



Ryton-on-Dunsmore Provost Williams

Church of England Academy

@RytonPWAcademy



## Newsletter 1st March 2024

*"Let your light shine"*

It was strange not sending out a newsletter last week but technology was not on our side. We have had a busy two weeks, with a lot to fit into a very short half term. This week, Aimee Tinkler from the MAT Central Team spent some time with Mrs Baddeley to monitor teaching and learning and the impact the professional development has had in school. It was pleasing to know and see some great lessons and for us, as a school, to know where we go next.

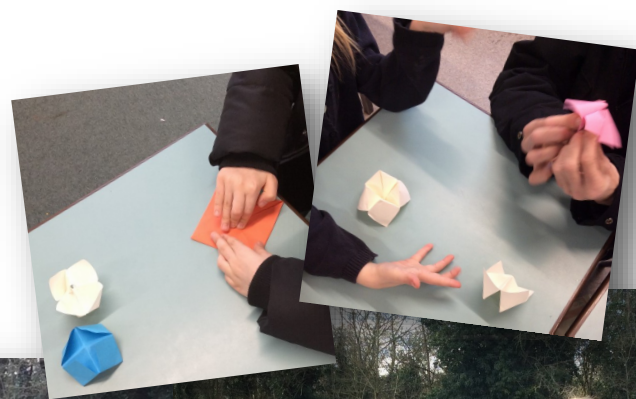
This week also saw a number of new clubs start for the remainder of this term and summer 1. I know that some children are disappointed that football does not feature as an after-school club, but it will return again in the autumn term. Two of the clubs will be led by Coach Soobie from KICK, who is Joe Loescher's replacement. Joe had been with us for a year and had such an impact in our school becoming very much part of our school family. All pupils and staff want to say thank you and wish him the very best of luck for the future.

Next week is assessment week in school. We use assessments to identify any gaps that pupils may have and be able to adjust and plan accordingly to ensure all of our children make good progress. During parents' evening you will have the opportunity to discuss how well your children are doing. We manage the worry about assessment well in school, but some children do from time to time feel worried. All we ask of the children is to do their very best. The afternoons across the school will be an opportunity for all pupils to develop their DT skills. I am very much looking forward to seeing their designs and understanding develop over the week.

Mrs Lampe-Cullen

Head of School

Pictured: Children taking part in some of the new clubs on offer, such as Netball, Construction, Papercrafts and Origami, Craft, Drama/Dance, Sewing and Games.





The Road Safety Education Team along with partners from the Warwickshire Road Safety Partnership are working together with Ryton-on-Dunsmore Provost Williams CofE Academy to ensure that the journey to school is as safe as possible for all children across the county.

Children want to become more independent and embrace active travel on their journey to school whether that is by walking, cycling, or scooting but are often faced with obstacles from cars which are parked blocking pavements and driveways, on yellow zig zags, over or near junctions or School Crossing Patrol sites.

We would like you to join and work with us in spreading the 'Cars and Kids Don't Mix' message which encourages everybody to work together by parking safely and considerately for children and local residents near schools.

The Road Safety Education team will be supporting Ryton-on-Dunsmore Provost Williams CofE Academy with a 'Cars and Kids Don't Mix' banner to serve as a visual reminder always to park considerately, as well as digital resources to support.



# Ryton-on-Dunsmore Academy Stars



EYFS Star Learner this week is

*Aubree*



Year 1 Star Learner this week is

*Erin*

Year 2 Star Learner this week is

*Ted*

Year 3 Star Learner this week is

*Simey*

Year 4 Star Learner this week is

*Oscar*

## Value Awards



The "Value Awards" are designed to recognise children who show our school values.

This week, Joshua in Year 6 was presented with a Value award for respect. Well done to Joshua.

