

Collective Worship Theme this half term = Loving and Caring



Attendance this week is: **Explorers: 95.7%** **Adventurers: 98.6%** **Navigators: 97.8%** (Overall: 97% Target is 96%)

15 Mar 2023

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

Gillamoor C of E Primary School



School News and Message from the Headteacher

It may have been a rather wet and chilly week, but it does feel like Spring is just around the corner. What was formally the Infant outdoor play area has had a revamp and our Juniors were delighted to be included in the new access to this area, leading to a buzz of creativity and inspiration. Please see the message below for our upcoming exciting plans for outdoor play.

Our first Child-Centered Consultations were highly successful this week. It was wonderful for our teachers to have conversations with both parents and children together, cementing our school-home partnership with the children at the heart of what we do.

Thank you to everyone who completed the after school clubs and child-care survey recently. If you have not yet done so, but wish to, please aim to complete it this weekend, so we can begin to plan accordingly. Well done to our Year 3/4 netballers who have represented the school fabulously today at Ryedale. Next week we see the turn of some of our Navigators to end the Easter term in style.

Mrs Elsey

Outdoor Play/Scrap Shack

We are hoping to be able to open a 'Scrap Shack' in the near future. This is an approach to playtimes which gives the children access to a wide range of unwanted (safe) items to integrate into imaginative play, den building, construction and so on. If you have any spare tires, ropes, crates, sheets, washing line, pegs/clips and so on, we would be interested in claiming them for our new approach to play. Please do not bring in to school yet, as we are still working out our storage, but we would love to know what is available so we can plan appropriately. Thank you so much!



EASTER EGG RAFFLE

Thank you to The Ryedale Lions who have kindly donated a fantastic Easter Egg for us to raffle. Tickets are £1.00 a strip and available from School. The raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 19 March. Good luck!



This week's winning House is:

OAK & ASH

Last week's winning House was : ELM

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

18 Mar- Y2/5/6 NSPCC workshops

18 Mar—Easter Worship with Rev Paul

19 Mar—Egg design competition judging

19 Mar-Easter Egg raffle draw

20 Mar—Art workshop for Y3/4/5

21 Mar-PE instead of swimming for Infants

22 Mar-Y6 Netball, Ryedale

22 Mar Break up

9 April-Pupils return to school

10 April—KS2 Actual Game of Life

12 April—Y3/4 Flamingo Land Zoo

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. .



Parking

Please can parents/carers ensure they do not double park or park across a junction to ensure the safety of pupils and community.

School Budgets

Mrs Elsey and Mrs Hugill met with the Local Authority Financial Consultant to discuss budgets for the next financial year. Budgets remain incredibly tight and we continue to be encouraged by the Local Authority to save wherever we can. Your contributions towards visits, activities and transport costs make a huge difference and enable us to continue giving the children many additional educational experiences

Parentpay Debt

Currently, on Parentpay, parents owe the following amounts.

Lunches—£302.55, Swimming—£310.00, Clubs—£462.00, Transport—£111.59, Breakfast Club—£252.00, Chill Club—£24.00.

TOTAL PARENTS OWE SCHOOL = £1462.14

This is causing huge problems for our very tight budget. Accounts should always be in credit. As soon as there is any money outstanding, the amount is taken from our school budget, which means this money cannot be used for your children.

Please check your accounts and pay any outstanding debt. Thank you so much to everyone for putting credit on your accounts and paying in advance. If you are unable to make payments in advance for any reason, please let us know. School cannot afford to subsidize parents which means any accounts not in credit for clubs, pupils will no longer be able to attend. We are monitoring all activities in school.

Bewerley Park

Arrangements are already being made by Bewerley Park for our exciting residential trip in October. Please can Y4 and Y5 parents remember to put payments on their Parentpay account.

Child Centered Consultations

Thank you to the 93% of parents who attended our Child Centered Consultations. We found the meetings extremely valuable and hope you did too. Thank you for the supportive and positive comments we received. Please do feel free to contact us at other times, should you wish to discuss any concerns rather than waiting until parents evening.

Easter Out of School Activities

Kirkbymoorside out of school club is open for the Easter Holidays every day except Good Friday and Easter Monday From 8am -5pm. There are various sessions available. To book a place please or for more information please contact the school on 01751430997 or 522501@nyey.co.uk.

Hawkes Health and Fitness are holding Easter football camps. Please see the brochure attached to this email if you are interested in booking a place.



Staff Training/meetings

School Lunches

Week beginning
18 Mar is Week 3
of our menu



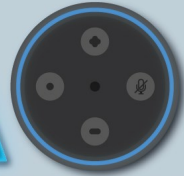
Online Safety is a serious subject and as teachers, we are keen to help parents understand ways they can act to keep their children safe online. Each week, I will share a link to materials from the National Online Safety organisation. This week's topic is about Amazon Alexa.

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 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.

