



Create, Adapt and Learn Together
Manchester Road Primary Academy

NEWSLETTER 16TH DECEMBER

ATTENDANCE 12/12/22 – 16/12/22

CLASS	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE	LATES
Owls	89.4%	7
Hedgehogs	85.4%	1
Rabbits	82.2%	7
1A	87.8%	6
1B	93.1%	5
2A	86.6%	6
2B	82%	11
3A	88.1%	11
3B	94%	4
4A	92.3%	10
4B	95.1%	10
5A	95.1%	7
5B	93.5%	10
6A	91.2%	9
6B	89%	14

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)

Artist of the Month October



Frank Bowling



Hafenlicht, 2007

Can you produce artwork inspired by this month's artist?

It would be great to see children create some artwork just like him! If you do, please bring it into school or share on Teams so that we can see your beautiful creations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you
back at school on
Wednesday 4th January 2023.

MY CHILD AT SCHOOL

There are still four children's accounts, which have not yet been activated. Can you please set this up ASAP.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Sunday 15th January: Deadline to apply for a Reception Place
- Monday 23rd January: Class Photographs

CLASS ASSEMBLIES

Class assemblies begin at 9am. We hope you can make them.

- 2B (Miss Carney) – Friday 13th January
- 1A (Miss Lanigan) – Friday 20th January
- Rabbits (Miss Thomson) – Friday 27th January
- 5A (Miss Huelin) – Friday 3rd February
- 6A (Miss Andrew) – Friday 10th February

UPCOMING TRIPS/WORKSHOPS

- Monday 27th March: Year 5 Viking Workshop
- Thursday 20th April: Year 4 Chester
- Monday 8th May: EY Blackpool Zoo
- Thursday 22nd June: Year 4 Llandudno
- Wednesday 18th October – Friday 20th October 2023: Robin Wood (Current Year 5)



These clubs will be available from January.

How to apply for a Primary Place (Reception Application)

Tameside residents should use the Tameside Citizen Portal to apply for a Reception place. **If you do not live within Tameside but wish to apply for a place at a Tameside school, you should apply via your own Local Authority.** *(For example, if you are a Stockport resident you will need to apply via Stockport MBC admissions, for any Tameside School)*

Apply for a reception 2023 school place here:

https://admission.tameside.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en:

The closing date for submitting a **Reception 2023 school application is 15 January 2023**. *(Applications submitted after this date will be processed as a 'late' application)*

When will you be informed of your allocated school?

- On-time applications - if your application was submitted **on or before** the closing date, **15 January 2023**, you will be notified of your allocated school, by email, at some point during **National Offer Day – 17 April 2023**. You will also be able to view your allocated school by logging into your Citizen Portal after midnight on National Offer Day.
- Late applications - if your application was submitted **after** the closing date, **15 January 2023**, you will receive notification of your allocated school at a later date, by letter. Late allocations are not viewable via the Citizen's Portal.

Timetable for applying for a primary school place

01 November 2022	The online admissions system opens for primary school places (Reception 2023).
15 January 2023	Closing date for applications. Ensure you submit your primary school application on or before this date. Otherwise, you will need to make a late application.
30 January 2023	The online admissions system opens for 'late' primary school applications (Reception 2023).
03 February 2023	Last date for any changes to the address in your application.
17 April 2023	National Offer Day.

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 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 app's 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 these relationships in a more mature and serious 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 false 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 increased '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're enjoying 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 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 app 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 Autherford 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