Year 5 Star Learner this week is

*Spencer*

Year 6 Star Learner this week is

*Jasmine*



**LOVE**  
**HONESTY**  
**HOPE**  
**FAIRNESS**  
**RESPECT**  
**FORGIVENESS**





|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| 7th March           | World Book Day (Send children in with their decorated plates please.)                                   |
| 8th March           | Mother's Day Afternoon Tea<br><br>(booking closed on Thursday 29th Feb; timeslots will be sent by text) |
| 11th March          | Science Week starts   |
| 13th March          | Year 6 and Reception Height and Weight Checks<br><br>Year 6 Health Questionnaire                        |
| 18th March          | Year 1 Come and Learn 2.45-3.15pm   |
| 19th and 20th March | Parent Consultation meetings 3.30-6pm   |
| 21st March          | Year 2 and Year 4 "Habitats" trip, Ryton Pools  |
| 22nd March          | Break up for Easter<br><br>2.45pm Easter Parade and raffle; parents welcome                             |
| 2nd May             | Teacher training day, school closed to children   |
| w/b 13th May        | KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATS)   |
| 24th May            | Crowning of the May King and Queen  |
| 3rd June            | Teacher training day, school closed to children   |
| 10th July           | Moving On Day   |
| 19th July           | Last day of term  |

### **Craft Club Request**

The newly formed Craft Club had a meeting this week to discuss what they would need for their club. We do have some resources but we would love any donations of things like glue sticks, glitter glue, coloured card, coloured paper, boxes, tubes, tissue paper - anything crafty please! Thank you.

# 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.

AGE RESTRICTION  
**7**  
PEGI

## 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

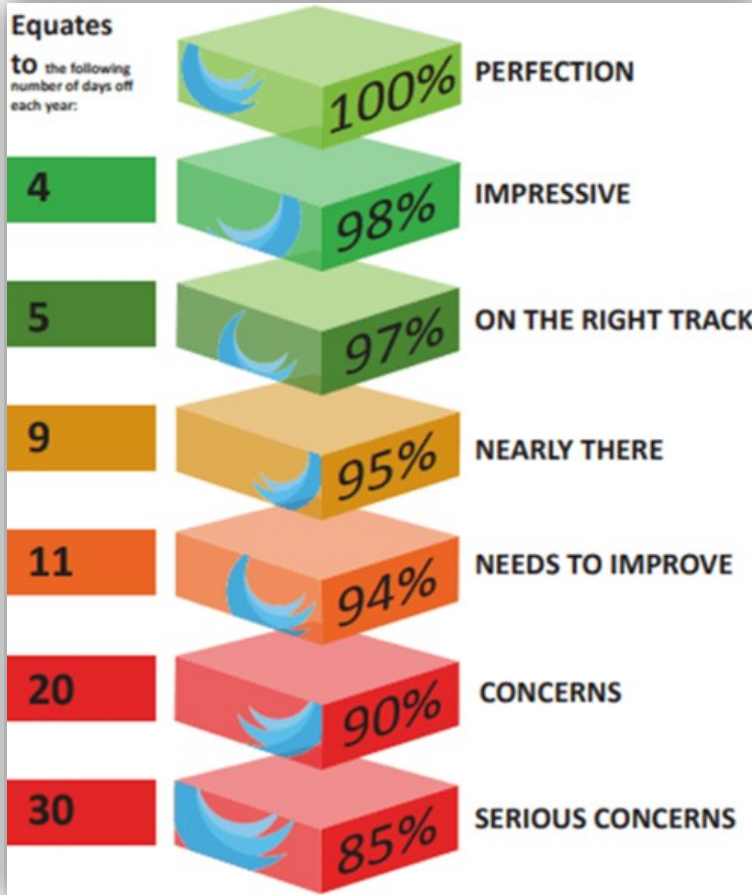
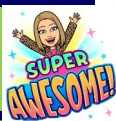
Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site [GBGee.com](http://GBGee.com) and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including [iDn.com](http://iDn.com) and [Techradar.com](http://Techradar.com).



