

4th November 2022



# Mail on Friday

## Redhill Primary Academy and Nursery Weekly Newsletter

Email us at: [parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk](mailto:parentcontact@redhillprimary.co.uk)

### Individual Photographs

The school photographers will be visiting us on  
**Thursday 10th November**  
to take individual school photographs.

If you do not want your child to be photographed, please ensure that the office is aware.  
We are only able to take sibling photographs of Redhill nursery and school children.  
We cannot include younger siblings who do not attend our school. Thank you.

### Children in Need

On **Friday 18th November**, we are fundraising for Children in Need.  
We are asking the children to come to school on this day in mufti (non-uniform) in exchange for £1.  
Please wear something spotty, if possible.  
The payment option is open on ParentPay for donations.



### School Closure and Bad Weather Procedures

As we move into the winter months, we would like to clarify our procedures.  
If there is no indication on the school website, school app/portal or council website that we are closed, then the school will be **open**.

We do not announce that we are open, we only announce when we are closed.  
In the event of bad weather and the school having to be closed, parents/carers are asked to check our website at [redhill.ttsonline.net](http://redhill.ttsonline.net), the parent app/portal or the Telford and Wrekin school closures website at [www.telford.gov.uk](http://www.telford.gov.uk) – school closures.  
Thank you.

### Telford and Wrekin Cost of Living Support

We have been informed that Telford and Wrekin have developed some cost of living web-pages to provide practical information and advice to support local residents and businesses.

Details can be found via the following link: [www.telford.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.telford.gov.uk/costofliving)

Telford and Wrekin are also able to support families in need through a breakfast box scheme that they fund and Telford Crisis Support provide on their behalf. TCS also provide emergency food parcels, winter coats and shoes and baby/toddler items.

Details can be found via the following link:

[Apply for food support - Telford Crisis Support](#)

Please ensure that if your child is entitled to free school meals that you apply via the Telford and Wrekin website. If you have any problems with this, please contact the school office who will be happy to help.



## 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.



**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



# CROSSBAR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUBS!



Monday 19th - 23rd December 2022

Wednesday 28th - Friday 30th December 2022

*Lawley, Much Wenlock, Redhill, Old Park,  
Greenfields, St George's, Pontesbury, Radbrook*

BOOK YOUR PLACE NOW [CROSSBARCOACHING.SCHOOLIPAL.CO.UK](http://CROSSBARCOACHING.SCHOOLIPAL.CO.UK)  
01952 677965 [ADMIN@THECROSSBARGROUP.CO.UK](mailto:ADMIN@THECROSSBARGROUP.CO.UK)



wenlock  
SPRING



BudgenMotors



# TERM TIME SOCCER SESSIONS

WOLVES FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT

**Dates:** 31<sup>st</sup> October - 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**For:** Reception - Year 8

**Venues:** Wolves Foundation Arena, Wombourne Leisure Centre,  
Telford College & Shrewsbury School

**Scan the QR code for more information,  
email [footballdevelopment@wolves.co.uk](mailto:footballdevelopment@wolves.co.uk)  
or to book visit [tickets.wolves.co.uk](https://tickets.wolves.co.uk)**

