



# NEWSLETTER

WC 7th November -2022  
Autumn Term

## ATTENDANCE

Well done to Daley with the highest attendance score last week at a fantastic 92%

Huge congratulations also goes to Banksy who again have a high attendance for last week.

Well done also to Parks & Watson for much improved attendance last week.



Year groups  
attendance  
percentage.

Year 5 - 100%  
Year 6 - 58%  
Year 7 - 71%  
Year 8 - 78%  
Year 9 - 63%  
Year 10 - 59%  
Year 11 - 57%

Form groups  
attendance  
percentage.

Daley - 92%  
Parks - 90%  
Curie - 84%  
Newton - 76%  
Watson - 74%  
Anderson - 71%  
Banksy - 70%

If your child is going to be absent please notify the school on the day by 9am.

Please either call the school and leave a message or use the ParentApp to notify staff of absents and reason.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS WEEKS



Congratulations to our end-of-term Top Ten pupils. These qualify for the end-of-term reward trip.

### Lower School

Ethan (Daley)  
Joshua (Daley)  
Alissa-Jade (Daley)  
Rosie-Leigh (Daley)  
Lj (Daley)  
Lilly-May (Watson)  
Sam (Banksy)  
Ethan (Banksy)  
Mason (Watson)  
Harley (Daley)

### Upper School

Ruby-Mae (Newton)  
Olly (Newton)  
Liam (Newton)  
Jack (Anderson)  
Joe (Newton)  
Cameron (Storey)  
Shaye (Anderson)  
Leon (Storey)  
Riley (Newton)  
Jonpaul (Turing)



Our amazing kitchen team  
cooked up some gruesome  
delights for Halloween on  
Monday  
Thank you, Pat & Vicky,

Brain Cake  
Which tasted delicious !!



Biscuit Fingers  
Lovely, crunchy Biscuits

## SCHOOL LUNCHES

Please see the lunch menu for our return, W/C 7th November 2022.

If your child would like a hot dinner, please let your classroom staff know in advance.  
Dinners are charged at £2.45 per day, unless you are entitled to Free School Meals  
Lunches are to be paid for in cash, this can be either passed to your Teacher, TA,  
or the school office.

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK 1 CHOICE 1 CHOICE 2 DESSERT						
		Beef Burger served in a Bun with Potato Wedges & Seasonal Vegetables or Baked Beans	Cheesy Bean Pasta served with Garlic Bread & Seasonal Vegetables	Roast of the Day served with Roast/Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Chicken Katsu Curry served with Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Cheese & Tomato Pizza served with Chips & Peas or Baked Beans
		Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings Served with a Side Salad	Deli Choice of Breads with a Selection of Fillings Served with a Side Salad	Pasta Dish of the Day Served with a Side Salad	Deli Choice of Breads with a Selection of Fillings Served with a Side Salad	Jacket Potato with a Selection of Fillings Served with a Side Salad
		Apple Muffin	Jam & Custard Biscuit	Iced Sponge Cake	Frozen Fruit Yoghurt	Snickers Doodle Biscuit

Available every day – Unlimited Salad, Freshly Baked Bread, Fruit Yoghurt, Fresh Fruit Platter & Chilled Water. For allergen information, please ask one of our Catering Team. All the above dishes are subject to availability.



### IMPORTANT

If your child has allergies please notify the school office.



## FREE SCHOOL MEALS

# Free School Meals

Parents/carers can check free school meal eligibility (benefits related) online. The school will be notified of any successful applications. Please use the link -

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims-wirral/>

Those who do not qualify for free school meals are charged £2.45 daily. Dinner money should be paid to the school office.

If you are receiving certain benefits, a FREE tasty and nutritious school meal is available for your children at The Observatory School...BUT YOU MUST APPLY!

Look at the benefits:

- A free school meal for your child, which is good for their health and could help their learning.
- Savings for you, worth over £350 a year.

## Are you entitled?

Remember. Just registering your child for Free School Meals means that your child's school receives the extra money even if you don't take up the free meal.

No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.

## UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Beechwood Ice Rink & Christmas Fair 2022**

Saturday 19th November  
The Little Centre, Beechwood  
10am - 5pm (last time on ice is 4pm)

Skating costs £2 for 30 minutes (tickets purchased at the door or from the food larder)

Cafe open to purchase food

Ages 4 and over for ice rink  
(Under 6's need a parent on the ice)

Funded by  



ARE YOU STRUGGLING TO BUY FOOD?  
DO YOU NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT?  
WHY NOT CONTACT WIRRAL FOODBANK  
AND WIRRAL FOODBANK PLUS?

Telephone: 0151 638 7090  
(Lines open Mon—Thu 9am— 2pm)

2pm to 5pm ring 0151 666 5050

OUT OF HOURS SUPPORT  
0151 677 6557

Email: [enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wirralfoodbank.org.uk)  
Web: [www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.wirral.foodbank.org.uk)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England with  
Charity Number 1167967






**We're taking part in ROAD SAFETY WEEK**

**SAFE ROADS FOR ALL**

14-20 November 2022

Because everyone's life matters on roads

Find out more and get your FREE action pack at [www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week](http://www.brake.org.uk/road-safety-week)

## BULLYING POLICY

At The Observatory School we are committed to ensuring that all pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Our school is a place where every person has the right to be themselves, to feel safe, to be included and to learn.

Everyone at our school is equal and should treat each other with respect and kindness.

Bullying is anti-social behaviour that affects everyone.

### STOP BULLYING

PHYSICAL  
BULLYING

VERBAL  
BULLYING

SOCIAL  
BULLYING

CYBER  
BULLYING



We take all incidents of bullying seriously and feel that everyone has the right to be treated with respect. We also have a responsibility to support those involved in bullying to understand the consequences of their actions for themselves and others and to explore alternative ways of behaving. We acknowledge that bullying does happen from time to time and if bullying does occur, all pupils should be able to tell someone and know that incidents will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

*Anyone who knows that bullying is happening at The Observatory School is expected to tell a staff member.*

# Safe



We keep ourselves and others safe at all times

# Ready



We are ready to learn

# Respectful

We are respectful to everyone and to our school property



*'Working together to reach our true potential.'*



# Dates for your



## UPCOMING HOLIDAYS & SCHOOL EVENTS

- 9th November - Parents Evening
- 14th -18th November - Anti Bullying Week
- 14th - 18th November - Road Safety Week
- 18th November - Children in Need
- 20th December - Start of Christmas half term

Join the conversation  
**#WakeUpWednesday**

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Register for your free account to access our guides at:  
**[nationalonlinesafety.com](https://nationalonlinesafety.com)**

### *What Parents Need to Know about Amigo A free online safety guide on 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 to unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more features become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as inappropriate contact, strangers and membership costs.

With fewer than 500,000 downloads in almost two years since its release - not to mention an unsatisfyingly patchy user interface - Amigo is unlikely to become a major threat to safeguarding. That said, even lesser-known apps can carry a significant risk - and Amigo's facility to put people in private contact with strangers places it in that category.

Trusted adults might also note the prevalence of in-app purchases, the incentives for repeated regular use and the proportion of apparently fake profiles on the platform as valid reasons to treat it with caution. Our #WakeUpWednesday guide today brings you all the aspects of Amigo to be aware of in the context of protecting children and young people online.

Amigo is a communication platform with (according to its marketing blurb) "the most intelligent algorithm": capable of matching users with potential chat partners who could live anywhere from the other side of the world to within the same postcode. Once paired, users are rewarded for interacting with each other frequently by additional features being made available to them.

These unlockable extras include private video calling. This is an app for mature audiences. There is the flimsiest of barriers to children using it. If (as we imagine) the potential correlation between these three facts has set alarm bells ringing for you ... we'd like to direct you towards this week's #WakeUpWednesday guide for the whole enchilada about Amigo.



# 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.



**National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

[Source: <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/apps/amigo-chat-room-real-friends/135643554>](https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/apps/amigo-chat-room-real-friends/135643554)



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