

## Collective Worship Theme this half term = Respect

Attendance this week is: **Explorers: 98.2% Adventurers: 100% Navigators: 100%** (Overall: **99.4%** target is **96%**)

12 Jan 2023

### School News and Message from the Headteacher

Happy New Year! It has been wonderful to welcome everybody back to school this week, where we started 2024 in style with a special launch assembly for our new curriculum—Learning Means the World. Our new classes—Explorers, Adventurers and Navigators—have all embarked on units looking at different cultures through units focusing on Asia (Explorers), Africa (Adventurers) and USA/Australia (Navigators). Discussions have already been deep, challenging stereotypes and sparking much excitement and engagement. It is an exciting time to be at Gillamoor School and we are thoroughly looking forward to the upcoming term.

Mrs Elsey

### Lateness

Unfortunately we are seeing an increasing number of children arriving to school late. We would like to remind parents about our school day timings—the gate opens at 8:45am and closes at 8:55am. This is the duration of our registration time. Arrivals after this time are marked as 'Late' within the register. If you arrive after the gate closes, you **must** sign your child in using the book at the front door. This means we need parents to enter the building with their child if arriving after 8:55am.

An additional safety note—, if the side gate is open due to a food delivery after 8:55am, you must still use the front door when arriving late—the playground door will be locked.

### Y4/5 Bewerley Park

Our Y4/5 pupils are going to Bewerley Park in October, for our outdoor residential visit. We hope all our current Y4 and Y5 pupils will attend this exciting and valuable residential. A letter with information was sent home last term. Please can the consent forms be returned to school by Monday 15 January.



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

@SchoolGillamoor

Gillamoor C of E Primary  
School

**This week's  
winning house is  
Elm**

**Last winning  
House was Elm**



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15 Jan—Start of After School Clubs  
18 Jan-Winnie the Pooh brunch  
19 Jan—New Age Kurling extra PE session  
19 Jan—Learning Means the World Parent Information Session 2:45pm—3:25pm  
23 Jan—Cultural New Year's Exhibition 2:30pm—3:30pm.  
26 Jan—Film Night  
9 Feb—Careers Event

9 Feb-Break up

19 Feb-Pupils return to school  
19 Feb-Bewerley Park deposit deadline

**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. .**



## Happy New Year and welcome back.

We have our first film night of the year on **Friday 26th**, start time will be 6.15pm. The film is TBC. We have our school disco on **Sunday 4th February** at Fadmoor Village Hall with DJ Lyn. Last years disco was a huge success we think the whole school just about turned up it was lovely to see the children enjoying themselves.

We have lots of exciting fundraising planned for this year. We are always open to some new ideas and offers of help. Please keep an eye on the newsletter and our Facebook page for more information.

### Is my Child Too Ill for School?

If you are uncertain if your child is well enough to attend school, please check this website. If your child has a sore throat, or a minor cold, for example, they still need to attend school. However, if they have a fever, they should remain home

[www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school](http://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school)



### Swimming

Our Y2 to Y6 pupils had a fabulous first swimming session at Pickering Pool. They all thoroughly enjoyed the session and are already looking forward to next week's lesson!

### School Lunches

Week beginning 15 January is week 3 of our menu.

Thursday 18 January is a special Winnie the Pooh All Day Brunch. Menu attached.

Due to food deliveries, the lunch on Monday 15 January is Vegetarian Bolognese.



### Knives and Forks

We noticed recently that a number of our pupils are not confident using a knife and fork. We would like to raise this issue of this important life-skill. Thank you everybody for your support

**Kirkbymoorside out of school club**, are currently taking bookings for February half term (12th-16th February). Sessions available between 8am and 5pm. Please get in touch with them to secure your place. Kirkbymoorside out of School club: phone: 01751 430997 / email: 522501@nyey.co.uk

### Staff Training/meetings

Learning Means the World curriculum training

Empowering Minds— Children's Mental Health training

### School Lunches

Week beginning 15th Jan is Week 3 of our menu

18 January is a Winnie the Pooh lunch. Menu attached.



**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 Among Us.

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](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.



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



#WakeUpWednesday



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@national\_online\_safety

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

**Enjoy this special  
lunchtime menu  
with your friends**

Menu

Pooh's All Day Brunch

18<sup>th</sup> January

Piglet's Sausage, Scrambled Egg,  
Beans & Mini Hash Browns

Or

Kanga's Quorn Sausage, Scrambled  
Egg, Beans &  
Roo's Mini Hash Browns (v)

For Dessert

Christopher's Chocolate Cookie

**Join us this  
Winnie the Pooh Day**

