



Although it suddenly feels that Christmas is just round the corner, in school this week we have been talking about the American tradition of 'Thanksgiving'. At a time when we are leaving a Lockdown situation, only to move back into Tier 3 restrictions, it is sometimes hard to find things to be thankful for.

As a school, we do have so much to be thankful for. We have a strong staff team and we are lucky to operate within a community with parents who are supportive and work with us to achieve the best for our children. Most of all, we are so thankful for our amazing pupils. Even on the greyest of days, they are enthusiastic, ready to learn and never fail to make us smile. There's always something to be thankful for!

**SJS STARS OF THE WEEK**

- Y3AH: Marcey-May Fletcher
- Y3CP: Devon Taylor
- Y3RD: William Powell

- Y4KT: James Kelland
- Y4RL: Owen Wilson

- Y5CS: Richard Binns
- Y5DW: Jessica Proctor
- Y5HK: Charlie Butcher

- Y6ER: Leah Savage
- Y6MC: Inza Sajid
- Y6CH: Oliver Hiley

Mrs Foster: Oliver Cunningham  
Mr Tee: Harley Porter

Lower School Lunchtimes: Jacob Wood  
Upper School Lunchtimes: Ava Pedler

**READING AROUND THE WORLD**

**Y3 - LONDON**

Noah Charlesworth

**Y4 - CAIRO**

Neve Smith  
Faith Skelland  
Ben O'Neill

**Y6 - BUENOS AIRES**

Tomas O'Neil  
Chloe Peacock  
Maisie Peacock  
Matilda Robins  
Daniel Senior

Olivia Foster  
Ellie Capper  
Benjamin Conway  
Scarlet Donoghue  
Grace Jowitt

**CHRISTMAS AT SJS**

At this point in the year, we would ordinarily be gearing up our Christmas preparations with our usual Christmas fayre, festive disco, nativity plays and concerts, year group Christmas parties and our annual whole-school pantomime trip. It will come as no surprise that these events cannot take place this year. However, we are determined our elves will bring Christmas to Stocksbridge Junior School as best they can! This week, Sheffield Public Health released guidance to schools entitled, 'Festive traditions and COVID'. Our plans detailed in this newsletter are in line with this current guidance.

**CHRISTMAS SING-SONG**

Christmas just would not be Christmas without a performance or two! Although we are unable to invite parents to cram into the school hall for a festive treat for their ears, we are hoping to be able to invite parents to join us for a little virtual sing-song towards the end of term. We are looking at plans for each class to host a Zoom performance of two or three songs which you can sing along to from home. Details to follow soon.

## **CHRISTMAS PARTIES**

During this year's Christmas parties, each bubble will be playing games, dancing and singing their hearts out to their favourite festive tunes. Children may wear their party clothes to school on the day of their party. We would ordinarily invite children to contribute to their class' festive party buffet, however, in the current pandemic the best advice is that people from different households should not share food or drink. We would therefore like to propose that each child brings a small pack up containing a party treat to two to eat during their Christmas party.

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## **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020, we will be holding our Christmas Jumper Day. For a donation of £1, children may come to school wearing a Christmas jumper or top. All funds raised will be donated to Save the Children. Please do not think you need to buy a Christmas jumper, in fact, our favourite Christmassy jumpers are the ones that children have created themselves. So grab an old top, the felt tips and tinsel and make a start! We would love to see you creating your Christmassy items on Seesaw.

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## **CHRISTMAS DINNER**

Our wonderful team from Mellors will be cooking up a delicious Christmas feast on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December.

- Meat Option: Roast Turkey, Pigs in Blankets, Stuffing, Seasonal Vegetables, Roast Potatoes and Gravy.
- Vegetarian Option: Quorn Roast, Vegetarian Sausage, Seasonal Vegetables, Roast Potatoes and Vegetarian Gravy.
- Dessert: Christmas Ice Cream

If you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner, please request their dinner via 'events' on ParentMail. Please also ensure your child's dinner money account is in credit.

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## **CHRISTMAS CARDS**

We are unable to provide our usual Christmas postbox service for children's Christmas cards this year, however, guidance does permit us to allow cards to be given within a class bubble. If your child would like to send a card to each of their bubblemates, children may hand them out at the end of the school day for children to open once they get home.

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## **CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

We have some fantastic festive prizes to be won in this year's raffle including: a large food hamper, a medium food hamper, a sweets and chocolate hamper, £40 McGilveray's voucher, £40 Zorro's voucher, Grace's Farm shop voucher, Crawshaw's meat voucher, Bridge Baker voucher and many, many more prizes. Please fill in the stubs and return these to school, along with money for tickets sold (50p per ticket or £2.50 per book). If you are able to sell additional tickets, please contact the school office.

