

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas!

This is the time of year when we really start to think about our plans for Christmas. As you can imagine, this year they are looking rather different to the way they usually do. We thought that you might appreciate knowing what we are planning.

### **Christmas Lunch**

On **Friday 11 December**, the whole school will be enjoying a delicious Christmas dinner. We are going to combine this with a non-uniform day where the children are invited to wear something Christmassy if they wish. As we have no Christmas Fair this year, we are going to be raising money for FOAS (the Friends of Alverton School) and would ask for a donation towards their funds on this day. Money raised by FOAS through the Christmas Fair makes a real difference to our school and helps us to provide things for the children we cannot otherwise afford so we would be very grateful for any donations received. We will be sending out information about menu choices for this etc. in due course.

### **Christmas Video**

As we are unable to hold our traditional nativities and carol service, we are instead going to be creating a whole-school film re-telling the Christmas story which will be available for parents to view. We will do this in a way that enables us to follow all Covid-19 guidance and it looks like it should be very creative as each class takes on a different part of the story. You have recently been asked to complete a consent form to give permission for your child to appear on social media, the website etc – please note that if you have not given this consent, your child will not be able to be part of this film. Please talk to Vervan or Adele in the office if you have not given your consent but would like them to take part.

### **Parties**

Your child's class will be having a Christmas celebration in the last week of term – again, further details will be sent out in due course.

We know that things will not be the same this year but we all still want to ensure that the children have a fun and memorable time.

Best Wishes,

Cathryn Wicks  
Deputy Headteacher



## Remembrance commemorations

This Wednesday every class held their own period of reflection as part of our annual Remembrance commemorations. The children's respect and understanding was exemplary and a tribute to those who we were thinking about and remembering. Each class also made some



beautiful artwork to depict the poppy fields which were displayed in or by their classrooms.



## Coronavirus symptoms

The main symptoms are:

**A high temperature** (hot to the touch on chest or back)

**OR**

**A new, continuous cough** (coughing a lot for more than an hour or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours)

**OR**

**A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** (you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal)

If you or your child have any **ONE** or more of these you must get a COVID-19 test as soon as possible and stay at home and do not have visitors— only leave home to get the test. Anyone you live with, and anyone in your support bubble, must also stay at home until you get your result. **Please ring or email the school office as soon as possible to let us know.**

You can book at test online at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

or phone the NHS test line 119.

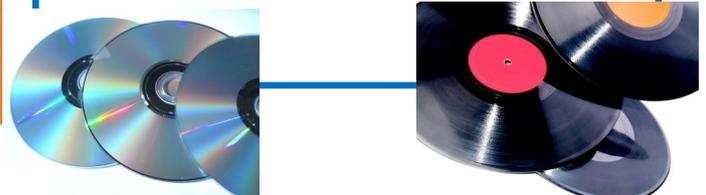
## Thank you

We had a lovely non uniform day today raising money for Children in Need. Everyone enjoyed wearing spots and we raised a fantastic **£344!**



## Wanted!

Do you have any old vinyl records of any size or any old CDs in any condition, that Miss Williams can have for an Art project? Please have a look in your attic and cupboards and let us know if you can help. Thank you very much.





## Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust has its own Out of Hours telephone support provided by Support Matters Cornwall. This service operates from 5pm to 9am on weekdays and 24 hours a day at weekends and bank holidays. The service is open to all patients (aged 16+) under the care of the Trust's mental health services. Support can be delivered over the telephone, via text, email or web chat. Call free on **0800 001 4330**.



Family  
Line

0808 802 6666



0800 1111



0300 123 3393

[www.mind.org.uk](http://www.mind.org.uk)

for better mental health

# NSPCC

Help for children worried about COVID

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health>

Download this image onto your phone for **when you might need help**

**Cornwall's 24/7 NHS mental health support**  
Call for free, any time day or night if you are worried about your own or someone else's mental health. The team behind the 24/7 open access telephone service will listen to you and determine how best to help  
**0800 038 5300**

**Valued Lives:**  
Supports people who are experiencing mental or emotional distress in Cornwall. Every day, 5.30pm - midnight.  
**01209 901438**

If you, or someone else, is in immediate danger call **999**

**Samaritans:**  
Emotional support to anyone in distress, struggling to cope, or at risk of suicide.  
**116 123**

**Shout:**  
Text service, free on all major networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere.  
• If you're over 18, text the word **SHOUT**  
• Under 18s, text **YM**  
**Text: 85258**

[www.cornwall.gov.uk/mentalhealth](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/mentalhealth)

### Penzance CTIPA Foodbank

The CTIPA Foodbank in Penzance has let us know that, at the moment, it is not necessary to obtain a voucher to receive food from them. If their support would be helpful to you, just phone Veryan or Adele in the office in confidence on 01736 364087 and they can phone the Foodbank for you who will be able to help.

