

Collective Worship Theme this half term = Loving and Caring



Attendance this week is: **Explorers: 92.1% Adventurers: 94.3% Navigators: 96.7%** (Overall: **94%** Target is **96%**)

22 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

As we reach the end of our shortest term, it is wonderful to see the nights getting longer and the days warmer. Our children have been benefiting this week, with the juniors returning to the field for outdoor PE this week with Mrs Smith and Mrs Morbey. Well done to our Navigators class, who represented the school fabulously at the netball today. A real benefit of our small school is that we can take all our children to these events meaning opportunities for everyone to take part.

Before Christmas, the juniors experienced a tile design workshop and every child submitted a design to a competition to design a tile for the Rievaulx Abbey renovation. We are delighted to be able to share that Rosie's design was one of 3 selected to be used in the actual project. This week, the project returned to school to work with Rosie to create her design. They also treated our year 3, 4 and 5s to a second clay workshop where they learnt some fascinating techniques to cut intricate tiles with templates and wires - a most unusual opportunity.

I popped in to the Explorer's classroom on Thursday and was able to experience fabulous sequencing and storyboarding activities around the Easter story. The children were also keen to show me their previous work in RE about Jonah and the whale. Being able to recall and talk about previous learning is a valuable skill. I hope our learners are equally keen to bring home their stories of their learning to their parents and grandparents over the holidays.

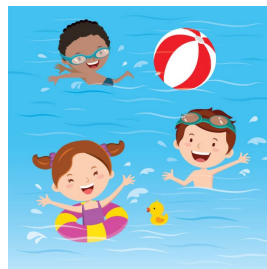
We wish all our families a relaxing and restorative Easter break. We will see everyone back at school on Tuesday 9th April.

Mrs Elsey

Swimming and PE

After Easter, Infants will continue swimming on the 11, 18 and 25 April. Juniors will swim on the 2, 9, 16 and 23 May

PE will be every Monday and Thursday, so please ensure pupils have their PE kit in school.



Planting:

We have been selected to join a national school's tomato growing campaign and will receive a set of seeds, pots and compost for 30 children to grow their own tomato plant, as part of a national healthy eating campaign. We would love to be able to extend this to the whole school. If anyone has spare individual plastic plant pots, tomato seeds or potting compost they would be happy to donate, please do let us know. Thank you!

This week's winning House is:

ASH

Last week's winning House was :

OAK & ASH

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 9 April-Pupils return to school
- 10 April—KS2 Actual Game of Life
- 11 April—Swimming Infants
- 11 April— PE Juniors
- 12 April –Y2 multi-skills, Helmsley
- 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. .



Hello, what a busy few weeks we have had. Thank you to everyone who came to our Easter Bingo night, we raised a wonderful £560.00! Fadmoor & Gillamoor Village Hall also held a quiz night for us raising a massive £1220!!! WOW we are so grateful to them for this.

Kirkbymoorside 10k is on Sunday 5th May. We are still looking for help with Marshalling in Kirkbymoorside and help on the water station we run in Gillamoor. Also this week we had our Easter Egg competition in school. Well done to everyone who took part and to the winners. There were some wonderful Egg designs. Winners: Infants - Sophia W, Yr 3/4 - Jake, Yr 5/6 - Ronnie, Family - Samuel and Henry, Staff - Mrs Elsey, Overall winner - Sayuri. We hope everyone has a wonderful time off and we will see you back after the Easter Break, Rachel from FOS

Lost property:

We regularly find we have multiple items of school uniform left in the cloakroom at the end of the day, despite reminding children to take care of their belongings. It would be helpful if you could support the children by ensuring all items of uniform are clearly named so we can get belongings back to their owners. Thank you!



Lunch Menu

Please find attached the corrected Spring/Summer lunch menu with the Halal meat option now removed. This was left on by mistake by the catering company and they have reassured us that the meat they provide is not Halal.

School Clubs

After School Clubs will re-start on Monday 15 April. Breakfast Club will run as usual from the 9 April. A sign up form for all parents who have paid for clubs this half term, will be sent home after Easter. Y6 SATs Club will run on the 11 and 12 April.



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.



Giant Easter Egg

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and to Aniko Sheppard, one of our Governors for drawing the winning number. Also, thank you to the Easter Bunny who won the raffle and kindly shared the egg between the pupils and staff.

Staff Training/meetings

School Lunches

Week beginning 8 April is Week 3 of our new Spring/Summer menu



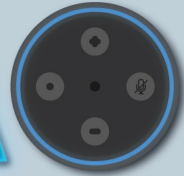
Online Safety is a serious subject and as teachers, we are keen to help parents understand ways they can act to keep their children safe online. Each week, I will share a link to materials from the National Online Safety organisation. This week's topic is about Amazon Alexa.

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 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.

