

Another brilliant week in school; I can't believe we are on week 6 next week, time is flying! I have been extremely impressed with the children's manners around school; our value of courteous has definitely been a strength this week!!

**Year 6** had a fun-filled, activity-packed residential; their behaviour has been excellent and they have represented our school so well! We can't wait to hear all about it next week!

## Black History Month

Our week started with an assembly to launch 'Black History Month'. Volunteers from across Key Stage 2, led the assembly by talking about significant people, who have had an impact on our world, from both present day and the past including: Mary Seacole, Mae Jemison, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Lauren James, Marcus Rashford, Malorie Blackman and many more!! We looked at our curriculum and thought about the range of individuals we learn about in various subjects across the year. Some outstanding examples of home learning are attached on the next page!

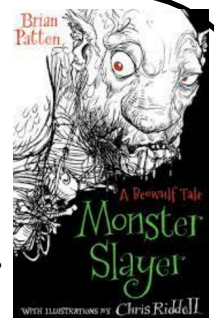


**Voting for charities**—A voting slip for charities has been sent out last week with your child. Please could you return your completed slip to our voting box in the front office. We will then count up the votes and reveal the most popular charity chosen by our parents and carers.

**Named Items**—Please ensure you put your child's name clearly in all items that come into school. We have several items in our lost property basket unnamed.

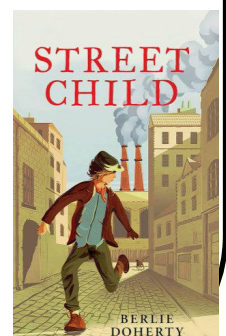
## Curriculum:

**Year 4**—We have really been enjoying our story *Monster Slayer*. The children love putting on their best Grendel voice when reading and have been showing their understanding through drawing him and parts of the story.



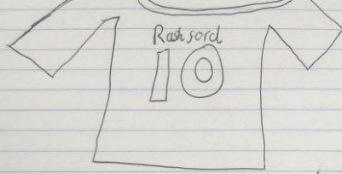
**Year R**—This week in art Reception have been colour mixing with primary colours. The children enjoyed exploring the combinations needed to create different colours and experimented to see how to make the colours lighter or darker.

**Year 5**—In Year 5, we have been learning about the Industrial Revolution and what it is like to be a child living in a workhouse. The children have been starting to plan their persuasive letters to Queen Victoria to shut the workhouses. They have really strong arguments!



Marcus Rashford  
 Marcus Rashford was born on 31 October 1997. He is an English professional footballer who plays as a forward for Premier League club Manchester United and the England national team.

A product of the Manchester United youth system, he joined the club at the age of seven. Rashford scored his goal on both his first-team and European debut against Middlesbrough in the UEFA Europa League.



Rashford scored on his England debut in May 2016, becoming the youngest English player to score in his first senior international match. He has since appeared at two UEFA European Championships; 2016 where he was the tournament's youngest player, and 2020, where he appeared in the final as England finished runners-up to Italy. He also represented England at the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Rashford has also praised for using his platform to be a politician active and philanthropist to drive societal change. He is a campaigner against racism, homelessness, and child hunger in the United Kingdom. He has been rewarded for his efforts by organisations both within and outside of sports.



### Fun Facts about Pde

Pde's real name is Edison Arantes do Nascimento, named after light-bulb inventor Thomas Edison following the introduction of electricity to his hometown when he was born.



### Fun Facts about Shaquille O'Neal

Shaquille O'Neal is one of only three players to win NBA MVP. All stars game MVP and finals MVP awards in the same year. He ranks 7th all-time in points scored, 5th in field goals, 13th in rebounds, and 7th in blocks, largely due to his ability to dunk the basketball. O'Neal also ranks 3rd all-time in field goal percentage (58.2).



### Fun facts about Michael Jordan

Michael Jordan starred with Bugs Bunny in the movie Space Jam. Michael Jordan was the new leader in scoring for 10 seasons.



### What is Bessie Coleman Known for.

She broke social roles and prejudices to travel the world, run businesses and help those in need - even in the most dangerous jobs. Best known for her work as a pilot, she is the incredible woman an inspiring role model.

### Bessie Coleman, Pilot

Bessie Coleman was an early American Civil aviator. She was the first African American woman and first person of African descent to hold a pilot license.

<sup>15th</sup> Bessie Coleman American pilot, Bessie Coleman in her biplane, circa 1920. Michael Ochs Archives/Getty Images. Coleman is the first African American woman to hold a pilot license. Bessie was the first person to get her pilot license.

### Kobe Bryant Facts

Kobe Bryant was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S., on August 23, 1978.

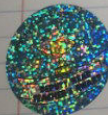
In 2008 Kobe Bryant was named the National Basketball Association (NBA) League's most Valuable Player (MVP) for the first time in his career.

Kobe Bryant won an Olympic gold medal as a member of the U.S. men's basketball team at the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Kobe Bryant was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020.

On January 26, 2020, Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter were among a group traveling to a girls' basketball game in a helicopter when it crashed, all nine people aboard.

Kobe Bryant, in full Kobe Bean Bryant, born on August 23, 1978, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S. - died January 26, 2020 (Calabasas, California), American professional basketball player, who helped Los Angeles Lakers.





## Dates for your Diary

| Date                                    | Year Group                          | Event   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>10.10.23</b><br>(9:30am-10:30am)     | Year R parents<br>starting Sep 2024 | First open evening for prospective parents of Reception children for September 2024<br><br>(Book your place on our website)                               |
| <b>From Monday 2.10.23—20th October</b> | Whole School                        | Harvest—<br>Donations for The Hope Centre—dried food and toilet-ries  |
| <b>9.10.23</b>                          | Whole School led by<br>Year 6       | Macmillan Coffee and Cake Sale—any donations of home made cakes, please bring to the school office.<br>(Sale will be held on the playground after school) |
| <b>12.10.23</b>                         | Year 2                              | Visit to the Northampton Museum in the town centre<br>(linked to History topic this term)   |
| <b>17.10.23</b>                         | Whole School                        | Dentist visit   |
| <b>17.10.23 &amp; 19.10.23</b>          | Whole School                        | Parents evening 3:30pm—6pm, please book an appointment (forms will be on class doors in the next week)  |
| <b>2.11.23</b><br>(4:30-5:30pm)         | YR parents starting<br>Sep 2024     | Second Open evening for prospective parents of Reception children for September 2024<br><br>(Book your place on our website)                              |

**Thank you so much for your donations for the Hope Centre!**

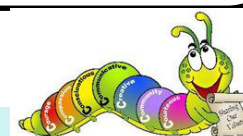
**We have started a display at the front of school!**



Message from Mrs Llewelyn (our Family Support Worker and DSL)



Please come and find me on the playground for a chat if you have any worries or concerns. Nothing is too small!! My door is always open!



*Mrs. Turner—Deputy Headteacher*

*Mrs. Williams—Executive Headteacher*

*Friday 6th October 2023*

School Contact details: Tel – 01604 4011820



# 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 GGRecon 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.



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