**NOS**  
National  
Online  
Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday

# Attendance Update

| Attendance |       |
|------------|-------|
| Nursery    | 91.1% |
| Reception  | 96.4% |
| Year 1     | 98.3% |
| Year 2     | 97.7% |
| Year 3     | 97.7% |
| Year 4     | 95.6% |
| Year 5     | 93.1% |
| Year 6     | 97.5% |



We had 83 children who managed 100% attendance this week.

The whole school attendance this week was 96.2%

**MOMENTS MATTER, ATTENDANCE COUNTS.**

HM Government  
Head to the NHS website to find out more.

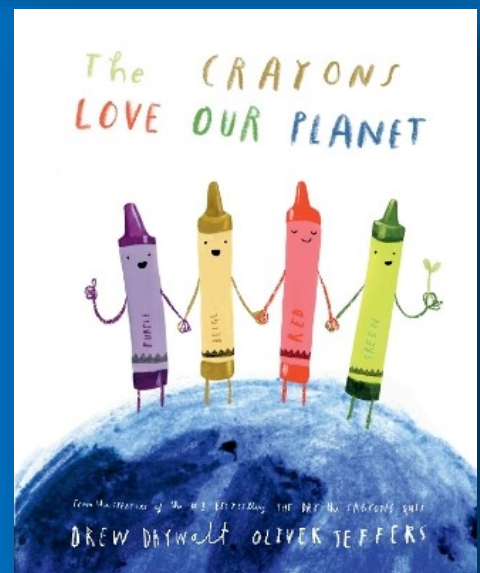


Be In SCHOOL  
Be On TIME

## Mrs Lampe Cullen's Recommended Reads



The Crayons love our planet and are proud of their contributions. White ice caps, Green trees, Blue oceans and skies, Brown soil . . . and more! Even Beige is proud of his contribution: Wheat! This funny book shows the beauty of our planet – and why it needs our help. Perfect for Earth Day!



Before the war starts, Ned is resigned to a future working in the family funeral parlour. Then the covert operations at Bletchley Park begin and his life is transformed.

Ned and his mother leave Bletchley Park on a vital wartime mission into the remote Welsh countryside. Their task: to protect the priceless artwork that is being stored in a slate mine in the village of Manod. As long as its whereabouts are secret, they'll keep the national treasures out of the hands of the enemy.

But when it appears that someone in the village is trying to expose the truth, suspicion turns to the newcomers - Ned, his mother, and a young Jewish refugee, Anni. Can Ned, Anni and their friend Harri prove their loyalty to the mission and keep the secret safe?



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Ages  
**5-11**

# Easter Holidays



**WEEK 1** Monday 25th to Thursday 28th March 2024

**WEEK 2** Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th April 2024

## Active Kids & Football Courses!

**COURSE** Drop off Collection  
**TIMES** 8.30am to 9am 3.30pm to 4pm

**LS** Lawrence Sheriff School

**LL** Long Lawford

ONLY  
**£18**  
per day

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EAST WARWICKSHIRE

Book Character Plate

We will be taking part in World Book Day on Thursday 7th March, a celebration of reading.

To start our World Book Day activities, children should bring a decorated plate to school. Each child will be given a paper plate to take home on 21st February and at home, they should choose a book character to base their design on.

Here are some examples:-



Please can children bring their completed paper plates to school on World Book Day, Thursday 7th March, where they will all be displayed.

We are really looking forward to seeing the children's book inspired plates!

# WORLD BOOK DAY

## THURSDAY 7TH MARCH

### MENU

'The Browns' Pork Meatballs in Tomato Gravy served with Spaghetti (SB,SU,G)

Or

(V)Aunt Lucy's Vegetable Creamy Korma Curry with Rice (D)

Served with Vegetables of the day or salad

PADDINGTONS MENU

Paddington's  
Orange  
Drizzle Cake (G,E)

Allergen Key:  
V - Vegetarian  
G - Gluten  
D - Dairy  
SB - Soya  
SU - Sulphites

educaterers A FOOD STORY



Lastly, a photo of one of our Key Stage 2 children challenging Mrs Lampe Cullen to a press-up competition. She is pretty good, and always willing to accept a challenge!

Have a lovely weekend!