

East Ardsley Primary Academy Newsletter

11/11/2022

Menu No. 3



Attendance: Congratulations to Class 4 who have 100 % attendance this week - you were our attendance stars.

What we have been up to this week:

Following on from last week's excitement, this week we have had Bikeability in school all week working with our Year 6. It is really important that the children learn to cycle safely and confidently both in school grounds, but also out on the roads. The children have worked really hard and improved their cycling skills.

This week saw our School Council elections. The children all got to vote for the person in their class they felt would best represent them and they will soon be meeting for the first time together to plan what they will be working on this year.

Next week is Anti-bullying Week in school and the children will be learning what it means to be a bully, how to recognise bullying and how to deal with it positively. We have a lot of children who are struggling with friendships. They are finding it hard to be a part of larger friendship groups with lots of other children in the playground, and do not know how to deal with situations when they arise.

We are going to be focussing on making sure the children 'use their words' and tell one another if they are making them feel sad or upset. Lots of children do not recognise when they have done something to upset other children, and then lots of children are only able to deal with situations if they have the support of an adult. We will be working to address this, but it will take the children time to build up their confidence and to rebuild the skills they need to manage their friendships.

If your child tells you that another child is hurting or upsetting them please reinforce with them that they need to let that child know that they don't like what they are saying or doing. If they need the support of an adult please let a member of staff know so that they can help your child to manage these situations.

Although in some ways lockdown feels a long time ago, some of its consequences are far-reaching. The reactions we are seeing in school are to be expected after children have spent so long in confined numbers with lots of adult attention. We are seeing the children gaining confidence and making secure friendships, but some children are finding it harder than others. Please do not panic if your child is one of the ones who is struggling. We are all working together to ensure the children regain those social skills in the same way we are with their learning.

Please be aware we have an inset day on Friday 25th November 2022. School will be closed to the children on this day.

Ms Talbot

Dates for your Diary:

14.11.22	Anti-bullying Week
24.11.22	PTFA Dress Down Day
25.11.22	Inset Day—school closed
28.11.22	Assessment Week
29.11.22	Flu Immunisations
29.11.22	PTFA Key Stage 1 Film Night
1.12.22	PTFA Key Stage 2 Film Night
5.12.22	Rock Steady Concert
7.12.22	Year 4 Trip
7.12.22	EYFS/Year 1 Nativity
8.12.22	EYFS/Year 1 Nativity
9.12.22	Christmas Jumper Jumble
13.12.22	Christmas Dinner Day
13.12.22	Year 2/3 Concert
14.12.22	Nursery Christmas Sing
14.12.22	Year 2/3 Concert
15.12.22	Year 2/3 Concert
16.12.22	School closes
3.1.23	School opens
9.1.23	Year 5 Trip
12.1.23	PTFA Meeting 6pm
24.1.23	Governors Meeting
25.1.23	Year 6 Robinwood
2.2.23	Year 1 Celebration Assembly
9.2.23	PTFA Valentine Disco
10.2.23	School closes
20.2.23	School opens
20.2.23	D:side workshops all week
22.2.23	Year 3 Trip
2.3.23	World Book Day
2.3.23	Year 6 Trip
9.3.23	Year 2 Celebration Assembly
13.3.22	Assessment Week

PTFA Update:

Happy weekend everyone!

Few updates from the PTFA for you:

Halloween Disco: Thank you to everyone who came to the school discos, over the two events we raised an incredible £542.69 for our kids so a huge thank you again and we look forward to working with school identifying where this can help.

Movie Nights: Date for the diary, it's show time again and we have the ever popular Polar Express lined up for KS1 and KS2 on two separate dates. So put on your favourite PJ's, dressing gowns and slippers and settle down with a hot dog, chocolate milk and snacks to enjoy the film. Nut, wheat and lactose free options will be available.

Tickets are not on sale yet, we'll let you know when they are available. Please book to avoid disappointment

KS1: Tuesday 29th November 5pm - 7pm £3.00 per ticket on parent pay. We will advise when they are going on sale

KS2: Thursday 1st December 5pm - 7pm £3.00 per ticket on parent pay. We will advise when they are going on sale.

A movie night poster for 'The Polar Express'. On the left, a large steam locomotive is shown from a low angle, emitting a bright light from its headlight. A small figure of a child in a blue coat stands in the snow in the foreground, looking up at the train. The background is a dark blue sky with falling snow. On the right, the text reads: 'THE PTFA PRESENTS' in small white letters, followed by 'Movie Night!' in large red letters. Below that, 'NOW SHOWING' is written in yellow. A red-bordered box contains the title 'THE POLAR EXPRESS' in white. Further down, it says 'Put on your favourite PJ's, dressing gown & slippers to join us for a Christmas Movie night!' and 'Hot dog on arrival followed by chocolate milk and snacks during the film.' At the bottom, there are two white boxes for ticket information. The left box is for KS1, showing '5PM - 7PM', 'TUES 29th NOV', and '£3 per ticket booking via parent pay.' The right box is for KS2, showing '5PM - 7PM', 'THURS 1st DEC', and '£3 per ticket booking via parent pay.' At the very bottom right, it says 'Registered charity 1200456'.

Next PTFA meeting: 12th January- all welcome to join.

Just a reminder Amazon Smile:

Amazon smile is a charity donation service offered by Amazon. It's easy to set up and every time you buy something from Amazon, they donate 0.5% of the sale to a charity. It doesn't cost you any more, Amazon pay for this. Simply go to your settings (I did this on my phone) in Amazon, click on Amazon Smile, select East Ardsley Primary Academy PTFA as your chosen charity and Amazon's contribution begins on your next purchase. The money will contribute to the extension of the trim trail and other school events.

Thanks from the PTFA

Applying for Primary places (Reception) to start September 2023

The on line application process opened on 1st November and runs until the deadline of 15th January 2023. Parents/carers should have received a letter and 'quick guide' from admissions inviting them to apply for a reception place. Parents are able to apply for their child's reception place to start school in September 2023 using the online system: www.leeds.gov.uk. After applying, please check that you have received a confirmation and keep the email safe. If you do not receive a confirmation email, this means that some of the information has been omitted and the application will not be processed, therefore you will need to contact Admissions.

Parents will be informed of their school offer via email on **Monday 17th April 2023**

You can contact the Admissions Team on 0113 222 4414 if you have any questions.

You can find information about schools, previous years allocation data, catchment maps and links to school admission policies on the 'find more information about a school' page on Leeds City Council website <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/composite-prospectus>

You can find on Leeds City Council's website www.leeds.gov.uk/apply

- an address lookup tool - for families to check if their address has any priority, but not all addresses will have such priority
- the link to the online application form

Please remember to:

- use all 5 preferences, using only use 1 or 2 preferences decreases the chances of being offered a place at a preferred school;
- any supplementary information needs to be provided by the closing date (this applies if a child is previously looked after, is seeking admission under exceptional needs or if a family wish to apply for their child to be admitted out of chronological age group
- use the child's actual permanent address. Using that of a friend, relatives, childminder or renting a property to gain a school place are all considered fraud and places can be withdrawn.

Parking

We have had a complaint, regarding cars double parking on Fall Lane at the end of the school day. This is causing a lot of congestion as cars are unable to get up Fall Lane or down Fall Lane. We have been informed that this has also been reported to the police.

What Parents Need to Know about Amigo

A free online safety guide on Amigo.

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships to unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more features become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as inappropriate contact, strangers and membership costs.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

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AGE RATING

18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'Intimacy Levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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