



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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6th October 2023

"The moment where you doubt you can fly; you cease for ever being able to do it."

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week, we were absolutely delighted to welcome Kate Kniveton, Member of Parliament for Burton and Uttoxeter, to our school! She spent some time looking around at some of the fabulous learning that was taking place, and



talking to our Year 5 and Year 6 children about what life is like as an MP, what inspired her to join the world of politics, and how it feels to work in Westminster. It was fascinating to hear. The children also probed her with some challenging questions related to local issues and matters close to their hearts, which she answered with great sincerity. We would like to thank Kate again for taking time out of her busy day to come and visit our school. You can hear about what else has been going on in our classrooms this week in the 'Shobnall Showcase' further on in the newsletter.

You should have all now received a letter outlining the arrangements for parent consultations, scheduled for Monday 16 October and Wednesday 18 October 2023, 4.00 – 7.00pm. If you have not yet booked your appointment, click on the link that has been sent to your phone to get your preferred slot/s.

Finally, the YMCA would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to all involved in collecting food for our Harvest Assembly this week. It will make a huge difference to many hungry lives as, sadly, the YMCA are helping record numbers of people every week who are in need of emergency parcels. Your kindness and generosity is very much appreciated! Thank you!

We hope that you have a great weekend and, as always, we look forward to seeing you again on Monday! Enjoy!



Shobnall Stars – After School Club Closure, Tuesday 10 October 2023

As stated on our first newsletter of the academic year (*Friday 8 September 2023*), please could we remind all parents that **After School Club** will be **closed** on **Tuesday 10 October**. This is due to staff having to attend essential training that cannot be rescheduled. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but the rest of the sessions will run as normal next week.

Open Evening – Wednesday 15 November 2023, 4.30pm – 6.00pm

We would like to remind you about our forthcoming **Open Evening** on **Wednesday 15 November, 4.30pm to 6.00pm**. The admissions window opens for places in our Reception and Nursery classes in November, so as well as welcoming potential new parents to look round our school, this is also a great opportunity for our existing parents to visit too and see some of the wonderful things that are happening!



SHOBNALL PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL



PROUDLY INVITES YOU TO ATTEND OUR

OPEN EVENING



WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER
4.30pm – 6.00pm

Please join us as we showcase our school, our vision, our values, our philosophy and our approaches. You will meet our staff and our children and get to see first-hand our incredible Museum of Wonder. We look forward to seeing you there!

So, please join us as we showcase our school, our vision, our values, our philosophy and our approaches. You will meet our staff and our children and get to see first-hand our work on the curriculum. We look forward to seeing you there!

Attendance

We have seen attendance take a small slide this week due to some of the usual bugs that are doing the rounds. Please read the [NHS 'Is my child too ill for school?' guidance](#) which has further information if you are unsure whether to send your child to school or not.

We are always happy to advise in line with this guidance, so if you are still in doubt, please contact the school office if your child develops any symptoms and we can discuss this further with you.

Please note that children can come to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This includes general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose, or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above.

Let's keep working together to ensure attendance is as good as it can be!

Remember, **every pupil, every day!**

Thank you for your support.

UK Health Security Agency **NHS**

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

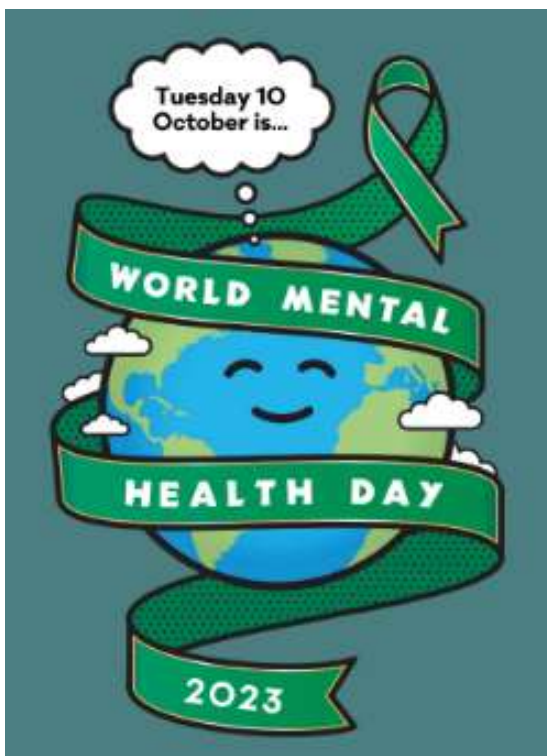
Illness	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Head, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Pinworms
Threadworms	Strep throat

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://www.gov.uk/minor-illnesses>

SCAN ME



World Mental Health Day – Tuesday 10 October 2023

The [World Health Organisation](#) recognises World Mental Health Day on 10 October every year.

