



Ark Brunel Primary Academy Newsletter

6th January 2023



Our Heart Values



Honesty



Enthusiasm



Ambition



Resilience



Thought

Dear Ark Brunel Community,

Welcome back to school everyone! Sadly, I have not been able to welcome **every** pupil back yet as a few are still suffering from winter illnesses. As such, I wish those absent a speedy recovery and hope to see everyone in assembly on Monday morning, healthy and smiling.

Of course, it was a shorter than usual week for pupils as they had the pleasure of an extra day of holiday compared with staff. We were in on Tuesday, busily working to ensure everything was perfectly ready for their return. Having had the pleasure of stopping by each class and finding every classroom to be a calm and purposeful learning space, it would seem that the new term's preparations were more than worthwhile.

During Wednesday morning's assembly, I asked the children (and staff) to think about what a new year brings. Possibly a fresh start and a chance to be positive and aim high. Lots of people would have set themselves New Year's resolutions and usually for the purpose of continuing good practices, changing an undesired trait or behaviour or accomplishing a personal goal. I was pleased to hear some of our children came to school prepared with their own resolutions. For example, some wish to learn to swim, others to make more friends and be a better person. For some, it may be that they wish to *get better at maths* or *come to school every day*. Whatever you are trying to achieve, I wish you all the best of luck with it.

Next Wednesday sees the return of our Parent Workshops. I will be first, delivering on School Priorities with the Parent View Group. This will be an update and discussion, similar to the email I sent to you all earlier this week. In that correspondence, you would have noticed the change in dates for the calendar. To try and avoid a repeat of this next academic year, I will also spend a portion of next Wednesday's Parent View session presenting on, and canvassing your opinion for, next year's INSET dates (2023/24).

In our ongoing attempt to keep everyone safe, I wish to nudge you in the direction of the final page of this week's newsletter. There, you will find some guidance around the app Omegle. An app which has seen a rise in popularity following a TikTok hashtag but one that is also inappropriate for primary pupils.

Finally, I want to wish you all a wonderful weekend. See you on Monday.

Mr Scott.

7 GREAT REASONS WHY SCHOOL LUNCHES ARE BETTER FOR YOU & YOUR CHILD



7

We are able to provide a range of meals to meet our diverse customer base.

If you are unsure, please ask at the school office or speak to our chef manager

1

If your child is in years R, 1 or 2 or eligible for a free school meal they can have a meal for free.

Saving hundreds of £'s every year.

2

No matter which year, they will be offered a nutritionally balanced meal full of goodness.

All our menus are checked by our nutritionist.

6

They can eat with their friends, building great social relationships.

The evidence shows well-fed pupils perform better



3

Your child will get the option of a freshly made, hot meal every day, with portion sizes that reflect their age.

Even paying for lunch can be cheaper than packed lunches.

5

Our meals come with zero packaging, using local suppliers and fresh produce.

No plastic bags or crisp packets, so much better from a sustainability perspective.

4

We have a range of exciting Special Days and Theme Days which make dining both fun and educational.

Our Eat the Rainbow activities help children understand the benefits of the different food colours.

SIGN UP AT YOUR SCHOOL OFFICE FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

In The Spotlight



Hi, I'm Hannah,
I started as Ark Brunel's Receptionist/Admin Assistant in September. You can find me in the school office. Some of you may already know of me from the many calls, emails and texts that I send out about attendance, clubs, payments and parent meetings and events. I am here to help, so if you need anything, please call the school or stop by reception and I'll help you in any way I can.



This week's Value Certificates go to:

CARPENTER	Vinny, Olivia
DARWIN	Joshua, Aurora
FARADAY	Mansour, Ella-Mae
FRY	Anita, Zubair
JENNER	Noah Z., Rayan
JOHNSON	Maya, Isaac
NEWTON	Tion, Samuel
PANKHURST	Safia, Beatriz
SEACOLE	Saul, Hassan
SHACKLETON	Aidan, Illius
WILBERFORCE	Maliq, Rayan
WOLLSTONECRAFT	Ayoub, Maria

Mathletics

The scores for our class and individual Mathletics winners are based on the full week (Monday to Sunday). The pupils and class with the most points at the end of this week (Sunday 8th Jan.) will be announced in next week's newsletter.



Tuesday 10th January

Stay & Play - Nursery & Reception parents, 8:45 - 9:15am

Wednesday 11th January

- All Parent Workshop – School Priorities, 9am

Thursday 12th January

- Turing Class Assembly, 9am

Tuesday 17th January

- Stay & Play - Nursery & Reception parents, 8:45 - 9:15am

Wednesday 11th January

- EYFS Parent Workshop – Healthy Eating, 9am

Thursday 12th January

- Buss Class Assembly, 9am

Friday 13th January

- Rec. Carpenter Class begin weekly Forest School sessions (please ensure your child brings wellies in a bag)

Please see below for this week's

'What Parents Need to Know About ...' from National Online Safety



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to Omegle.com and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



What parents need to know about

OMEGLE



NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their web cam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and, at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to please be careful. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.'



PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual/psychological grooming (users coercing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



Safety Tips For Parents



DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It is important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Guiding and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasize the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming IDs. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failsafe.



TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app your child is using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers if/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.



USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add www.omegle.com to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.

