



St .Peter's Church of England Primary School, Heswall

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www.stpeters-heswall.wirral.sch.uk

firm foundations, shining bright



What's been happening in school?

It has been a busy return to school for all of us at St Peter's! We have had classes in Y3/4 swimming, we have had sporting events, such as New-Age Kurling, and lots of busy diary dates behind the scenes, including a raft of audits, checks and annual updates for our office, SLT and site teams! The children have settled back into our routines well, and there has been some absolutely wonderful work brought to the HT office for a headteacher sticker! Our Spring Term topics have begun (and curriculum maps sent out to families) and there's plenty of new, exciting things to be learned!

New Play Equipment Update

You may have noticed that we have had the flooring removed on the play equipment—work has started on getting the flooring corrected so that the children can finally use our exciting new equipment!

Attendance:

Our whole-school attendance from the beginning of term (8th January) to date is 96.3%.

This is great to hear, we remain above the national average and are getting ever closer to our school target of 97%. This is especially pleasing during the winter months.

Online Safety

Attached is a newsletter from the National College on the increasingly popular game 'Among Us', including age restrictions, potential spending risk and the online chat functions. As with all games with an online function, careful parental monitoring and knowing the intricacies of these games will support ensuring all of our children remain as safe online as they can be.



Interim Report Cards

Interim Report Cards are scheduled to be sent to all families this evening, Friday 26th January.

Attached with the Interim Report Cards is also a letter explaining a change in terminology used to track pupil attainment—this has come from an update to our software. There may be a change to terminology, however the summative assessment, teacher judgements and evidence base has not altered. As always, if you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Parking on Delavour Road:

You may have noticed that the council has painted single yellow lines on Delavour Road, just opposite school. Please be mindful of these new restrictions!

Information regarding bullying

At St Peter's, we define bullying using the definition from the Anti-Bullying Alliance:

"The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online"

Many forms of disagreements between children are not classified as bullying. We always try to resolve disagreements at school with a process of understanding, support and consequence. If you are concerned that your child may be being bullied, please inform your child's class teacher, and it will be investigated and escalated to the SLT.

Visitors in school

We have had lots of visitors in school over the last couple of weeks, from the Local Authority to contractors, technicians and Governors. One common theme throughout has been the positive comments and feedback regarding the conduct of the children. It is always a proud moment for school staff when visitors are proactive in commenting on the manners, behaviour and confidence of our children. Well done everyone for demonstrating our Peters values of Respect, Pride and Effort!

From April 2024,
eligible working parents
of 2 year-olds will be
able to access 15 hours
childcare support.

Applications are now open.
www.childcarechoices.gov.uk



Diary Dates:

Please see below for a brief overview of key dates over the next two weeks.

Monday 29th January—F2 library visit

Friday 2nd February— Y6 NHS Height & Weight survey

Friday 2nd February—Friends of St Peter's Glow Disco

Wednesday 7th February—Christine Blair from Rock of Joy to visit Y5/6

Tuesday 13th February—Friends of St Peter's Pancake Flip

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Kind regards,

Michael Parry

Website: <http://www.stpeters-heswall.wirral.sch.uk>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/heswallstpeters>

Twitter: @heswallstpeters

Instagram: @heswallstpeters

Lent Litterpick 'n' Pancakes

Saturday 10th February

**Meet at 10am at the Lighthouse Church
dressed for litter picking in Heswall.**

Return at 11.30 for pancakes .

BYO Litter picker if you have one

For further information contact office@heswallparish.co.uk

Tel: 0151 342 3471



EXPLORE

Year 5 and 6's

A space to hang out, play games,
eat cake, and explore the next
steps in school life.

**ST. PETER'S
CENTRE**

After school until 5pm

Monday 16th October

Monday 4th December

Monday 12th February

Monday 25th March

Monday 13th May

Monday 24th June

Email dani@heswallparish.co.uk
or Rachel@heswallparish.co.uk to
book your child in.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

AGE RESTRICTION
7
PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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.



National
Online
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



3/4C have been learning about graphic scores in music lessons, in preparation for their trip to the Philharmonic in March. They listened to Vivaldi's l'Olympiade and represented what they heard, including their learning about dynamics.

#effort
#PETERSvalues #liverpoolphilharmonic

F2F have enjoyed learning all about the season of winter this week. The children have demonstrated our school value of 'teamwork' when completing many different activities, including finding different ways to melt the ice in our outdoor area!

#Teamwork
#foundationstage
#snow

