

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you had an enjoyable half-term break. I know that many of the children enjoyed the opportunity over the break to take part in the PTA Halloween competition. Well done to everyone who took part, I very much enjoyed looking at all of the entries from the children.

At the end of last half term, all of the children in Key Stage 1 enjoyed a super visit to our local museum in Woodstock. The children took part in workshops led by the museum staff learning about dinosaurs and fossils. Many thanks to the PTA who helped to fund the coaches for this visit.



We are entering the time of year when there are lots of respiratory viruses around. It is important to remind the children to frequently wash their hands and to practice good respiratory hygiene. The Local Authority have asked us to remind parents they can help their children by taking part in both the flu and COVID vaccination programmes.

For further information and advice, the following two websites are very useful.
<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/10/25/5-ways-to-protect-your-under-5s-this-winter/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Tomorrow our Friday café resumes, the theme this week is about supporting children with their maths. There is no need to book, the café will be held in the Howard Hillsdon building starting at 8.45am- 10.30am, everyone is welcome.

The Halloween competition was very popular, it was hard to choose the winners. Congratulations to the following children who won the PTA Halloween competition: Owen in Wrens, Chloe in Nightingales, Zachary in Kingfishers, Saffy in Swallows, Felicity & Eva in Kestrels, Daisy in Owls, Robert in Red Kites, Ethan in Eagles, Selina in Peregrine Falcons and Alissa in Skylarks.

Your child would have received a proof copy of their school photograph today, if you would like to order them, please do so online, the instructions are on the form. Please order them asap to prevent extra postage costs and to receive them by Christmas. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Morris in the office.

Best wishes Deborah Nind and The WF team

Our assembly theme for the month of November is Respect



Writer of the week – Nancy in Year 5
 Mathematician of the week – Hudson in Year 2
 Reader of the week – Poppy in Year 4
 School Value – Ruby in Year 4
 BLP of the Week – Finley in Year 6

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 50 nights of reading at home: Zachary, Elliott & Seb in Kingfishers. Chole & Paislee in Nightingales. Alex, Alfie, Luca, Oscar, Finn, Luke & Oliver in Swallows. Tobias, Hamish, Delcie, Daisy, Emily, Ingrid, Emeran, Charlie, Amelia, Hannah in Owls. Eva, Harry, Martha, Josh W & Anelie in Kestrels. Alissa, Annabel, Isla, Aaron, Zak, Anoushka, Evan, Reggie & Charlie in Sky Larks.

Congratulations to the following children who have reached their 25 nights of reading at home: Daniel in Kingfishers. Harry in Swallows. Stanley, Violet, Luka, Tom, Zeko, Dexter, Jacob in Owls. Nevaeh B in Kestrels. Aashir, Lily-Rose & Ellie-Mae in Eagles. Charlie & Zak in Sky Larks.

Attendance

School starts at 8:45am, can you please make sure your child is in class by 8:45am.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

There are only 190 statutory school days in one year and 175 days (weekends and school holidays) available to use for holidays. Parents should avoid taking their children out of school during term time in order to go on holiday.

Class	Attendance for 17.10.22 – 21.10.22
Eagles	92.27%
Kestrel	94.07%
Kingfishers	98.21%
Nightingales	93.93%
Owls	95.36%
Peregrine Falcons	98.33%
Red Kites	95.19%
Sky Larks	99.09%
Swallows	97.69%
Wrens	84.83%
Total	94.75%

Ignite After School Club Term 2

Ignite are running an after-school sports club for children in Foundation to Year 6. If you would like your child to attend Ignite Sports Club for term 1, which will run every Thursday from 3pm to 4pm, starting on 3rd November, please complete the Parent Pay form. It is based on a first come first serve basis and will cost £4.50 per session (£31.50 for term 2).

Lego Club

We are running an after-school Lego Club for all years. This will be led by Mrs Detesanu and Mrs Gawthorne on Monday afternoons from 3pm – 4pm in Kingfishers class, starting on Monday 21st November 2022 to Monday 19th December 2022. The cost of the club for this term is £15.00. If you would like your child to join the club, please log into Parent Pay to pay for the club and give permission for your child to attend. Please note, there is a limit on spaces and if you are unable to get into the club this term, there will be a waiting list for next term.

PTA Update

Many thanks to those of you that sent in their children's wonderful entries for the Halloween competition. Mrs Nind has chosen the winners and prizes will be handed out in assembly on Friday. We hope the children enjoyed taking part.

