veiled 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 can usually 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. It is 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 game's premise unsettling. Similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats), which downplay the potentially dark game elements, some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Moral superhero-themed version.

#### 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 a child has a Discord account, 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GBGamer and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the app store and our news desk, he's played games who understand the value of online safety. Writing monthly about tech-related issues, he's written several books published by National Online Safety and Tech Today.

**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.10.2023

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/nationalonlinesafety) [/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/nationalonlinesafety) [@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety) [@national\\_online\\_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)



MONDAY 9<sup>TH</sup>

OCTOBER

3.15 – 5PM

£3



SNACK & DRINK PROVIDED

FILMS WILL BE SHOWN IN CLASSROOMS AND WILL BE AGE APPROPRIATE

(FILMS TO BE CONFIRMED)



Dates for your Diary Autumn Half Term 1	
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Movie Night after school
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Y5 Swimming at Orford Jubilee Hub
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October 1:30 – 2:30pm	Open afternoon for new families
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 9am - 11am	Open morning for new families
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception trip to Delamere Forest
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Y6 Hockey Competition
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery and Reception Stay and Play
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Nursery Stay and Play
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Football Team: match against Latchford St James
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 Space Exhibition – families invited
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Book Fair
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October & Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evenings for all classes
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 trip to Liverpool Heritage Museum
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term

School Term Dates 2023 - 2024	
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	School opens
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School closes for Christmas break
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	School opens
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	School opens
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	School closes for Easter break
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	School opens
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday – school closed
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	School closes for half term
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	School opens
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for Summer break