The theme of 2023's World Mental Health Day, set by the [World Federation for Mental Health](#), is 'Mental Health is a Universal Right'.

For over 70 years, they've been working to make sure that mental health is treated on a par with physical health. Mental health problems exist in our lives, families, workplaces and communities, impacting everyone. We need to do as much as possible to prevent mental ill-health – as individuals and as a society. The World Health Organisation will continue to call on national and local government to prioritise reducing the factors known to pose a risk to people's mental health, enhancing those known to protect it and creating the conditions needed for people to thrive.

World Mental Health Day is also a chance to talk about mental health in general, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to talk about things and get help

if you are struggling. Click on the links above if you would like to access any of the resources available or would like further information.

Halloween Holiday Sports Camp

Please see below for further information about the Halloween Holiday Sports Camps at Shobnall Primary & Nursery School provided by Active Learning Sports.

ACTIVE

LEARNING SPORTS

SHOBNALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

Have fun in the school holidays with your friends!

Who we are

- A leading sports and physical activity provider within primary schools.
- We provide highly qualified PE teachers and experienced coaches.
- All of our coaches are first aid trained and DBS cleared.

About the camps

- Over 20 sports and fun activities provided with children from your school and surrounding schools.
- Affordable, safe, fun and structured child care during school holidays.
- Presentation at the end of each week including certificates, prizes and an awards ceremony.

Here are all the activities that you can enjoy!

- Dodgeball**
- Football**
- Basketball**
- Cricket**
- Movies at lunch time**
- Tag rugby**
- Street dance**
- Nerf wars**
- Zorb football**
- Capture the flag**

Children will be able to take part in a massive variety of sports provided by our fully qualified coaches. Whether it's having a go on our new laser guns, dancing away with virtual dance-off's, water fights, archery, Lego building, colouring competitions, limbo, Halloween games, football, tag rugby or scooting around with their friends your child will most definitely have fun! Over 20 different activities available provided by qualified coaches all DBS cleared and first aid trained. If you would like to book your child onto one of our courses, please scan the QR code via your mobile phone.



PFA Halloween Disco!

Tickets are still on sale every morning and afternoon pick up by the entrance to the key stage 2 playground for the forthcoming **PFA Halloween Disco** on **Friday 13 October 2023**. They are priced at £3.00 for the disco and £3.50 for the disco, drink, and sweets. There will also be a range of other goodies on sale at both discos so children will need to bring a little extra spending money on the night should they wish to purchase anything on offer.



The PFA are now able to take card payments for tickets, but due to the bank charges, there will be an additional 5p charge for every transaction. We do hope that you are able to support this event!



Year 7 Secondary School Applications

The application window for a September 2024 start at secondary or high school is still open. Parents can apply online at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/admissions. As in previous years, the local authority is no longer providing paper copies of the 'Information to Parents' booklet. Parents are able to access this booklet on their [website](#). Deadline for applications is **31 October 2023**.

Lunchtime Supervisor Vacancy

We are looking for a Lunchtime Supervisor! As a partner academy in JT MAT, we are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic, caring and committed Lunchtime Supervisor to join our evolving organisation.

The successful candidate will:

- Demonstrate high standards of teamwork, collaboration and respect.
- Be flexible, adaptable and dependable.
- Have excellent communication skills with children and staff.
- Be kind, compassionate and caring with our pupils.



If you want to discuss this role, please contact Mr Adams, by emailing shb-office@shb.jtmat.co.uk or telephoning 01283 247410. Completed application forms should be emailed to shb-office@shb.jtmat.co.uk. Only fully completed application forms will be submitted for shortlisting. CVs will not be accepted. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on **Friday 13 October 2023**.

FREE Uniform!

