



Friday 19th April 2024 (6 pages)

ATTENDANCE

Well done to everyone who is in the green!

| <u>YEAR</u> | <u>ATTENDANCE</u> <u>%</u> |
|-------------------------|---|
| <u>RECEPTION</u> | 100% |
| <u>YEAR 1</u> | 100% |
| <u>YEAR 2</u> | 88% |
| <u>YEAR 3</u> | 100% |
| <u>YEAR 4</u> | 98% |

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done to our Superstars Mollie and Maddie; our Handwriting Heroes Hugo, Jenny, Lilly and Bella. Congratulations also to Arthur for receiving the Kindness Award, Charlie S for the Helping Hand Award and both Isla C and Effie for receiving the Perseverance Award. Well done to our Maths Whizzes Olivia and Euan and PE stars Alice and Alex. All children were given a special sticker and an award to sit on their desk for the week.



ELVIS AND TUFFY THE READING BEARS

We are delighted to introduce Elvis and Tuffy our reading bears in a suitcase. These will be presented to enthusiastic readers each week. Thank you to Miss Osborne for thinking of such a super idea to support our 'Love of Reading' campaign. The suitcase contains the bear, a specially chosen book for the recipient and a hot chocolate sachet. Suitcases should be returned on Mondays so the bears can have a rest ready for the following Friday! Well done Bertie and Archie who were the first lucky recipients.



NEW PHOENIX COMIC SUBSCRIPTION

In addition to our amazing new selection of reading books in our library, Miss Osborne has also signed school up for a Phoenix magazine subscription. These magazines are very appealing and contain lots of comic book stories including our favourites Dogman and Catkid. I am sure the children will really enjoy reading them.



CLASS 3 TRIP REMINDER

Just a reminder that the children in **Class 3** are going to the **Roman Army Museum and Vindolanda on Tuesday 23rd April.**

Even though the weather forecast is good, please ensure your child wears practical clothing plus their red jumper, a warm waterproof coat and suitable practical footwear as there will be lots of walking on grass!

All children need to bring a packed lunch and refillable water bottle in an easy to carry bag.

EYFS VISIT-'PEOPLE WHO HELP US'-POLICE AND AMBULANCE

As a finale to their topic 'People Who Help Us', the children in Nursery and Reception had a visit from two Police Officers on Tuesday who answered lots of questions and even brought their car complete with siren and lights!

On Thursday afternoon the children had a visit from two Paramedics and an Ambulance and learnt all about how they help people who are hurt.

Thank you to Mrs Hulbert, Miss Holmes, Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Clark for organising these fantastic visits. The children's learning experience was enhanced greatly by the visits and visitors. There are lots of photos on the website. Please make sure you ask your child all about the visits!



FRIENDS OF HUMSHAUGH



COFFEE MORNING

The Friends Coffee morning is at **Humshaugh Village Hall on Saturday 4th May between 10.00am-12.00pm**. It would be lovely to see as many people as possible.

If anyone could make cakes or give donations for a Tombola (e.g. sweets, books, bath stuff, toys - we are happy for them to be good condition second hand items).

SPRING READING CHALLENGE

The closing date for entries to the Friends Spring Reading Challenge is Monday 22nd April. Please ensure entries are either emailed or sent into school.

Friends of Humshaugh First School

Spring Reading Challenge


Complete all 3 challenges!

3 winners will be randomly selected to win a book of their choice.

Challenge 1 - Photo Challenge

Take a photo of you doing at least 2 of these challenges.

- Read a recipe to make something yummy to eat
- Read outside
- Read in fancy dress
- Read somewhere unusual
- Read with an Easter Egg



Challenge 2 - Questions Challenge

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| A book you'd recommend to a friend? | |
| A book that made you laugh? | |
| A brilliant fact from a book? | |
| A book you'd like to read? | |

Challenge 3 - Drawing Challenge

Draw a picture of something from a book you have enjoyed.

Every entry wins a prize

Completed entries can either be emailed to the friends at humshaughschoolfriends@gmail.com or handed in at school during the first week of the summer term.



PARENT CONSULTATION REMINDER

An email was sent on Thursday with parent appointment times. **Please note** that the Reception meetings have been postponed until the last two weeks of this half term due to Mrs Wilkinson's recovery from surgery. Reception parents should have received an email from Mrs Long today with new dates. If you are unable to attend the new dates, then please do not hesitate to email Mrs Long and she will rearrange your appointment.



CELEBRATING EXTRA CURRICULAR PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

Please let Mrs Long know if your child/ren take part in extra-curricular clubs and activities and achieve awards or prizes. We would love to celebrate and share their efforts and successes.

PE KITS

Please ensure children in Class 2 and 3 have their outdoor PE kits in school on **Monday 22nd April.**

PARENTZONE-ONLINE SAFETY

Every few weeks, we will share information or an article about online safety and wellbeing. These guides can be found on the National College website.

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

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.

AGE RESTRICTION
7
PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

DIARY DATES

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|-----------------------------------|---|
| Monday 22 nd April: | Class 2 and 3 Parent Consultations |
| Tuesday 23 rd April: | Y3/4 Roman Army/Vindolanda trip-complete google form |
| Wednesday 24 th April: | Class 2 and 3 Parent Consultations |
| Thursday 25 th April: | Class 2 and 3 Parent Consultations |

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|---|--|
| Thursday 2 nd May: | Friends from the Village-Class 2 |
| Saturday 4 th May: | The Friends Coffee morning-Humshaugh Village Hall 10am-12pm |
| Monday 6 th May: | Bank Holiday-School closed |
| Monday 13 th May: | Reception Parent Consultations (rescheduled from 22 nd April) |
| Wed 15 th -Fri 17 th May: | Y4 Residential-Robinwood |
| Monday 20 th May: | Reception Parent Consultations (rescheduled from 29 th April) |
| Friday 24 th May: | Last day of Summer 1 |
| Monday 3 rd June: | Summer 2 starts |
| Thursday 6 th June: | Y1/2 visit to Beamish (more info to follow) |
| Monday 10 th June: | EYFS visit to White House Farm (more info to follow) |
| Thursday 13 th June: | Year 3 visit to HMS (more info to follow) |
| Thursday 20 th June: | Year 4 Leaver Service – Newcastle Cathedral |
| Friday 21 st June: | Fragile Earth-visit to Simonburn (more info to follow) |
| Monday 24 th June: | French performance in school (Y3/4) |
| Thursday 27 th June: | Shutterbugz class photos |
| Friday 28 th June: | Y3/4 visit to Kirkley Hall Zoo (more info to follow) |
| Tuesday 9 th July: | Transfer Day (Year 4s at Middle Schools for the whole day) |
| Thursday 18 th July: | Year 4 water fight and Fun Day |
| Friday 19 th July: | Year 4 Leaver Service-in school |