

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 24

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Boorley Park celebrated Science Week with great enthusiasm, bringing both excitement and discovery to the classrooms. We started the week with a fantastic assembly led by Mrs Parmar, our Science Subject Leader, who inspired the children with her passion for science and the wonders of the natural world. Following the assembly, each class took part in their own exciting science investigations and experiments over the course of the week. Take a look at SeeSaw to look at what the children got up to!

Today the children in Year 1- 5 had the exciting opportunity to participate in a School of Kindness live workshop. These workshops gave the children the chance to learn the vital importance of kindness, empathy and emotional well-being in a practical, engaging way. Through interactive sessions led by experts, the children have developed a deeper understanding of how their actions impact others and have been empowered to create positive change within our school community. We look forward to continuing this journey, as we see the positive effects of kindness ripple throughout our school.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year 2, we have been developing our curiosity and investigative skills by exploring the history of Botley Village. Through asking thoughtful questions and researching the past, we have deepened our understanding of how our community has changed over time. The children found it interesting to note how the most prominent change was the lack of transport in the past, whereas now, we have many more cars on the road. We will be using all of the information gathered to create a leaflet all about Botley!



NURTURING FUTURES

We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of the importance of wearing helmets when riding bikes or scooters. Recently, we have noticed an increase in the number of children riding without helmets which can put them at risk of serious injury in the event of an accident. We strongly encourage everyone to ensure their child is equipped with a properly fitting helmet before they set off on their bike or scooter.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY



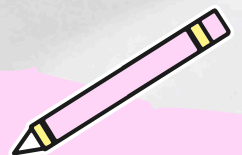
We are excited to share that, using some of the generous donations from the Boorley Park PTA, we will be building six garden beds over the coming weeks to grow vegetables and plants. These new garden beds will provide a wonderful opportunity for the children to get hands-on with nature, learn about growing their own food and develop a deeper understanding of sustainability.

The Eco Council will be working closely with Billy, our chef, to carefully select what to grow, with the aim of using some of the fresh produce in our school meals. We are also planning for the garden to benefit both the children and the local community, creating a space that can be enjoyed by everyone. In due course, we will be in touch to ask for your support with donations of seeds and compost to help bring the garden to life.



Reminder - Red Nose Day on Friday 21st March

Non-school uniform or 'dress in red'.
In return, we kindly request a donation of £1 (or whatever you are able to give). Contributions can be made via cash or Parentpay.




SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

A Polite Reminder About Parking Considerations. We kindly ask all parents and carers to park respectfully when dropping off or collecting children from school. Please avoid parking across the driveways of our local residents, as this causes inconvenience and frustration for our neighbours. Unsafe parking, including mounting the kerb, has also led to safety concerns for our pupils and their families, including blocked lines of sight and cars reversing on busy roads where families are crossing. By working together as a considerate community, we can create a safer and more harmonious environment for everyone. Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and commitment to making our school a safe and welcoming place!



KEY DATES

March 2025



Wednesday 19th March 1:30-1:45pm Listen2Me Violin concert for Wren Class – In the hall
Thursday 20th March 2:30-3:15pm Year 1 Parent Workshop–Sewing - Year 1 classrooms
Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day
Wednesday 26th March - Year 1 Trip to Marwell Zoo
Thursday 27th March - 2:45-3:15pm Year 2 Parent Workshop-Life Cycles – Year 2 classrooms
Monday 31st March - 3:45pm Choir Performance in the hall

April 2025

Tuesday 1st April Year 3 & 4 show - 9:30am
Tuesday 1st April 2:45-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop - Food Tasting - In the hall
Wednesday 2nd April Year 3 & 4 show - 2:00pm
Thursday 3rd April PTA Easter Disco - KS1 - 4:30 to 5:15pm
KS2 - 5:15 to 6pm
Friday 4th April – Last Day of Term

Monday 7th April – Monday 21st April Easter Holidays
Tuesday 22nd April – INSET day - School closed to all pupils

Wednesday 23rd April – First Day of Term
Friday 25th April – Year 2 Trip to Sea City Museum

May 2025

Friday 16th May 2:30pm Year 3 Parent Workshop Summer Picnic– On the field/Hall
Monday 19th May 3-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop - Art Gallery - In the Hall
Tuesday 20th May 9:00-9:30am Year 1 Recorder concert - In the Hall
Tuesday 20th May 3:00pm Year R Book Look – Year R classrooms
Thursday 22nd May 3-3:15pm Year 4 Parent Workshop - Clay dragon eye art exhibit - In the hall
Friday 23rd May 2:30-3pm Year 2 Parent Workshop - Art Gallery - classrooms
Friday 23rd May – Last Day of Term

Half Term Holidays - Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May 2025

PTA CORNER

Thanks to your help, we have raised an amazing £552.92 over the last 2 events!



It was so good to see so many excited children and grownups at the chocolate bar sale. We completely sold out of over 400 Boorley Bars within 20 minutes!

Easter Disco - Thursday 3rd April 2025

KS1 - 4:30 to 5:15pm

KS2 - 5:15 to 6pm

The cost of the Disco is £3 per child.

ParentPay is now open for you to pay for your child to attend the Easter disco.

Easter Egg Hunt - April Half Term

The PTA are running an EGGciting Easter egg hunt during April half term! Every child has the opportunity to design one of the many paper Easter eggs that will be hidden around the Boorley Park estate throughout half term.

If you would like to enter a design, please return a completed template to school, or to a member of the PTA, by Friday 21st March.

The blank templates will be sent home with each child today!

THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR SUPPORT!

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.



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.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRcon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent who understands the value of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



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