The Foodbank are extremely busy at the moment and are very grateful for any donations.

**ON YOUR SIDE  
NO MATTER WHAT**

**0800 58 58 58** | [THECALMZONE.NET/WEBCHAT](http://THECALMZONE.NET/WEBCHAT)

5PM-MIDNIGHT | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | ANONYMOUS

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY  
**CALM**

**citizens  
advice**

0344 411 1444

"It's alright to ask for help"

**SAMARITANS**

116 123

**COVID-19 isolation** may cause tensions to rise and domestic abuse to increase. **Help is available.**

Who can help me?  
We can

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE**

**NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE**  
**0808 2000 247**  
24/7 CONFIDENTIAL FREEPHONE

**WCWAid**  
West Cornwall Women's Aid  
**01736 367539**  
<https://www.wcwid.co.uk/helpline>

**AT HOME SHOULDN'T MEAN AT RISK**

#YOUARENOTALONE  
FIND SUPPORT AT: [gov.uk/domestic-abuse](http://gov.uk/domestic-abuse)

SafeToNet is an app for parents to help them safeguard their children from online risks like cyberbullying and sexting, whilst respecting their child's rights to privacy.

# Online Safety

The BBC have a website and app called Own It. The website has a lot of content for children to help them navigate their online lives, and the free smartphone app comes with a special keyboard which can intervene with help and support in the moments that children need it the most.

Whilst there are huge benefits to being online in order to stay connected to family and friends, many parents may feel concerned about the activities and content their children are accessing. This guidance outlines resources to help keep children safe from different risks online and where to go to receive support and advice. This information is updated as needed (it's recently added new information on apps) so it's worth another look.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



## What parents & carers need to know about ...

# AMONG US



Among Us is one of the most popular games of 2020. A space-themed 'social deduction game' where 4-10 players take on the guise of Crewmates, who must complete various tasks around their spaceship, while randomly selected imposters must try their hardest to sabotage the others' efforts. The imposters have to remain undetected through rounds of voting to win. While Among Us is a largely safe game, it's still prudent to be aware of any potential risks young ones might encounter when playing.

### Inappropriate chat



While Among Us can be enjoyed locally via wi-fi, it's commonly played online. Between rounds, players come together to discuss who they think the Imposter is with a text chat, and it's here where children will come into contact with others. There is a profanity filter on the game as standard, but it can very easily be disabled and (like any unmoderated chat groups) children can be exposed to inappropriate, sexual or explicit language.

### In-game purchases



Among Us is currently available on both PC (via the gaming service Steam) and mobile devices. On the PC, the game costs a flat amount of £3.99 and has some in-game purchases, whereas the mobile version is free to play but contains adverts and in-game purchases. You can pay to remove the ads or purchase in-game cosmetic items. While these amounts are relatively low, there's still the possibility that young ones could accidentally spend lots of money on the game without realising it, as the process is complete in a couple of taps if a card is connected to your store account.

### Risk of hacking



Among Us has been the target of hacking activity; indeed, only recently the game's developer, InnerSloth, tweeted advice that users play private games or with people they trust, in response to hacking issues. As yet, there has been no breach in player accounts. However, if a big enough hack were to take place and player details were accessed, it could lead criminals to having access to credit card data and other personal credentials.

### Use of external apps



Many players use external apps like Discord to voice chat with each other while they're playing. The problem with this is that it is unregulated by the game. Usually on Discord, players will only talk to other people they know in private chats, but a stranger could add a child on an external app, pretending to be interested in playing Among Us with them, when in reality they could be attempting to bully, groom or extort.

### Mild violence

The art style of Among Us is cartoony but does contain some very mild violence. Imposters must kill off Crewmates one by one and can do this in a number of different ways. Some younger children might find this uncomfortable and could get scared or become upset when an Imposter is chasing them, or if they are the Imposter and are forced to kill. An age rating of PEGI 7 should help guide you in deciding if the game is appropriate or not.



## Safety tips

### Play with your children

Playing with your kids is one of the best ways to understand the game, and what makes it so popular. Among Us is free on mobile and is incredibly easy to pick up and play. It's also a great way to bond with your young ones - unless of course you're the Imposter or vote them out of the spaceship! You can do this by picking 'Local' on the main menu then 'Create Game'.

### Use private lobbies



Among Us uses private lobbies to let players keep track of who they're gaming with. Using a uniquely generated code that can be given to friends prior to a game starting, it gives parents peace of mind knowing who their kids are playing with. To get a game code, simply select 'Host', choose the game settings, press 'Confirm', then send the six-digit code at the bottom of the screen to friends to invite them.

### Deactivate credit cards



Having your credit card automatically paired with any online accounts that can be accessed by children is asking for trouble. A solution could be setting them up with their own account with no credit card attached. They can still ask you when they want to make a purchase, but it's totally up to you as and when that transaction happens.

