



NEWSLETTER 20 – 6TH MARCH 2026

SCHOOL NEWS

WONDERFUL WORLD BOOK DAY CELEBRATIONS

I have to admit there was a bit of nervousness this morning as to how World Book Day would go, with us seeming to be the only school not asking children to dress up, but to take part in the wooden spoon competition instead. Should I have been worried, absolutely not! The uptake from our families and pupils was amazing, with so many different book characters being portrayed on wooden spoons, spatulas and even the odd metal spoon appearing on the table this morning!

Thank you so much to everyone who took part, and congratulations to our three class winners, who each received an Easter egg in recognition of their hard work.



To add to the day, we welcomed Sarah from North Somerset libraries to talk about World Book Day, and we are looking forward to her returning in July with the new mobile library that the children will have a chance to visit. Some of our pupils then took part in a webinar with thousands of other schools set up by the Literacy Trust and the Premier League.

KEWSTOKE COMMUNITY FIELD

We are very fortunate to be making positive and long-lasting links with the local community. As a school, we have been invited to use the community field next to the village hall for our learning. I took the staff to the field this week to give them an opportunity to think about how best to use the space, and I know Hedgehogs class will be visiting there next week on the way to the beach. We are looking forward to using the space for a variety of learning opportunities.



KEY DATES

17th and 19th March
Parents' Evening

1st April
Easter in a Box (Badgers Class)

3rd April (Good Friday)
Easter Holidays begin

20th April
School open for pupils

24th April
Class photographs

SAINT DAVID'S DAY

On Monday, the school celebrated Saint David's Day (1st March) with an assembly about who he was. Children were then offered traditional welsh cakes, courtesy of Mrs Smee. I can vouch for how tasty they were!



CONGRATULATIONS!

Our 'Stars of the Week' are...

Hedgehogs - Rosie
Badgers - Melody
Foxes - Austin

Our 'Values Ambassadors' this week are...

Hedgehogs - Isla
Badgers - Zachary
Foxes - Reuben

Attendance:

The classes with the best attendance this week was...

Hedgehogs -100%

Our year to Date attendance as a school is...

91.7%

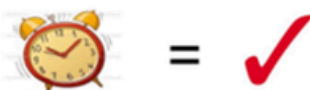
PUPILS ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL

As a school, we have a duty of care to you and your children to ensure they attend school every day if possible.

We are noticing some children are regularly arriving late to school. This can not only affect your child's attendance but also their attainment and ability to learn. Being late also disrupts the rest of the class' learning.

If you need support from school to get your child in on time, please do speak to Mr Champs or a member of staff.

Every minute counts



Lateness = lost learning
(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!

Don't let your child miss out!

What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

Get your child to school on time. If they are late they have a bad start to the day.

If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could affect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

As of September 2013, no school is allowed to grant holiday requests under new legislation.

Therefore, any request for term time absence will need to be put in writing, in advance, to the Headteacher. Each case will be considered individually and the absence will only be authorised in specific circumstances.

Schools are required to notify the Local Authority of all unauthorised absences and a penalty notice may be given by the LA.

DID YOU KNOW that if a child is taken away for a two week holiday every year during term time and has an average number of days off for sickness and appointments, then by the time they leave at sixteen they will have missed a year of school?

PARKING

I am very grateful to those parents who choose to park away from the school entrance and off the zig zag yellow lines. We have, however, had a recent issue with one of our neighbours where a parent had parked their car over a neighbour's driveway who needed to get out.

Please consider our neighbours when parking. I have asked North Somerset Council to send an enforcement officer to the school at pick-up times to talk to parents who cannot park respectfully or correctly.

All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to lead an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, tips and tips for adults.

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 connect 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 parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION
Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it has no age verification, however, as 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 comfortable), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a false age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT
Within minutes of signing up for an trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive messages 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 clearly 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 users 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.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE
Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 30 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 5, 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 are 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.

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 any third 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.

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 false profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

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 allowing any judgements, 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 app, bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and practical resources for the Australian government's national online use and safety behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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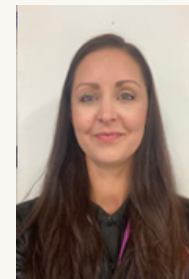
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SAFEGUARDING

If you have a concern about any child in our school, then it is your responsibility to say something to us. Remember, 'Safeguarding' is everybody's responsibility! You can speak to any member of staff in school. We also have a team of designated safeguarding leads – Mr Champs (DSL), Mrs Mann (DDSL), Miss Speller (DDSL) and our School Safeguarding governor, Mrs Phippen.



They can be contacted on 01934 623430 or office@kewstokeprimaryschool.co.uk
As parents, you can contact support agencies directly on:-
NSPCC: 0808 800 5000
Care Connect: 01275 888 808