



July 2022 Newsletter

It's hard to believe that we are into the final month of this academic year. In every newsletter I comment on how many things are happening in school but this month feels especially busy. We have a number of trips and events taking place this month which we hope the children will enjoy. The staff are especially looking forward to transition day where they get to spend some time meeting their new classes and getting to know the children who they will be working with next year. We hope that they will all have a wonderful day, especially our Year 4 children who will be spending the day at the middle school!

Mrs Lizzie Jackson

IMPORTANT - Changes to the school day

In order to comply with the Department for Education's requirement to offer 32.5 hours of education in school a week, there will be a slight change to the start and finish times of the school day from September 2022.



The gates will be open and staff will welcome children onto the yard from 8:35am. The school day will start for all children at **8:45am** in the morning.

The gates to the playground will be locked at 8:45am. Any children arriving after this time must enter the building through the main entrance. Miss Nowak will record children arriving after this time.

At home time, children will continue to line up on the yard with their teacher. Children are permitted to leave only when their adult is seen. The school day will finish for all children at **3:15pm**. Children who attend full time nursery will continue to finish at 3pm.

Transition Day

Monday 4th July is transition day where the children will spend the day with their new class teachers. This is a great opportunity for them to get to know the staff, a different classroom and to experience some new activities. Year 4 children will be spending the day at James Calvert Spence Middle School and will need to make their own way to the school for 9:30am.

Sports Day - Wednesday 6th July

This year, sports day will be taking place at James Calvert Spence College on Acklington Road (High School site). We are hoping to use the field if the weather stays



fine. We are very grateful to the staff and pupils of JCSC who have organised the event this year and for offering to provide refreshments for parents/carers, which will be made available **from 1pm**. Staff at JCSC have asked that, if possible, they could be made aware of how many adults will be attending. Please use the following [link](#) to sign up. Signing up in advance will enable people to be checked in more quickly upon arrival. Please arrive at the main entrance to collect your wristband and a member of staff will show you to the hall where tea and cakes will be available.

Events for the children will start from around 1:30pm. In order that children are able to take part in as many events as possible throughout the afternoon and are not sitting waiting for too long, they will compete in a range of activities with their year groups in different parts of the field. Parents/carers will be situated in the middle of the field so that they can have a view of all groups. Should the weather make it unsuitable for events to take place on the field, we will move into the sports hall. At the end of the afternoon, children will be escorted back to school to collect their belongings and will be dismissed from the school yard as normal. We hope that you will be able to come and join us!

Summer Fair

We will be hosting our summer fair on Friday 8th July. There will be a range of stalls and games to visit and also some refreshments available. The gates will open at 2:30pm for families to come and look around. Each class has their own stall/games so please come along and have a go!



You can collect your children from their classes when you arrive but you must sign them out with the class teacher. Any children not collected early will be dismissed as normal at 3:00pm/3:10pm.

Plea from Year 3 - please could we have any soft toys for our teddy tombola please? We would love to give any unloved teddies and soft toys a new home!

Year 4 Leavers Event

The Year 4 leavers celebration will take place on **Thursday the 14th July**. Children are invited to stay after school and enjoy some tea with their classmates. They will then deliver a performance for parents/carers in the hall at **5pm**. Please come and join us to celebrate their time at Amble First School.



Summer weather

As the weather gets warmer, we would ask you to consider applying sunscreen to children before they come to school. We like to make the most of the sunny weather by getting the children outside but will only do this if we feel it is safe for the children. Please note that staff are unable to apply sunscreen to pupils.



Children are not required to wear their school jumpers in hot weather, however we continue to have a number of children who are wearing items that are not part of the agreed school uniform. T-shirts should be white or

navy and trousers, joggers or shorts should be in dark colours. Children should not be wearing denim jeans or shorts to school.

Reports

School reports will be sent home towards the end of term. We hope that you will enjoy reading these and will be able to celebrate your child's achievements with them. If you have any questions about the reports please contact the school office to make an appointment to discuss this with your child's class teacher.

Uniform swap shop

As we approach the end of the school year many children will have outgrown items of their school uniform. As the cost of living increases and in order to reduce waste, we would like to create the opportunity to 'swap' good quality items of school clothing. If you have any items that you would like to donate, please could these be brought to school by **Friday 15th July**. We will then make these available throughout the final week for families to help themselves. Any items left over will be stored in school and can be requested at any time during the school year.

Attendance up to end of June 2022

Rec - 92.2%

Year 1 - 93.3%

Year 2 - 95.5%

Year 3 - 93.0%

Year 4 - 96.1%

Our school target for attendance is **96%**.

Well done again Year 4!!

