

## Collective Worship Theme = Responsibility & Justice



Attendance this week is: **Explorers: 98.2% Adventurers: 100% Navigators: 97.2%** (Overall: **98.3%** Target is **96%**)

12 April 2023

*First the blade, then the ear,  
then the full grain.*

Gillamoor C of E Primary  
School



### School News and Message from the Headteacher

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a restful and enjoyable school break. Several children have voiced surprise that it is already the summer term, and whilst we are certainly back early after Easter this year, it is indeed worth making sure we make the most of this long summer term with the improving weather and longer days.

We started with good intentions this week; despite it being a 4 day school week, our Juniors all took part in The Game of Actual Life on Wednesday, learning through fun scenarios about jobs, elections, finances, mortgages and wise purchases. We were all so proud of the excellent behavior on show, which was remarked upon by the deliverer of the special day as being a real credit to the school.

The Adventurers haven't stopped, visiting the Flamingo Land zoo this Friday for workshops focusing on rainforest habitats and animals. Thank you to the parent volunteers who have helped us out with this one.

Our Explorers have been busy looking at the story of creation, with the Reception children working on a wonderful collaborative Earth while our older Infants proudly produced their own sentences to share their understandings. Mrs Morbey also tells me that many of our Explorers have been making amazing progress in their swimming recently with more and children meeting the challenge of swimming with no float today. Well done everybody!

*Mrs Elsey*



### School Clubs

After school clubs start on Monday 15 April. Please ensure you have returned your form to school and paid on Parentpay, in order for your child to attend.

### Swimming and PE

Explorers will continue swimming on the 18 and 25 April. Juniors will swim on the 2, 9, 16 and 23 May. Please note the change to PE which will be every **Wednesday** and Thursday, so please ensure pupils have their PE kit in school.



**This week's winning House is:**

**ELM**

**Last week's winning House was:**

**ASH**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15th April—World Art Day

16th April—Waste and Recycling Visitor for Y5/6

19th April—Y5/6 Boys Cricket (Ryedale)

22nd April—Learning Means the World Class Assemblies

22nd April—Earth Day

3rd May—Y5/6 Girls Cricket (Ryedale)

6th May—School closed

13th-17th May—SATs Week

**PLEASE BE REMINDED THAT WE ARE A NUT AWARE SCHOOL. WE KINDLY REQUEST NO NUTS OR NUT DERIVATIVES ARE BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL IN PACKED LUNCHES OR AS SNACKS. .**



### Kikrby 10K:

There are going to be some practice runs of the one mile race that everyone is invited to join in with including parents.

We will be meeting at 5:50pm at Thomas the Bakers (with a view to start at 6pm) on the following dates:

- Wednesday 17th April
- Wednesday 24th April
- Tuesday 30th April

Laura Greaves will be helping out, if anyone wants a familiar face to meet them there!



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### Adventurers class room

Over the Easter break we had some building work done in Adventurers classroom to extend out into the eaves. The work has now been completed and the classroom is looking fantastic. A vibrant and refreshed space for lots of learning and fun over the years to come!

### Class Assesmbles—Learning Means the World Conservation Unit

Our children have a couple of weeks of learning left in their current Learning Means the World units, all of which are around the theme of Conversation. To share their learning this time, we are holding class assemblies on April 22nd.

They will take place in classrooms as follows:

- 2:30pm – Navigators
- 2:50pm – Explorers
- 3:10pm – Adventurers (In Navigator’s room)

Tea/Coffee will be available in the from Library 2:50pm – 3:30pm, so please pop in before or after your assembly in this window. Adventurers would also like to invite their parents to see the new classroom space, which they can do in the 5 minutes before their assembly. We hope you can join us.

### Waste and Recycling Visit

On Tuesday we have a visitor into school who is going to talk about waste recycling. Within this the children will be doing some planting therefore all children will need to bring in a 500ml clear, clean plastic bottle for this activity. Please can these be brought in on Monday in preparation for Tuesday, thank you.



### May Day

A quick reminder that school will be closed on Monday 6th May as it is a public holiday.

### Staff Training/meetings

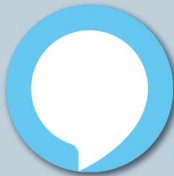
### School Lunches

Week beginning 15 April is Week 1 of our new Spring/Summer menu



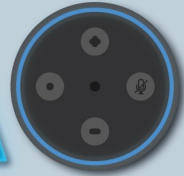
**Online Safety** is a serious subject and as teachers, we are keen to help parents understand ways they can act to keep their children safe online. Each week, I will share a link to materials from the National Online Safety organisation. This week's topic is about Amazon Alexa.

