



June 2022 Newsletter

It is hard to believe that we are into the final term of this academic year. The time really has flown by. This half term is incredibly busy with lots of events and trips taking place. It has been nice to invite so many parents and carers back into school and we hope that you will be able to join us for some of the things we have planned. You will be aware that the consultation is well underway and I have managed to speak to some families about their views. Please submit your views to the county council and tell them your thoughts. This is a great opportunity for us to say what we want for our children and all comments are welcomed. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us or please come and see us on June 11th at the Masonic Hall in Amble.

Mrs Lizzie Jackson

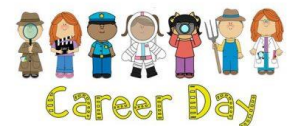
A Royal Reading Challenge

A reminder that our fabulous jubilee reading challenge is still underway. Some of our children are doing a fabulous job of reading every night. Keep it up!!



Careers Day

On **Thursday 16th June** we will be holding a careers day in school. We want to show our children the huge range of exciting opportunities that are available to them and help to build their aspirations for the future. We would really like to invite as many parents/grandparents/carers in as possible to come in and share with the children what it is that they do. Some parents have kindly offered to come in to speak to the children about the jobs that they do. If you could spare us some time on the day, we would love for you to come in and talk to us. Please get in touch if you are available, even for an hour.



Disco

A reminder that tickets are still available for the disco on **Friday 17th June**. These are priced at £3 and can be purchased on Eduspot. Please ensure that places are booked by Monday 12th June so that supplies can be ordered.



Jubilee Celebrations

On **Thursday 30th June**, the staff and children of Amble First School would like to invite you to our jubilee celebrations. Please join us on the school yard from 2pm where the children will be performing a range of songs from the last 70 years. There will be refreshments for the adults so please bring along a picnic blanket and pray for some sunny weather!



Staffing

You may be aware that there have been some staff positions advertised recently at the school. We are very pleased to announce that from September 2022 Leila Anderson, who currently works in Nursery, will be joining us in the main school as a teaching assistant. Michelle Boyce will also be joining her and will be supporting in Key Stage 1.

We are also delighted to welcome Miss Keziah Gilbert to the teaching team. Keziah has experience in organising and delivering PE and is currently a member of the Youth Sport Trust Youth Board. We are really looking forward to what she will bring to Amble First School.

Transition Day

On Monday July 4th children will be spending the day with their new teachers. This is a great opportunity for them to get to know the staff, a different classroom and to experience some new activities. Therefore, I am pleased to announce the class teachers for September 2022.

Reception - Mrs Sharon Donaldson

Year 1 - Mrs Dawn Hunter

Year 2 - Mrs Kelly Graham

Year 3 - Miss Keziah Gilbert

Year 4 - Mrs Caroline Metcalfe

In September, we will organise an opportunity for parents/carers to come into school to meet with the teachers and talk further about what the children will be learning over the year.

Summer Fair

We are hosting our summer fair on Friday 8th July. There will be a number of stalls and each class will have something to offer. If any of our parents/carers are interested in having a stand/stall at the fair, please get in touch with the school and we can organise this with you.



Sports Day arrangements

We are very fortunate to be able to use the sports hall at James Calvert Spence College on Acklington Road (High School Site) for our sports day this year. On **Wednesday 6th July**, children from Reception to Year 4 will walk to the site with their classes after lunch ready to start activities at 1:30pm. At the end of the afternoon, children will return to school with their classes and will be collected from school as normal. We look forward to seeing you there.

Uniform

There are increasing numbers of children who are wearing items of clothing to school that are not school uniform. Our uniform policy is very flexible and allows families to purchase items that do not display the school badge. However, we do request that items worn are in school colours. This is also the same for PE days. Please see the website for the full list of uniform and the link for ordering.

http://www.amblefirst.northumberland.sch.uk/web/school_uniform/346997

Parent/class sessions

A reminder that the remaining sessions will be taking place this half term. No need to book, just turn up and enjoy!

Year 1 - Tuesday 14th June 2pm-3pm

Year 2 - Wednesday 8th June 2pm-3pm (please note the change of date)

Year 4 - Wednesday 15th June 2pm-3pm

Attendance up to end of May 2022

Rec - 92%

Year 1 - 93.6%

Year 2 – 95.7%

Year 3 - 93.3%

Year 4 - 96.2%

Our school target for attendance is **96%**. Well done again Year 4!