Attendance Ladder



Key Dates this month

Friday 1st July - school closed for Jubilee bank holiday

Monday 4th July - transition day

Wednesday 6th July - sports day

Thursday 7th July – whole school trip (Years 1, 2, 3, 4) – please sign up on Eduspot

Friday 8th July - Summer Fair

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 (normal collection time)

Monday 5th September - Teacher training day SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 6th September - Teacher training day SCHOOL CLOSED

Wednesday 7th September - School reopens for pupils (8:45am start)

Please see the following [link](#) for term dates, including teacher training days 2022/23.

Online Safety

New apps and websites are appearing every day and many of these are aimed at children. For those children who spend a lot of time online, they often come across these before some of us adults even know they exist!

'Twitch' is the world's most popular live streaming platform and has around 140 million active users. The platform is particularly popular within the gaming community, but in recent years it has expanded its content offering to include music, sports, and food. Children might use Twitch to watch other users play games, discover new games and find out about tips that could help them improve their gameplay. Twitch works in a similar way to YouTube. Users can choose to set up their own streaming channel or subscribe and watch streamers they like.

Please see below for further information or go to: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/is-twitch-safe-for-children/>

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TWITCH

Twitch is a livestreaming service which tends to focus on gaming. Users can publicly broadcast their gameplay and commentary online for other users to watch. It's a community-driven platform where viewers can support their favourite streamers' channels through PayPal donations, "Bits" and more. Each streamer or group creates their own community for fans to interact with each other. Twitch has more than 15 million daily active users and includes non-gaming topics such as music, cooking and art. Anyone can create a channel to livestream or watch videos.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

UNCENSORED STREAMS

Uncensored content obviously carries a greater risk of inappropriate language and behaviour (streamers can, however, list their broadcast as unsuitable for children). Twitch has strict rules for streamers to follow, but requires viewers to report any streams which breach these guidelines. Each livestream is accompanied by a text chat which it is the streamer's responsibility to moderate.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most people are already aware that some video games feature adult content such as violence, sexual content, profanity and so on. Twitch does prevent certain games from being streamed on the platform, but most are still allowed. It is relatively simple, then, for a child to find livestreams of games that aren't suitable for them – including horror games.

HIDDEN COSTS

Twitch is free to use because it's supported by advertisers. Removing the ads requires a subscription to Twitch Turbo – or the Twitch Prime package (free for anyone with an Amazon Prime account), which blocks the ads and offers additional goodies such as bonus games. Streamers earn most of their income by asking users for direct donations or gifts of the virtual currency Twitch Bits.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

As well as streamers talking directly to their audience, Twitch enables viewers to use text chat to speak to the person they're watching. It's a social platform which also allows viewers to interact with each other via text while they are watching livestreams – including exchanging private messages. This raises the possibility of a child being approached and messaged online by total strangers.

WEBCAM SHARING

It's common for streamers to use their live webcam footage. This allows better interaction with their viewers, but also adds risk: the stream might include sponsored content or product placement that isn't child friendly. Using a webcam in livestreams increases the chance of malicious viewers finding out where the streamer lives and provides bullies with visual reactions to their hurtful behaviour.

PRIVATE CHAT ROOMS

Twitch encourages streamers to create their own communities, which extend beyond its platform. Many create a public Discord group, for example, for viewers to join and communicate with each other. Discord is a completely separate entity to Twitch and offers a higher risk of predators, grooming and cyberbullying if your child gets involved in the voice or video chat with strangers.

Advice for Parents & Carers

EXPLORE IT YOURSELF

Twitch doesn't have any parental controls, but it is possible to block troublesome users if it becomes necessary. The best solution is to watch some Twitch channels by yourself or with your child to find some that are suitable. Watching some streams by yourself is also a good route to understanding the sort of content that your child would be consuming regularly on Twitch.

LEARN HOW TO BLOCK

'Security and Privacy' in Twitch's settings lets your child block messages from specific users. Teaching your child how this works will help them avoid online abuse. If they livestream, knowing how to block people in the chat also helps to prevent cyberbullying or harassment. Evading online interaction is impossible, of course, so talk to them in advance about boundaries and safe online communication.

WATCH WHAT THEY WATCH

Twitch does have a lot of child-friendly content; some streamers use a 'family friendly' tag to highlight material that's suitable for children. However, anyone can use this tag – including users who (accidentally or otherwise) stream games with less appropriate adult themes. The best way to counter this is to view different streams and follow suitable channels for your child to watch.

LIMIT PAYMENT OPTIONS

Reduce the chance of accidental purchases by ensuring your bank card isn't saved on Twitch or the Amazon account that Twitch Prime could be linked to. Restricting access to your PayPal account is also wise if your child watches Twitch on the device you use to make purchases. Explain to your child that they don't need to subscribe to channels to watch them and that donating or gifting 'Bits' is optional.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

