

NORTH WALKDEN PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

13th October 2023

Headteacher's Weekly Awards - WELL DONE TO OUR STARS OF THE WEEK

All the children get a special mention in the Achievement assembly on Friday and will bring home a certificate detailing the reason for their award.

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Riley Darius	Ellis Elisha	Ini Nayla	Amelie-Jo Anirlan	Thomas LucA	Enzo Ahmed	Darvidas Laura	Alfie Sienna

We have had a very busy and exciting week in school! We have continued with the Zoo workshops in school in preparation for our trip next Tuesday to Chester Zoo. Year 4 visited our local church, St Johns to learn all about the Harvest festival. Our year 6 parents joined us in class to work alongside their children and learn about what they are learning at present. We also had our photographs taken too! As well as these activities the children have all been working hard in their lessons and whilst I have been walking around school I am very pleased to see such exciting lessons taking place and the children fully engaged in their learning.

School Photographs: Pictures were taken on Tuesday this week of both individuals and also families together. Your child will have brought home a card with instruction on how to access the photographs and place any orders that you wish to. Please take a look as they do have some very reasonably priced options and these do make very good Christmas presents for grandparents and other family members. Every purchase also raises some extra money for school too! We will confirm the last date for orders next week.

Place2Be Parenting Smart courses: Parenting Smart is a 4-week online course where parents and carers with children at Place2Be schools can gain extra tools to deal with everyday parenting challenges and strengthen their relationship with their child.

The next cohort starts in November!

The link below takes you directly to the page on the Place2Be website.

[Place2Be's Parenting Smart - Online Course](#)

Parents can book directly online if their child attends your school and complete in their own time at home.

This is handy for parents who work during the day and can't access face to face sessions.

Next week.....

RWI Meeting for year 1 & 2 parents: We would love you to come and join us for a brief meeting about Read Write Inc. which is the programme of work we use to teach reading and writing. We would love to tell you some ore about it so that you can also support your child at home with their reading. Please come along at 9am on Monday 16th October. You can find a video here with further information <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjIPILhk7bQ>



Please take a look at the dates below for further events and make a note in your diaries.

Online Safety: We have some helpful advice below about Among Us and we will share different supportive advice each week in the newsletter.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold 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 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.



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 *GOROGAN* 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 fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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Unfortunately we had late arrivals in all classes this week! Children should be in school by 8.45am if you arrive after this time you are late!

Well done to Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 5 who all achieved their target of above 96%, for last week – FANTASTIC – LETS KEEP IT UP!

Punctuality and Attendance

Please remember school starts at **8:45am** – Doors will be open from 8.35am. Children arriving after 8.55am must enter through the school office and be signed in.

Last week's attendance – Our School target and individual pupil target is 96%

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Whole School
Class attendance	93.8	96.2	98.7	98	90.7	98.1	97.5	95.2	96.03
AWARD		BRONZE	SILVER	SILVER		SILVER	SILVER		
Late arrivals	3	1	1	2	5	2	6	8	28

School communication: Please ensure you are logged into your school spider app so that you receive all the important messages we send out. If you need to download the app again, its 'School Spider' and then you can simply go to the log in page and click forgot password to reset your log in details.

Contacting School: If you wish to contact school then you can email us on NorthWalkdenPrimary.PupilContact@salford.gov.uk and we will respond the same day or call 0161 921 2921.

DIARY DATES: Whilst we aim not to change dates once set sometimes circumstances mean we have to, please always check the dates each week and update your plans accordingly. Any changes will be highlighted.

DATE	ACTIVITY/EVENT	TIME	CLASS
MONDAY 16 TH OCTOBER	READ WRITE INC MEETING FOR PARENTS	9-9.30	YEAR 1 & 2
TUESDAY 17 TH OCTOBER	CHESTER ZOO TRIP	8.45- 3.30	YEARS 1-6
TUESDAY 17 TH OCTOBER	EYFS ZOO VISIT TO SCHOOL		RECEPTION AND NURSERY
THURSDAY 19 TH OCTOBER	NURSERY STAY AND PLAY	9-10	NURSERY PARENTS WELCOME
THURSDAY 19 TH OCTOBER	END OF HALF TERM SINGING SHOWCASE	1.15-1.45	YEARS 1-6 CHILDREN
THURSDAY 19 TH OCTOBER	RECEPTION – READING/PHONICS MEETING FOR PARENTS	3.30 – 4PM	RECEPTION PARENTS
FRIDAY 20 TH OCTOBER	PARENTS' COFFEE MORNING	9-10	ALL PARETNS WELCOME
FRIDAY 20 TH OCTOBER	SCHOOL FINISHES FOR HALF TERM	3.15PM	ALL CLASSES
MONDAY 30 TH OCTOBER	SCHOOL RE-OPENS	8.45AM	ALL CLASSES
TUESDAY 31 ST OCTOBER	PUMPKIN CARVING COMPETITION - ALL CHILDREN INVITED TO BRING A CARVED PUMPKIN TO SCHOOL	9AM	ALL CLASSES
TUESDAY 31 ST OCTOBER	HALLOWEEN SPOOKY MEAL – ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ORDER ON THE EVOLVE HUB	11.30 – 1PM	WHOLE SCHOOL
TUESDAY 31 ST OCTOBER	KS2 HALLOWEEN DISCO – FANCY DRESS – FOOD – SWEETS - TOYS £3.50 ENTRANCE OR £5 MEAL DEAL	5 – 6.30PM	Y3 – Y6