Please don't forget that we have free uniform available! There is a box situated outside the school office for any parents who have items they wish to donate. Please could we ask that these are cleaned and in good condition before placing in the box! Amy Roobottom continues sorting and collating this. As previously stated, if you wish to contact Amy to ask what is available that you might be in



need of, please contact the school office via shb-office@shb.itmat.co.uk and we will ensure this is forwarded to her.



Online Safety Tips

Created in 2018 by a small indie studio that (at the time) had only four employees, Among Us has become one of the gaming world's biggest breakout hits of recent years.

In 2020, for example, it was the world's most-downloaded mobile game.

Its simplicity helped Among Us to resonate with younger players in particular: the game's second largest audience slice is the 13–18 age bracket.

While the 7+ age rating, emphasis on teamwork and cartoonish, colourful graphics all suit a young fan-base, however, the game does carry more serious risks than betrayal by a team-mate or an untimely on-screen demise – with in-game purchases and possible contact from strangers on the game's list of hazards that trusted adults should bear in mind.

Hot Lunch Options – 9 to 13 October 2023

A new menu has been launched! Please visit our dedicated school website page [here](#) for further information.

W/c 9.10.23, 6.11.23, 27.11.23, 18.12.23, 22.1.24

WEEK 3	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main dish	Margherita pizza with baked potato wedges	All day breakfast	Roast turkey with potato of the day & gravy	Macaroni cheese	Crispy battered fish & chunky chips
Vegetarian Main dish	Vegetable tikka masala with 50/50 rice	Vegetarian all day breakfast	Quorn™ fillet with roast potatoes & gravy	Vegetable & bean chilli with 50/50 rice	Quorn™ nuggets with chunky chips
Accompaniments	Peas & broccoli Salad bar	Roasted vegetables Salad bar	Green beans & cabbage Salad bar	Corn on the cob & carrots Salad bar	Peas & baked beans Salad bar
Desserts	Chocolate crunch	Apple & cinnamon muffin	Lemon cake	Apple crumble & custard	Ice cream
Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt	Fresh fruit or Yoghurt
Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection	Jacket potato and sandwich selection



SHOBNALL SHOWCASE!

Let's have a sneaky peek as to what has been going on in our classrooms this week...

Nursery

We have been listening to a story based around the music of the 'Carnival of the Animals' where two boys disappear through a magical door and meet many different animals on their travels. We have loved practising our own lion and elephant movements in PE with Mr Attwood as well as using percussion instruments to represent our own animal sounds.

We have also been busy learning about our families and made comparisons between them. The Nursery staff brought family photos into school to share with the children, so that they could learn more about their key workers and make comparisons between families. Next week we look forward to looking at photos brought in from the children, as way of learning that all families are different and intend to display them on 'Our Family' tree in the classroom!

Reception

Our adventures in reception this week....

We have had a busy week exploring homes as part of our 'On Our Doorstep,' topic. We were surprised to find out about all the different types of homes people live in and enjoyed sharing all about our own.

It was great fun developing our story telling by adapting the three little pigs with the three little dogs and the big bad chicken! We retold the story with our new actions and used our writing toolkit to begin writing the story as a class.

The home theme continued as we carried out an exciting investigation to create a home for the pigs using sweets and cocktail sticks. We worked magnificently in our groups, discussing how we could make the house strong and helping each other to attach the different parts. We did a great job because when the big bad wolf dryer appeared it couldn't blow our houses down - we were so happy that the pigs were safe!

We also used a variety of construction to create homes for the pigs. It was fun using the large construction and we made some big houses outside with some wonderful additions including a crate fence, post box and a leaf carpet.

Throughout the week we have been sharing all of the different places we have been caught reading! So far these include – Ava in the boot of a car, Jacob on the ghost train, Fred on a swing, Hamza on a bike and Elliot at Sudbury Hall!



Year 1

In English this week, the children have written their own version of 'The Gingerbread Man'. They have loved changing the main character and retelling from memory. I am so proud of all that they have achieved this week and how hard they have tried with their writing. In Maths, the children have been learning to use the $<$, $>$, and $=$ signs to solve number sentences as well as ordering numbers in ascending and descending order. In COOL



time this week the children have been learning how to take turns and play a range of different board

games as well as creating some beautiful paintings. We also learned how to do some 'Happy breathing' in our Happy Mind session, which the children loved. Well done Year 1!

