

Collective Worship Theme this half term = Respect

Attendance this week is: **Explorers: 94.9%** **Adventurers: 97%** **Navigators: 95.9%** (Overall: **96%** target is 96%)

19 Jan 2023

School News and Message from the Headteacher



In a week of freezing weather and challenging driving conditions, I would like to start by thanking all the parents who got their children in to school despite each day. Helping the children take on board the message that sometimes we have obligations even when they are challenging or require extra time or preparations is a really powerful one. It was wonderful to get down to the field on Thursday with all the children for some fresh air and snow-play and a lovely reward for them after working so hard too.

Clubs began again this week and our new line-up included Mrs Hugill's chatterbooks club. (Did you know there's a dragon powering your toaster?) The children were very proud to sport their 'reading champion' badges in school on Thursday.

Reading is a very important skill for all children and one that powers a lifetime of learning and opportunity. We do not set much homework at Gillamoor, but we do ask that all children have the opportunity to read to an adult each day at home. This could be just for 10 minutes; the routine and support at home are what are crucial. I am often told by parents that their child is too busy to read each day. However, looking at the impact on areas of development, which, as well as the obvious reading and writing attainment, include self-confidence, community involvement, increased empathy and understanding of others, general knowledge and a greater insight into human nature and decision making, I would argue that we cannot afford NOT to find the time.

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

Mrs Elsey



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

@SchoolGillamoor

Gillamoor C of E Primary School

This week's winning House is ASH

Last week's winning House was ELM



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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
- 1 Feb-School Administrator closing date
- 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. .



We have our next meeting this **Monday 22nd January** at the Royal Oak, Gillamoor at 7pm. Please come along and support us with fresh ideas, offers to help or just to see what we are all about. Film Night is back next **Friday 26th**. Doors open at 6.15pm, film starts 6.30pm. £3.00 per child, includes snacks and a drink. Come dressed in your cosy pjs. Film is TBC.

The **school disco is on Sunday 4th February**, dance ticket slips will be sent home with your children this week. If you could have the slips back to us by Friday 26th that would be brilliant as we can plan on the number coming....fingers crossed for as many as last time if not more. It was a good afternoon.

Thank you

JOB VACANCY

School Administrator required

Due to a change of circumstances we are re-advertising. Previous applicants are welcome to

apply.

We require a School Administrator to work 6.5 hours on a Friday. Full details and application form is on our school website and on the northyorks.gov.uk job page. If anyone would like any further information, please contact Mrs Hugill.

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.



Staff Training/meetings

Developing Deep Quality Questioning in the Classroom

School Lunches

Week beginning
22nd Jan is Week
3 of our 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 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 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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

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 grizzly 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.