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many 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...

# AMAZON ALEXA



Alexa is an artificial intelligence (AI) software assistant created by Amazon in 2014 through which smartphone, tablet and smart device users can issue voice commands and ask questions in a range of languages by issuing the 'wake' or activation word Alexa. It can be accessed in several ways and is integrated into a growing number of 'smart' products including speakers, phones and clocks. Once viewed as expensive gimmicks, Alexa is now one of the most used voice assistants in the world.

## Privacy concerns

By their nature, AI voice assistants involve the collection of large amounts of data. How this is stored and the uses to which it is put has aroused growing concern. Experts also worry about who has access to voice recordings, which in 2019 the company admitted sometimes included employees of Amazon and its commercial partners. There is also the more general anxiety that internet voice assistants might record private conversations and not only commands or questions.

## Age-inappropriate content

Using Alexa as a speaker to play your favourite songs is one of the most popular uses for the device. However, without any parental controls in place, Alexa won't filter the lyrics so it's possible that children could hear something they shouldn't. Similarly, Alexa isn't always able to identify who or what age the person is who is issuing a voice command so if children ask a question which might not be age-appropriate, the chances are they're likely to get an age-inappropriate answer.



## Insecure devices

The devices and their background services are another worry, which can have software vulnerabilities that make them insecure in complex ways. In 2020, for instance, researchers discovered that the services to which Echo products connect were insecure, potentially allowing hackers to access personal information such as voice conversations. In 2017, researchers were able to directly hack an Amazon Echo to send audio to attackers. Amazon has a good record of fixing security problems when they are discovered but it is never possible to find every problem.

## Changing Tech Relationships

In a 2019 report published by the Centre for Data Ethics and Innovation, concerns were raised on the disruptive effect that voice assistants and smart speakers, such as Alexa, were having on the way that children interact with technology. From building sentiment and forming relationships which could encourage them to overshare personal details, to a fear of consuming content driven by commercial algorithms and an inability to assess reliability, how Alexa operates could considerably change children's relationship with technology in both the short and long term.



## Safety Tips

### Check privacy settings

It's possible to delete Alexa's recordings either entirely, or for a given period, with the instruction 'Alexa, delete everything I said.' Alternatively, set up the Alexa account privacy settings for that account to delete recordings every three or 18 months. Existing recordings made using the Alexa app can be deleted via Settings > Alexa Privacy > Review Voice History. A final tweak is to turn off the setting that allows Amazon to use voice recordings to improve Amazon services.

### Control voice input

If privacy is paramount, one idea is to locate Echo devices in only one room rather than having several throughout the home. In addition, Alexa can be activated only when it is needed by manually turning off the microphone on Echo devices between use. Users can tell when Alexa is in listening mode as an indicator light should appear or an audible tone should sound.

### Set pin code

Amazon account users can order items from the company using a voice command, for example 'Alexa, buy some toilet paper.' To counter accidental use or misuse and avoid racking up big bills, this can either be disabled or protected with a PIN code (It should be noted that this is an audible PIN however, so is not as secure as a typed code).

### Look out for 'Skills' apps

A big appeal of Alexa is that thousands of companies have created apps, which Amazon calls 'skills', that add useful capabilities, often integrations with other products or services. These are installed by asking Alexa to 'open/play/start' the skill. For example, a travel skill might be installed to check and automate checking train times and hotel bookings. However, it's important to remember that each of these might have a different privacy policy. A cautious approach is to install as few as possible, de-installing ones no longer in use.

### Talk about technology

As more and more homes install voice assistants and smart speakers such as Alexa, it's a good idea to talk to children about safe use of technology. Talk to them about what Alexa can be used for, how useful it can be and how to use it properly. Use it together to begin with and discuss any concerns they might have. Always make sure that children know to never share any personal or sensitive information and that if they need to talk about anything, they should always speak to a trusted adult.

## Meet our expert

John E. Dunn has edited and written for numerous computer and technology magazines since the early 1990s, most recently Which Computing, The Register, Forbes.com, Techworld, Computerworld and Naked Security. He is a specialist in online cybersecurity and cybercrime and their growing effect on education, young people and the public.