Attendance Ladder



Key Dates this half term

Wednesday 8th June 2pm-3pm - parent session Year 2

Friday 10th June - non-uniform day, cosmetics/smellies

Tuesday 14th June 2pm-3pm - parent session Year 1

Wednesday 15th June 2pm-3pm - parent session Year 4

Thursday 16th June - careers day

Friday 17th June 5:30pm - 7:00pm - school disco

Friday 24th June - Year 4 trip to Clarty Commandos

Thursday 30th June - non-uniform day, sweets/chocolate items

Thursday 30th June - Jubilee celebration

Friday 1st July - school closed for Jubilee bank holiday

Monday 4th July - transition day

Wednesday 6th July - sports day

Friday 8th July - Summer Fair

Thursday 7th July – whole school trip

Tuesday 12th July- Nursery beach morning

Thursday 14th July – Reception beach morning

Thursday 14th July – Year 4 Leavers event

Tuesday 19th July - KS2 Beach School

Wednesday 20th July – KS1 Beach School

Friday 22nd July – Nursery leavers assembly 9am

Friday 22nd July - school closes for the summer

Wednesday 7th September - school re-opens for pupils

Online Safety

With the ever increasing number of apps and games available to download it can be difficult to know which are suitable for children. The QR code below provides a link to some useful advice from the NSPCC about online gaming.



The following document also provides some helpful information about the risks of accessing apps and games with a higher age limit.

Part of our Online Mental Health & Wellbeing Series



Brought to you by



www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What you need to know about...

AGE RATINGS



What are they?

'Age Ratings'

A game's age rating can be used by adults to make an informed choice as to whether or not a game is suitable for their child. The PEGI (Pan European Game Information) system rates games and, instead of indicating the level of ability required to physically play a game, it indicates the suitability of content for that age group. 3, 7, 12, 16 and 18 are the labels that can be awarded to games and a variety of content descriptors such as violence, bad language and fear are used to further clarify why the label was assigned.

16 & UP ONLY



12-15

Know the Risks

18+

Inappropriate content

The biggest and most obvious risk of not following the age rating system is that children may view or hear age-inappropriate content. Many games now include scenes of a violent or graphic nature which could be upsetting or considered too intense for younger players.

Peer pressure

Peer pressure has a large role to play in age ratings being overlooked. Children don't want to be the ones left behind and can put their parents under pressure to allow them to play a game beyond the recommended suitability, especially when all of their friends are playing it already.

Level of 'Kudos'

Playing a game with a label that is higher than their age can be viewed by some children as a challenge and to gain a good reputation amongst friends. Kudos is attributed to the child playing the age inappropriate game resulting in more children wanting to follow suit.

Free Platforms

In order for a game to be released on popular platforms, such as PlayStation and Xbox, game developers must pay for a PEGI rating. However, smaller development teams are sometimes reluctant to pay these fees and games are often released on other platforms, such as Steam, without any age restrictions.

Spot the Signs

Being vague

Be aware of children being vague around the content of what they want to play. If they are unwilling to supply you with information about what the game is about, this can be an indicator that you wouldn't allow them to purchase it if you knew.

Unofficial sites

There are plenty of indie games that can be bought using online stores that don't necessarily have age restrictions. If you notice your child using sites such as GOG or itch.io rather than official channels such as the Google Play Store, they might be accessing games that aren't officially rated but still aren't age appropriate.

Unfamiliar terminology

Your child might start using phrases or terminology that is new to them or mimicking actions that they have learnt from a game without realising their inappropriateness.

Wanting to be secluded

Be aware if suddenly your child wants to move the device that they play their games on into a more secluded area of the house away from adults. It is a good idea for your child to play online games in shared area where you can see the screen.

Be aware of spending

Setting up accounts with online stores require bank account details. Keeping an eye on your bank balance means that you will be able to tell if there has been a new purchase and can provide you with an opportunity to ask about what new game they've purchased.

Safety Tips

Do your research

If you've noticed a new game that your child has downloaded then use quality resources to make sure that your knowledge is up to date. Online websites, such as National Online Safety, can provide you with the information you need.

Review parental controls

Review your parental controls on the stores where you buy games from. Most sites allow parents to set passwords to block games with certain age restrictions from being downloaded.

Encourage open dialogue

Encourage open dialogue with your child. You don't want to be in position where they won't talk to you if something has made them feel uncomfortable in a game because they are worried they will get in trouble for playing the game in the first place.

Discuss ratings

Talk to your child about why the game has been awarded a certain label. Debate the positives and negatives of playing a game and decide on some ground rules together.

Our Expert

Heather Cardwell



Heather Cardwell is a practising Online Safety Lead and senior school leader who is passionate about safeguarding online and educating children around online risks. She has over 10+ years as a Computing Lead and has successfully developed and implemented a whole school approach to online safety in schools, delivering online safety training to both school staff and parents and helping to roll-out a bespoke online safety policy across her local network of education settings.