

# NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our second school newsletter of the academic year 2023 to 2024. We aim to share our newsletter on a bi-weekly basis to give you up to date information and reminders about things happening within our Greet family community.

I'd like to remind parents and carers of the importance of arriving at school on time so that your children can benefit from the learning that takes place first thing in the morning, as well as helping them settle into a structured routine.

As always, please report your child's absence to the school office daily so that we know that your child is safe and well. We can't wait to work with you during the year ahead and look forward to sharing all of the positive events happening at Greet.

## Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October - World Mental Health Day

Children and staff are encouraged to wear a yellow accessory on Tuesday next week to show awareness of World Mental Health day. Please do not buy anything especially - a yellow pair of socks, hat, hair clip, ribbon, wrist band or badge is fine. The children will wear their school uniform with their accessory.

Throughout the week the children will be taking part in mindfulness activities and assemblies to raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing.

## Breakfast Bagel Bar

To support all of our families with the cost-of-living crisis, and our busy lives, after half term we will be opening a breakfast bagel bar each morning. If your child has not had breakfast, we will provide a free toasted bagel for them to eat before they go into class. The bagel bar will open at 8.25am and will be situated at the back of the main hall under the covered area. If any parents would like a bagel in the morning we are happy to provide but request a small donation.

The breakfast bar is being funded by our weekly cake sales. Just so you know - the cakes made at school meet school healthy eating regulations.

## School Dinners

We are aware that some of our children are not happy with our school meals. We are looking to consult parents, children, staff and the catering team to build a brand-new menu. This will be launched after half term.

Our newly elected School Council members will lead this consultation process. This will be their first project.

## Healthy Snack

From next week, you can send a healthy snack into school each day for them to eat at break times. Snacks can include:

- piece of fruit or a small pot of fruit
- raisins
- a small portion of vegetables e.g. a cucumber portion, celery sticks or carrot
- rice cakes
- cereal bars (nut free) or a pot of dry cereal
- a small portion of cheese e.g. Babybels, cheese strings
- a tube yoghurt e.g., Frubes

We need to remind you that children are not to bring in the following items for snacks: biscuits, crisps or items containing nuts (including Nutella/chocolate spreads, Ferrero Rocher chocolates etc.)

Children will not be able to share their snacks with other children for allergy reasons.

We do provide fruit each day for children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, however we are happy for you to send in an alternative snack for your child if you prefer.

## Greet Attendance

Below are the attendance champions from last week.

Year group	Attendance	Class	Attendance
Year 4	94.87%	4RM	97.99%
Year 6	94.51%	6SK	97.22%
Year 3	93.57%	6SW	96.94%
Year 2	93.2%	2UT	96.79%
Year 5	92.3%	5DH	96.26%
Year 1	88.43%	3SH	95.95%
Reception	86.58%	4TH	95.69%

## House points

Congratulations to all the children in **Harewood** who are our house points winners this week.

1<sup>st</sup> – Harewood

2<sup>nd</sup> – Pinsent

3<sup>rd</sup> – Simmonds



## ALPHABET OF HEALTHY SNACKS FOR SCHOOL

A	B	C	D
Apple Avocado	Banana Blueberries Broccoli Babybel Babycorn	Carrots Cucumber Celery	Dates Dry Cereal Dry fruit
E	F	G	H
Egg – hardboiled Edamame	Fruit salad Frube	Grapes (cut in half) Granola (nut free)	Hummus on rice crackers
I	J	K	L
Idli	Juicy blackberries	Kale or other vegetable crisps	Lemons Luscious peaches
M	N	O	P
Mushrooms Mango melon	Nectarines	Orange Olives Oatcakes	Pear Pretzels Pineapple Plum
Q	R	S	T
Quiche Quesada	Raisins Rice crackers Raspberries	String Cheese Sweet pepper Sugar snap peas	Tomato Tangerines Tinned Fruit Tortilla wraps
U	V	W	X
Ugli fruit (tangerine from Jamaica)	Vegetable sticks	Watermelon	Xiang jiao (banana in Mandarin)
X	Y		
Yoghurt	Zucchini bread		

# 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 GCBeacon 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

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