



# Ark Brunel Primary Academy

## Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022



Our  
**Heart**  
Values



*Honesty*



*Enthusiam*



*Ambition*



*Resilience*



*Thought*

### Dear Ark Brunel Community,

Here we are, we have reached the end of the first half term of the year! We have had an incredibly busy half term and are all in need of a recharge before we start again on October 31st.

Casting our minds back through the half term, we have plenty to consider and celebrate. We had the highs of class assemblies and day of sport, but also the lows of mourning the loss of our late monarch.

Right from the start of the half term, we have seen performances from children from Year 1 to Year 6, educating us all on their class identity, with some super displays of singing, acting and comedy. We look forward to more of those when we return!

We have also celebrated becoming a Bronze Awarded Rights Respecting School this half term. This is an incredible achievement already and I am proud of the effort of the whole community in making this happen. Because we want the absolute best for our children, we are already committed to working on achieving the silver award.

More new things this half term include the addition of the staff spotlight piece in our weekly newsletter. It was a great idea from our community and another example of how working together and communicating can make our school better. More of that, please!

We have also welcomed lots of visitors to site, such as author Alex Bellos, IntoUni and MyBnk. We are always busy at Brunel so there will be plenty more trips and visits coming up too.

We closed our half term with our Day of Sports and 'beat the teacher', yesterday afternoon. The weather ruined our summer sports day and was determined to do so again but we were not to be beaten this time, with activities moved to classrooms and corridors in order to keep the day running to plan. Feedback from staff has been excellent, with many of the team celebrating their wins in the staffroom! (Oh, and the kids enjoyed themselves too!)

Just like yesterday's fun-filled and fund-raising day, we plan to end each half term in a similar way. In December, we will host a winter-themed event, where we will have stalls and activities for children to engage with. Look out for further correspondence on that as we will likely need some help from our wider community in making the event magical.

Finally, I wish you all a restful break, enjoying time with your families and a very happy Diwali for those of you celebrating on Monday.

We're looking forward to Wow!-coming you all back soon!

Mr Scott

# In The Spotlight

Hello everyone!  
 My name is Mr Tarrant, and I am a PPA teacher at Ark Brunel. I also help with PE and sports with different teachers.  
 In my spare time I play Rugby semi-professionally with London Welsh RFC. I also love travelling the globe to see new places and learn about different cultures.  
 My favourite football team is Chelsea, but really, I love watching all sports.



Overall attendance for this week was 91.5%. Please help us to improve this low level by making sure that your child comes to school EVERY day – we are aiming to reach 96% attendance and can only achieve this if you support us.

Buss	80.4%
Carpenter	83.8%
Darwin	96.6%
Faraday	85.3%
Fry	91.6%
Jenner	93.1%
Johnson	89.1%
Newton	94%
Pankhurst	90.4%
Seacole	98.4%
Shackleton	90.2%
Wilberforce	97.2%
Wollstonecraft	98.6%



## Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov.

- Y6 Parent/Teacher Conferences

## Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov:

- Y5 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- EYFS Parent Workshop – EYFS Phonics, 9am

## Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Nov:

- Y4 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Y6 Wilberforce Class Assembly, 9am

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Nov:

- Y2 Parent/Teacher Conferences

## Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov:

- Y1 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Y3 Parent/Teacher Conferences

## Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Nov:

- EYFS Parent/Teacher Conferences

## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> Nov:

- All Parent Workshop - Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract - the three steps with Maths concepts.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# SENDIT

Sendit is an add-on to Snapchat, not a standalone app: it requires users to have an active Snapchat account, which they then connect to Sendit. It's important that trusted adults realise, therefore, that any risks associated with Snapchat also affect children using Sendit. Within the app, people play question games like 'Truth or Dare' and 'Never Have I Ever': users select a question to share on their Snapchat story for their friends to reply to. All responses are anonymous, although – for paying subscribers – Sendit reveals hints about who sent which messages.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ANONYMOUS RESPONSES

Anonymity online encourages people to say things and act in ways that they normally wouldn't. They're less accountable, and it's harder to track who sent a message. Research has highlighted that children perceive anonymous messages as being more severe than if the same message had come from a friend. Any app that lets children communicate anonymously should be treated with caution.

### MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Categories of questions such as "Ask me anything" or "Rate me" – coupled with the app's anonymity – mean there is a likelihood of some friends or strangers (if the account is set to "public") responding in a negative manner. These critical comments (especially if there are several) could ruin a young person's self-esteem – heightening their insecurities and affecting their mental health.

### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Currently costing £8.49 per week, Sendit's Diamond Membership offers clues about who sent a particular message, such as their approximate location, the type of phone used and any mutual friends. Membership also provides exclusive games and an ad-free experience. Young people may well be curious to find out who certain messages are from and therefore sign up for membership.

### BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

Open-ended questions which relate personally to the sender are an opportunity for malicious people to make offensive remarks, which can lead to full-blown bullying and harassment. Additionally, bullies and trolls can hide behind the anonymity that Sendit offers, feeling more powerful and able to intimidate their target – who, by contrast, feels hurt, victimised and helpless.

### POSSIBLE GROOMING

If your child doesn't have their Snapchat account set to private, or they have previously added strangers as friends, there is a possibility of predators responding to their Sendit questions. They do this in an attempt to gather information about your child – or to initiate a conversation with them, seeking ultimately to form an online 'friendship' and gain the young person's trust.

### REPEATED ENGAGEMENT

On Sendit, users receive trophies for reaching a particular number of responses, for answering friends' questions and for posting their own. This sense of achievement could incentivise a young person to be active on Sendit more frequently – spending more time on their phone or tablet as they may naturally want to collect all of the trophies or might be competing with their peers.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENCOURAGE EMPATHY

If your child has already downloaded Sendit, it might be wise to have a discussion with them about the impact that saying something anonymously online could have on others. Encourage them to think about how they would feel if they were on the receiving end of a particular comment. Reminding them to stop and re-read messages before sending could reduce the number of regrettable situations.

### BLOCK IN-APP PURCHASES

Even if you do allow your child to use Sendit, you might want to consider talking to them in advance about whether they really need a membership subscription. Either way, it's probably safest to make sure that in-app purchases are blocked in the settings, or that you have configured your child's device to ask for your approval before making a purchase online.

### TALK IT OVER

Before allowing a young person onto a social networking app, it's a good idea to chat with them about the possibility of receiving hurtful comments. Explain that not everyone online is nice; that people often say things they don't mean; and that posts get misinterpreted. Teach your child not to reply to any offensive users on Sendit and simply block instead them (via the three dots in the top right of the screen).

### ONLY PLAY WITH FRIENDS

Stress the importance of your child playing Sendit games only with their close friends and not having strangers on their contacts list. This should help to keep the nature of the questions light-hearted – and if the games are being played among a small group, it will be easier for the members to figure out who gave certain answers if someone's been left feeling hurt or uncomfortable by any responses.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutcliffe 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

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