Our raffle is always one of our popular fundraisers during the year and allows us to fund additional activities and resources for the children. As always we thank you for your continued support.

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## **SJS COVID-19 WEBPAGE**

Our webpage ensures parents can access to the latest COVID information from school and Sheffield news and resources. Please visit <https://www.stocksbridge-jun.sheffield.sch.uk/covid-19-parent-information/>

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At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



## What parents & carers need to know about ...

# AMONG US



Among Us is one of the most popular games of 2020. A space-themed 'social deduction game' where 4-10 players take on the guise of Crewmates, who must complete various tasks around their spaceship, while randomly selected Imposters must try their hardest to sabotage the others' efforts. The Imposters have to remain undetected through rounds of voting to win. While Among Us is a largely safe game, it's still prudent to be aware of any potential risks young ones might encounter when playing.

### Inappropriate chat



While Among Us can be enjoyed locally via wi-fi, it is commonly played online. Between rounds, players come together to discuss who they think the Imposter is with a text chat, and it's here where children will come into contact with others. There is a profanity filter on the game as standard, but it can very easily be disabled and (like any unmoderated chat groups) children can be exposed to inappropriate, sexual or explicit language.

### In-game purchases



Among Us is currently available on both PC (via the gaming service Steam) and mobile devices. On the PC, the game costs a flat amount of £3.99 and has some in-game purchases, whereas the mobile version is free to play but contains adverts and in-game purchases. You can pay to remove the ads or purchase in-game cosmetic items. While these amounts are relatively low, there's still the possibility that young ones could accidentally spend lots of money on the game without realising it, as the process is complete in a couple of taps if a card is connected to your store account.

### Risk of hacking



Among Us has been the target of hacking activity. Indeed, only recently the game's developer, InnerSloth, tweeted advice that users play private games or with people they trust, in response to hacking issues. As yet, there has been no breach in player accounts. However, if a big enough hack were to take place and player details were accessed, it could lead criminals to having access to credit card data and other personal credentials.

### Use of external apps



Many players use external apps like Discord to voice chat with each other while they're playing. The problem with this is that it is unregulated by the game. Usually on Discord, players will only talk to other people they know in private chats, but a stranger could add a child on an external app: pretending to be interested in playing Among Us with them, when in reality they could be attempting to bully, groom or extort.

### Mild violence



The art style of Among Us is cartoony but does contain some very mild violence. Imposters must kill off Crewmates one by one and can do this in a number of different ways. Some younger children might find this uncomfortable and could get scared or become upset when an Imposter is chasing them, or if they are the Imposter and are forced to kill. An age rating of PEGI 7 should help guide you in deciding if the game is appropriate or not.



## Safety tips

### Play with your children

Playing with your kids is one of the best ways to understand the game, and what makes it so popular. Among Us is free on mobile and is incredibly easy to pick up and play. It's also a great way to bond with your young ones - unless of course you're the Imposter or vote them out of the spaceship! You can do this by picking 'Local' on the main menu then 'Create Game'.

### Use private lobbies

ENTER LOBBY



Among Us uses private lobbies to let players keep track of who they're gaming with. Using a uniquely generated code that can be given to friends prior to a game starting, it gives parents peace of mind knowing who their kids are playing with. To get a game code, simply select 'Host', choose the game settings, press 'Confirm', then send the six-digit code at the bottom of the screen to friends to invite them.

### Deactivate credit cards



Having your credit card automatically paired with any online accounts that can be accessed by children is asking for trouble. A solution could be setting them up with their own account with no credit card attached. They can still ask you when they want to make a purchase, but it's totally up to you as and when that transaction happens.

### Use an alias



By default, your name on Among Us will be set to whatever name your device recognises you as. If this is your child's real name, you'll want to ensure they change it before hopping into a game. This is really easily done by clicking 'Online' on the main menu, then simply typing in a new name at the top of the screen.

### Talk about the risks



It's a good idea to talk to your child about the risks associated with online gaming, especially when there are chat options and an ability to communicate with others. Try to maintain an open dialogue with your child: talk about their experiences of the game and who they're playing with. This will help you to stay on top of how they're feeling and ensure they know they can come to you if ever they feel upset or uncomfortable about anything they've experienced.

### Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for five years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work - but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



Sources: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.innersloth.spacemafia>