Year 2

Year 2 have had a great week beginning a new story for their English work. They have begun looking at 'Out of This World', which is a story set in space! The children have explored new vocabulary linked to the story and have generated some fantastic adjectives to describe space. In maths we have been looking at comparing numbers using inequality signs and practical resources. This week in Religious



Education we have been focusing on the story of 'The Good Samaritan'. They have been thinking of times they have been helpful and supportive. Year 2 had another great week in Forest School exploring and trying new things! Well done, Year 2!

Year 3

Year 3 have had a great week! They started their Geography topic by locating countries in Europe using atlases to help. They have been learning retrieval skills in guided reading whilst studying the book George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl. In English they have been learning to use suffixes and casual conjunctions. Well done for a great week!

Year 4

Wow, what another busy week we have had in Year 4! In maths, the children have been looking at rounding to the nearest 10,000 and 1,000 and I have been so impressed with the children looking at the correct column on a place value grid to help them round up or down. In English this week, we have started our new unit looking at Hannibal and the second Punic war, which links well to our history topic. The children have been finding the meaning of key vocabulary and have used a timeline to order the events in chronological order. In French, the children have been describing people's appearance using their hair and eye colour to explain how they look. Finally, the children have enjoyed reading our class text, 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and have been looking at different character profiles and how the author uses vocabulary to engage the reader. Another brilliant week Year 4! Keep it up!



Year 5

In English this week, Year 5 completed their diary entries, which were inspired by the Apollo 11 Moon Landing. It was fantastic to see how much they have learnt over the past four weeks as they applied it within their final piece of writing. All the children's writing was engaging and factual; a fantastic start to writing in Year 5! In Maths, the children have grasped addition and subtraction of 5-digit numbers easily. They have been able to use the column method to solve missing number problems, as well as solve multi-step word problems. In Science, the children explored the solubility of materials. They conducted an experiment to test whether different materials would dissolve in water. Year 5 couldn't believe some of the outcomes, including wax which shocked all the children as it did not dissolve and was still dry after being submerged in the water!

Year 6

This week in Year 6, we have been linking our learning together in English and Geography. In Geography, we named and located some countries in South America whilst identifying famous human and physical landmarks found there. Being able to see where Sao Paulo was in relation so Manaus on the map has really helped us in our English lessons to make sense of the distance Gilma has travelled to help her aunt and uncle on the farm in Manaus. Oscar and Joseph even brought in their own world map and globe for us to have a look at! On Wednesday, we investigated why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them by solving a real-life problem. Our mission assignment was to make sunbeds from Playdoh and use mini umbrellas to solve where the umbrella was best placed so that it provided maximum shade from the sun. We really enjoyed this session. We were very lucky to have had a visit from our local MP, Kate Kniveton on Thursday. She told us all about her life as an MP and we got the chance to ask some important questions. Towards the end of the week, we celebrated National Poetry Day and exploring the theme of Refuge. We listened to Micheal Rosen's poem 'On the Move Again' before creating our own poems. Some fantastic work was produced. I feel we have a class full of aspiring poets. Well done Year 6, a great week!

Head Teacher's Awards

Reception	Muhammad K	Raafae A
Year 1	Miley M	Jakub K
Year 2	Isla G	Jacob S
Year 3	Kailen H-S	Kristen T
Year 4	Charlie W	Sughra F
Year 5	Noah O	Kinza M
Year	Freddy C	Azaan W-M

Lunchtime Star Awards

Reception	Kadeem H
Year 1	Aiyla N
Year 2	Charlotte M
Year 3	Ben S
Year 4	Elliot M
Year 5	Bonnie H
Year 6	Oscar T

Attendance

This week's Attendance Champions are **Year 2!** Well done! Here are the latest figures...

Reception	96.7%	Target
Year 1	95.3%	97%
Year 2	98.3%	
Year 3	96.9%	
Year 4	94.1%	
Year 5	95.3%	Overall (to date)
Year 6	95.0%	96.7%
Overall	95.8%	

Team Points

Team Points	Claymills	Rosliston	Sinai	Trent
Points (<i>Week Ending 06.10.23</i>)	28	28	22	28
Position	1st – 4 points	1st – 4 points	2nd – 3 points	1st – 4 points
Running Total	14	12	17	15

Reading Corner

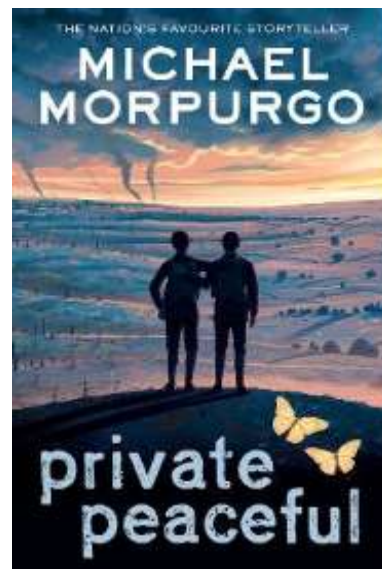
This week's recommended read is for children aged 11+...

