

# Merry Christmas

We hope you have a lovely Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.



Create, Adapt and Learn Together  
Manchester Road Primary Academy

## NEWSLETTER 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

### ATTENDANCE 15/12/25 – 19/12/25

CLASS	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	LATES
Bumblebee	96%	14
Clover bee	92.4%	15
Honeybee	86.7%	1
1A	93.7%	4
1B	94.4%	8
2A	90%	10
2B	93%	8
3A	87.6%	10
3B	95.9%	8
4A	81.7%	4
4B	95.7%	3
5A	86.1%	5
5B	91.4%	15
6A	96.6%	7
6B	91%	8

### LATENESS THIS WEEK

Day	Lates
Monday	23
Tuesday	32
Wednesday	26
Thursday	16
Friday	23
Total Lates This Week	120

Lateness has a massive impact on children's learning. Not only on the children that are late, but also on the children in the classes being disrupted. Please ensure your child arrives at school on time each day.

97% and above Excellent
95% to 96% Attendance is slipping and will be closely monitored
95% or below Poor (high numbers of children are persistently absent)

### EARLY LEAVERS

Day	Early Leavers
Monday	9
Tuesday	5
Wednesday	7
Thursday	10
Friday	10
Total this week	41

### THE SCHOOL DAY

8.35 – 8.50am – Arrive on the school playground

8.40am – Pupils enter school

8.50am – Gates shut & registration

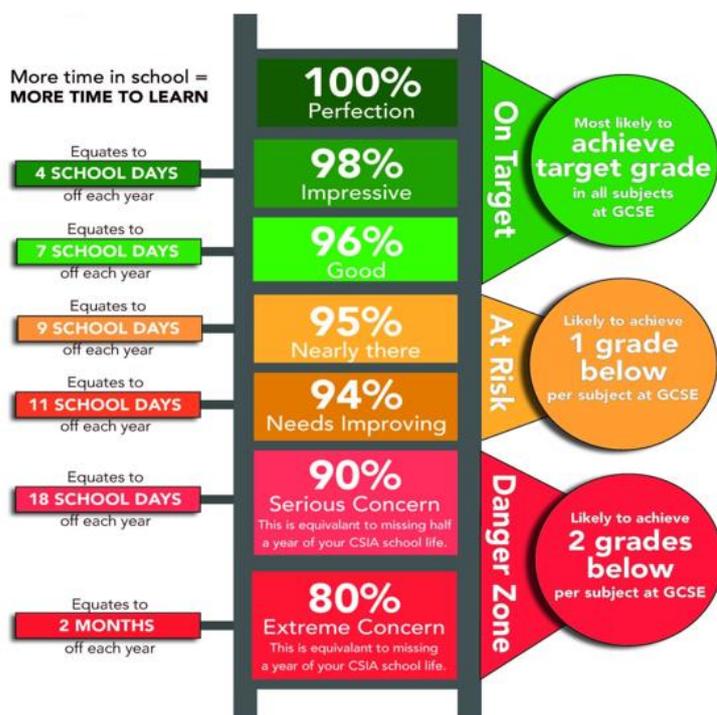
11.45am – KS1 Lunch

11.50am – KS2 Lunch

12.35pm – Afternoon session begins KS1

1.05pm – Afternoon session begins KS2

3.15/3.20pm – End



For every day your child is absent from school over 6 hours of instruction time is lost

## APPLYING FOR RECEPTION

1st September 2025	The online application system opens
15th January 2026	Closing date for applications
16th April 2026	National offer day

If you are a Tameside Resident, please use the Tameside Citizen Portal.

[https://admission.tameside.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](https://admission.tameside.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en)

If you are a Manchester Resident, please use the following link.

[https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500321/primary\\_school\\_admissions/7264/apply\\_for\\_a\\_reception\\_class\\_place\\_for\\_september\\_2026](https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500321/primary_school_admissions/7264/apply_for_a_reception_class_place_for_september_2026)

**What Parents & Carers Need to Know about 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 and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls; essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

**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 chat, video and voice. 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 (or just at Amigo), users of the app can see 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 these 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 (nearer than more competitors), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a false age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.
- REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE**  
Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they log in to messages within 15 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, gaining 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 easiest option could be to enable "ask to buy" (Apple) or "purchase approval" (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 clearly 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 false 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. Whoever communicates apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, worried 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. Get 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 concerning internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

**NOS National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Content as of the date of release: 02.11.2022

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	2A Class Assembly
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	2B Class Assembly
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	1A Class Assembly

## CHANGES HAPPENING WITH MCAS REQUESTED BY OUR TRUST

From Spring Term

Data Collection

- Parents NI numbers to be collected to support FSM and PP checks via online systems.

- Contact information to be updated in case parents change phone numbers or emails.

Please email [office@mrpa.org.uk](mailto:office@mrpa.org.uk) with these details.

School pictures - Have you ordered your school Individual photo yet? A polite reminder that the closing date for **free delivery** back to school is **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2026**. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link that was emailed to you, or if you have received paper order forms visit [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk)

If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option5)