WEDNESDAY 1 ST NOVEMBER	YEAR 1 FAMILY TIME WORKSHOP	9-10AM	YEAR ONE PARENTS WELCOME
WEDNESDAY 1 ST NOVEMBER	NASAL FLU VACCINATION – CONSENT FORMS WILL BE REQUIRED	1-2PM	NURSERY
THURSDAY 2 ND NOVEMBER	RECEPTION BONFIRE NIGHT WORKSHOP	9-10AM	RECEPTION PARENTS WELCOME
THURSDAY 2 ND NOVEMBER	YEAR 5 'BOYS TO MEN' WORKSHOP STARTS	11.15- 12.15	YEAR 5 CLASS
FRIDAY 3 RD NOVEMBER	SPORTSCOOL TASTER DAY – CHILDREN TO COME IN PE KITS ON THIS DAY		YEAR 1 – YEAR 6
MONDAY 6 TH NOVEMBER	FLU VACCINATIONS R-YEAR 6	9-3.00	ANY CHILD WITH PARENTAL CONSENT
MONDAY 6 TH NOVEMBER	KEY STAGE 2 ROAD SAFETY WORKSHOPS	1.30PM- 3.30PM	KEY STAGE 2
THURSDAY 9 TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 3 LAST SWIM SESSION	1-3	YEAR 3
THURSDAY 9 TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 1 HEARING TESTS	9.30 – 11.30	YEAR 1
FRIDAY 10 TH NOVEMBER	2 MINUTES SILENCE IN CLASS	11AM	YEARS 2-6
MONDAY 13 TH NOVEMBER	PARENTS EVENING 1 PHONECALL OPTION	3.15-5.15	ALL CLASSES
WEDNESDAY 15 TH NOVEMBER	PARENTS EVENING 1 FACE TO FACE OPTION	3.20-6.30	EYFS TO YEAR 6
THURSDAY 16 TH NOVEMBER	YEAR 4 FIRST SWIMMING SESSION	1.30-3.00	YEAR 4
TUESDAY 21 ST NOVEMBER	DENTAL PROGRAMME	9-12	RECEPTION & YEAR 1
FRIDAY 24 TH NOVEMBER	LUXURY CHRISTMAS HAMPER ITEM IN EXCHANGE FOR EXTRA PLAY		ALL CLASSES
MONDAY 27 TH NOVEMBER	HAMPER RAFFLE TICKETS TO GO ON SALE	12.00	ALL CLASSES
THURSDAY 30 TH NOVEMBER	NURSERY STAY AND PLAY	9-10.00	NURSERY PARENTS
FRIDAY 1 ST DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY DAY	10.00- 3.00	ALL CLASSES
MONDAY 4 TH DECEMBER	EYFS NATIVITY DRESS REHEARSAL SHOW FOR SCHOOL	10.00	YEARS 1-6 TO WATCH
MONDAY 4 TH DECEMBER	SUPPER WITH SANTA KEY STAGE 1	3.15 -4.15	KEY STAGE 1 CHILDREN
TUESDAY 5 TH DECEMBER	EYFS NATIVITY PLAY FOR PARENTS	9.15	EYFS PARENTS
TUESDAY 5 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 1 CHRISTMAS SHOW FOR SCHOOL	10.30 APPROX	YEARS R AND KEY STAGE 2 TO WATCH
WEDNESDAY 6 TH DECEMBER	EYFS NATIVITY PLAY FOR PARENTS	9.15	EYFS PARENTS
WEDNESDAY 6 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 1 CHRISTMAS SHOW FOR PARENTS	2.15	KEY STAGE 1 PARENTS
THURSDAY 7 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 1 CHRISTMAS SHOW FOR PARENTS	9.15	KEY STAGE 1 PARENTS
THURSDAY 7 TH DECEMBER	YEAR 3 CHRISTMAS CHURCH EXPERIENCE	1.30PM	YEAR 3 CHILDREN
FRIDAY 8 TH DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY	ALL DAY	ALL CLASSES
FRIDAY 8 TH DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY - ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO ORDER ON THE EVOLVE HUB	11-1.30	ALL CLASSES

MONDAY 11 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 2 CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR PARENTS - TWO SHOWINGS	9.15 & 2.30	KEY STAGE 2 PARENTS
TUESDAY 12 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 2 MOVIE AFTERNOON	1-3.00	KEY STAGE 2
WEDNESDAY 13 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 2 OPERA HOUSE TRIP- JACK AND THE BEANSTALK	12-4.00	KEY STAGE 2
WEDNESDAY 13 TH DECEMBER	KEY STAGE 1 PARTY AFTERNOON (PARTY CLOTHES ALL DAY)	1.30-3.00	KEY STAGE 1
THURSDAY 14 TH DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS HAMPER TICKET WINNERS DRAW		SCHOOL COUNCIL TO DRAW THE WINNERS
THURSDAY 14 TH DECEMBER	EYFS CHRISTAS PARTY AFTERNOON (PARTY CLOTHES ALL DAY)	1-3.00	EYFS
FRIDAY 15 TH DECEMBER	SCHOOL CLOSES	2:00PM	WHOLE SCHOOL

Kind regards, Mrs Warburton