Private Peaceful

by Michael Morpurgo

It will seem odd when reading this book that the author enjoyed writing it the most of all the 90 or so he has written so far. That's because it's the one that most touched a nerve with him, that he was most passionate about and as a consequence he lost himself completely in it while writing.

The story of a young farm boy who took on the nightmare of the trenches in the First World War is essential reading not just for a child starting out in life but for parents of any age. It's a brilliant story about childhood, about growing up too young, it's about loss and friendships and love and war.



The author's anger at the appalling treatment of young men in the story is clear and the hope is that the British government will realise their wrong-doing and pardon ALL those young men whose story this was written for.

Diary Dates 2023-2024

Event	Date/Time
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 27 th October 2023
INSET Day	Monday 6 th November 2023
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 7 th November 2023
Open Evening	Wednesday 15 th November 2023
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 29 th November to Friday 1 st December 2023
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 1 st December 2023
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 21 st December 2023, 10.00am
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 22 nd December 2023, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 8 th January 2024
Young Voices 2023	Thursday 11 th January 2024
Year 6 Laches Wood	Monday 29 th January to Friday 2 nd February 2024
PFA Valentine's Disco	Thursday 8 th February 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants: 3.45pm – 5.00pm • Juniors: 5.15pm – 6.30pm
School Closes for Half-Term	Friday 9 th February 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 19 th February 2024
PFA Easter Bingo	Friday 15 th March 2024
Year 5 Trip to Hampton Court	Thursday 21 st March 2024
School Closes for Easter	Friday 22 nd March 2024, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 8 th April 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 9 th April 2024
May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed	Monday 6 th May 2024
Key Stage 2 SATs Week	Monday 13 th May 2024 to Friday 17 th May 2024
School Closes for Half-Term	Thursday 23 rd May 2024
INSET Day	Friday 24 th May 2024
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 3 rd June 2024
PFA Summer Fair	Friday 21 st June 2024
JTMAT INSET Day	Friday 5 th July 2024
School Closes for Summer	Friday 19 th July 2024, 2.00pm
INSET Day	Monday 22 nd July 2024

Autumn Term Diary Dates

Event	Date/Time
AFTER SCHOOL CLUB CLOSED	Tuesday 10 th October 2023
PFA Halloween Disco	Friday 13 th October 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infants: 3.45pm – 5.00pm • Juniors: 5.15pm – 6.30pm
Parents' Evening	Monday 16 th October 2023 Wednesday 18 th October 2023
Scholastic Book Fair	Monday 16 th October 2023 to Friday 20 th October 2023 inclusive
School Closes for Half Term	Friday 27 th October 2023
INSET Day	Monday 6 th November 2023
School Reopens for Pupils	Tuesday 7 th November 2023
Odd Socks Day	Monday 13 th November 2023
Open Evening	Wednesday 15 th November 2023, 4.30-6.00pm
Year 5 Whitemoor Lakes	Wednesday 29 th November 2023 to Friday 1 st December 2023 inclusive
Year 6 Class Assembly	Thursday 30 th November 2023, 9.00am
PFA Christmas Market	Friday 1 st December 2023
Christingle	Monday 4 th December 2023
Choir Winter Wonderland Concert	Tuesday 5 th December 2023, Hill Street Church, Swadlincote, 7.00-8.00pm
EYFS Nativity	Wednesday 6 th December 2023, 9.15am
EYFS Nativity	Thursday 7 th December 2023, 9.15am
KS1 Nativity	Tuesday 12 th December 2023, 9.15am AND 2.15pm
Year 3 Cosy Christmas Celebration	Thursday 14 th December 2023, 9.15am
JTMAT Christmas Concert	Tuesday 19 th December 2023
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 20 th December 2023
Whole School Trip to Pantomime – Beauty and the Beast, Lichfield Garrick	Thursday 21 st December 2023, 10.00am
School Closes for Christmas	Friday 22 nd December 2023, 2.00pm
School Reopens for Pupils	Monday 8 th January 2024



October ^{is} **Walk** **into** school **MONTH**

Get involved
and get
active by
pledging
to walk to
school at
least once
a week
throughout
October.

air
aware
Staffordshire

Walking to
school is great
for your mental
and physical
health and
also helps the
environment!