The next PTA meeting is booked in for next Thursday 10th November, 7.30pm via zoom. We'll be discussing all things Christmas. If you would like the meeting log in details or to know a bit more about the PTA please email us at williamfletcherschoolpta@gmail.com

Thank you to those of you that have already donated preloved books ready for the new Book Swap. If you have any further donations, please leave them in the box in the school reception. We'll let you know dates of the first Book Swap once confirmed.

The next Uniform Exchange and Sale is due to take place on Tuesday 6th December, 3pm on the bottom playground.

Yarnton Fireworks - Saturday 12 November

Yarnton Fireworks on Saturday 12 November. Gates open at 6pm. Fireworks start at 7.00pm at Little Marsh Playing Field (Behind the Turnpike Pub), Green Lane, Yarnton, OX5 1QE.

American Hotdogs, Dinky Donuts, Cakes, Sweets & Refreshments!

Tickets can be purchased online www.tinyurl.com/yarntonfireworks2022 - £4.50 in advance and £5.00 on the gate. Under 5's free!

Friday cafe

Starting Friday 23rd September, 8.45am- 10.30am in the Howard Hillsdon Room.

Pop in, meet other parents and carers, everyone welcome. Information available at each session, including:

*Helping your child with maths *Healthy lunchbox ideas *Money matters *Reading with your child.

Tea, coffee and biscuits available and younger siblings always welcome. For more information, please contact: Clare Pink, Family Support Worker

clarepink@william-fletcher.gov.uk or, Karen Ariss: karen.ariss@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club runs every day from 07:30 – 08:45 in the Howard Hillsdon building (old playgroup). The children enjoy a range of breakfast cereals, fruit juices, yoghurts and toast, followed by the opportunity to play indoor games. The cost is £5.00 per child. If you would like your children to take part in breakfast club, **please see the staff in the office to book prior to attendance.**

Knitting For All

We have a knitting club at school run by Steph Radda on Tuesday's from 3pm - 4.15pm (term time only). If you would like your child to attend or for more information, please contact Steph on 07940564486 for further details.

Yarnton Brownies

Yarnton Brownies currently have spaces. Come and join the fun! Open to girls aged between 7-10. We run Wednesday's during term time from 6.30-8pm. Please

visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/>

for more information and to register interest. Alternatively call 07866122863 - Heather Kimber Moss for any additional help.

Forthcoming Dates

November 2022

09.11.22	Red Kites Oxfordshire Museum
10.11.22	Kestrels & Owls Oxfordshire Museum
10.11.22	Year 6 Imps visit
14.11.22	Parent/teacher meetings
15.11.22	Parent/teacher meetings
21.11.22 –	
25.11.22	Year 6 Glasbury week
22.11.22	Clip & climb for year 5

December 2022

02.12.22	Non-uniform day in exchange for male gift
09.12.22	Non-uniform day in exchange for female gift
14.12.22	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 10am
14.12.22	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.22	Foundation Stage Christmas Play at 9.45am
15.12.22	Key Stage 1 Christmas Play at 2pm
15.12.22	Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Christmas Play at 5.00pm
16.12.22	School Christmas Lunch
19.12.22	Christmas shopping day
20.12.22	School Carol Service
20.12.22	End of term 2

William Fletcher School Term Dates 2022/2023

Term 1

Tuesday 6th September to Friday 21st October

Friday 2nd September INSET Day

Monday 5th September INSET Day

Term 2

Monday 31st October to Tuesday 20th December

Friday 18th November INSET Day

Term 3

Wednesday 4th January to Thursday 9th February

Term 4

Monday 20th February to Friday 31st March

Friday 10th February INSET Day

Term 5

Monday 17th April to Friday 26th May

Term 6

Tuesday 6th June to Friday 21st July

Monday 5th June INSET

William Fletcher School Term Dates 2023/2024

Term 1

Tuesday 5th September to Friday 20th October

Friday 1st September INSET Day

Monday 4th September INSET Day

Term 2

Monday 30th October to Wednesday 20th December

Monday 27th November INSET Day

Term 3

Monday 8th January to Friday 9th February

Term 4

Tuesday 20th February to Thursday 28th March

Monday 19th February INSET

Term 5

Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May

Term 6

Tuesday 4th June to Wednesday 24th July

Monday 3rd June INSET

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

INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements 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 obviously 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 them 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.

LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so 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 compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 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 3, 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've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (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 anything 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 fake 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 showing any judgement, 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 anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



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