### Use an alias

By default, your name on Among Us will be set to whatever name your device recognises you as. If this is your child's real name, you'll want to ensure they change it before hopping into a game. This is really easily done by clicking 'Online' on the main menu, then simply typing in a new name at the top of the screen.



### Talk about the risks

It's a good idea to talk to your child about the risks associated with online gaming, especially when there are chat options and an ability to communicate with others. Try to maintain an open dialogue with your child; talk about their experiences of the game and who they're playing with. This will help you to stay on top of how they're feeling and ensure they know they can come to you if ever they feel upset or uncomfortable about anything they've experienced.

### Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for five years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work - but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



Sources: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.innersloth.spacemafia>

## STARS OF THE WEEK

Choughs	Maya	for always being ready to listen
Robins	Charlie	for being a delightful member of our class
Puffins	Kaden	for his concentration, motivation and a happy smile
Owls	Jace	for showing such enthusiasm for writing
Kingfishers	Eden	for making fantastic progress with reading
Trencrom	Mollie	for fantastic work on doubling and halving in Maths
Lanyon	Jack	for his continuous hard work and effort in all he does
Kerris	Susie	for trying so hard in all her work this week & being a good role model
Bodrift	Kai	for a fantastic attitude in PE and great work in class
Bosigran	Mia	for brilliant Science work on the Earth and Sun activities
Kenidjack	Verity	for working exceptionally hard & having a brilliant attitude to her work
Dinnertime	Oliver K	for his lovely manners and friendly outlook



### Need a chat?

I'm here for you if you need a chat and I'm a good listener. Sometimes that's all it takes, a sit down, a quiet moment, a cuppa and a biscuit, someone to listen to you. All confidential. If you or someone you know may benefit, ask at the office or come to me directly and let me know. I'll always make time for you.

Mrs Daylak



### Applying for a school place for September 2021

If you have a child born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 you need to apply for a school place in a Reception class for starting in September 2021. The deadline for applications is **15th January 2021**. The easiest way is to apply online at [www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/admissions). For more information call the Admissions team on 0300 1234 101 or visit the website.

### Online payments

All payments other than for uniform (not ties), tuck or school lunches should be made via the Eduspot website, Sign In and by choosing Schoolmoney for Parents login.

<https://eduspot.co.uk/>

Any problems with logging in, please contact the office for a password reset.

### After school childcare provision

This is now only being offered to Year 3-6.

Please contact Mr Timmons for details and to book by emailing [alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com](mailto:alvertonkidsclub@outlook.com) or by phoning 07843 126 833.

### Twitter

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter @alvertonschool to keep up-to-date with all the exciting things that are going on.



## Free School Meals

At this time, many families may find themselves eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium who previously did not meet the criteria. Please read this page carefully to find out if you are now eligible. Our Pupil Premium Parent Guide is being sent home alongside today's newsletter to provide you with more information.

Cornwall Council are continuing to process new applications for Free School Meals. **Please ensure that you read the eligibility criteria before applying** and complete the online application form if you are eligible.

<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/school-meals/application-for-free-school-meals-and-pupil-premium/>

Postal applications are currently not being accepted but, if you are unable to apply online, you can call the Free School Meals team on 01872 323298 and a member of the team will call you back to complete the application over the phone. Please make sure that your phone will accept calls from a private number.

*NB All Key Stage 1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) pupils are entitled to receive a free school meal as part of the Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) initiative, regardless of what benefits are being claimed. Whilst schools are closed to most pupils during the current Covid-19 pandemic, schools are not required to provide meals or vouchers to Key Stage 1 children who usually receive free meals under the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme but are not currently attending school.*

**However, some children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals (as well as all Key Stage 2 children) may have an underlying entitlement to benefits-related Free School Meals. Schools will make arrangements for these children to receive free meals through food parcels or supermarket vouchers.**

Your child may be eligible for benefits-related free school meals if you, or the child themselves in their own right, receives any of the following benefits:

- Income Support (IS)
- Job Seekers' Allowance (Income-Based) and equal based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA-IR) and equal based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (CTC) with an annual income of less than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Guarantee Element of Pension Credit (GPC)
- Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (IAA) Support
- Universal Credit - Your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get) as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods

If you are claiming the benefits listed below you are **NOT** eligible for free school meals, regardless of what other benefits/credits are being claimed:

- Working Tax Credit
- Contribution-Based Job Seeker's Allowance and/or Contribution-Based Employment and Support Allowance

However, you will be temporarily eligible to claim free school meals if you receive a **Working Tax Credit run-on**, which is the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit.

**If you think that your child is eligible for Free School Meals, we strongly recommend that you contact Cornwall Council as detailed above.**