Discover more at
staffordshire.gov.uk/activeschooltravel

 Staffordshire
County Council

   @INTOSchtravel

0300 111 8000
into@staffordshire.gov.uk

ACTIVE



LEARNING
SPORTS

SHOBNALL PRIMARY SCHOOL

HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP

Have fun in the
school holidays
with your
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Who we are

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Here are all the activities that
you can enjoy!

Dodgeball

Football

Basketball

Cricket

Movies at lunch time

Tag rugby

Street dance

Nerf wars

Zorb football

Capture the flag

**SHOBNALL PRIMARY SCHOOL
HALLOWEEN HOLIDAY SPORTS CAMP
PROVIDED BY ACTIVE LEARNING SPORTS**

WHO CAN GO? AGES 4 -12

WHAT ARE THE DATES? OCT 30TH, 31ST, NOV 1ST & 2ND

WHERE DO WE PLAY? PLAYGROUND, NEW TRIM TRAIL, FIELD, SCHOOL HALL

**WHAT TIME DO WE PLAY? ARRIVAL BETWEEN 8.3AM – 8.45M, COLLECTION BETWEEN
3.00PM-3.15PM**

**WHAT DO I NEED? TRAINERS AND SUITABLE SPORTS CLOTHING, A PACKED LUNCH,
SNACKS, AND PLENTY TO DRINK. NO NUTS IN ANY PACKED LUNCHES, CHILDREN
CAN BRING SCOOTERS AND BIKES BUT IS NOT ESSENTIAL.**

**WHERE IS THE ENTRANCE? KEY STAGE 2 GATES, LOOK FOR THE ACTIVE LEARNING
SPORTS BLUE FLAGS, FREE PARKING IS AVAILABLE AT THE ALBION PUB.**

**HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? COST PER DAY - £18.00 PER DAY
10% DISCOUNT ON SIBLINGS**

HOW TO PAY? Apply @activelearningsports.com

**PLACES ARE GIVEN ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS AND THERE IS
A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLACES SO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID
DISSAPPOINTMENT!!**

**FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT JAMES ATTWOOD
ON - 07800812039 OR EMAIL - james@activelearningsports.com OR
VISIT @activelearningsports.com**

To the pupils, parents and staff of Shobnall Primary School

4th October 2023

Dear All

Thank you so much for your very kind food donations to our foodbank and support of YMCA Burton. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and it is with donations like yours that we can continue to make a difference and support as many individuals and families as possible. Below are a couple of quotes from recipients of our foodbank who have accessed our service recently:

“Lovely essential service. What would we do without you.”

“Brilliant service, very friendly and welcoming.”

Struck by the difficulties of recent years, our services are in unprecedented and significant demand, with waiting lists forming for some of our services for the first time ever. As an increasing number of individuals and families need emergency food parcels, housing, emergency accommodation and support, we are working tirelessly to ensure that this is provided and that we can keep up with the demand. So far this year, we have issued over 2600 emergency food parcels, providing vital support to those in need. We are supporting more families than ever before, with the majority of families and individuals stating that their reason for needing a food parcel is that their money is simply not covering bills. This reflects the harsh reality of the cost of living crisis and is a very difficult time for many.

Thank you once again for always thinking of us and for your generous, continued support.

Yours sincerely

Julia Davies-Ratcliffe

Foodbank Co-ordinator

YMCA Burton upon Trent
& District
Northside House
Northside Business Park
Hawkins Lane
Burton upon Trent
Staffordshire
DE14 1DB

T 01283 538802

YMCA enables people to develop their full potential in mind, body and spirit. Inspired by, and faithful to, our Christian values, we create supportive, inclusive and energising communities, where young people can truly belong, contribute and thrive.

SUPPORT & ADVICE

ACCOMMODATION

FAMILYWORK

HEALTH & WELLBEING

TRAINING & EDUCATION

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.



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