

# St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School

## Newsletter

30.06.23

### A note on worship...

#### Truth



'Tell the Truth to each other.' Zechariah 8.16

Sometimes other people try to influence us to make the wrong choices and not tell the truth. Sometimes we find ourselves exaggerating the truth to impress others. Whatever the circumstances, God teaches us that no matter how hard it is, we need to be honest and truthful with each other as in the end it can be harder to keep up the pretence of a lie and usually lies end up hurting others. We try and install



## Stars of the Week



Last week's stars are also included on this list.

**Tilley, Lola-Rose, Codie, Ranaiya, Poppy, Elsie Th.**

**Lillie-May, Matilda, Pippa, Anthony and Liam**

## Events for the Week

### Beginning

3.7.23

#### Monday

Ukulele lessons

#### Tuesday

Year 6 Transition to Hollingworth Academy

Keyboard, strings and woodwind lessons

After school multi skills for Y1, 2 and 3 (4.00pm finish)

#### Wednesday

Sports Day (see below)

Guitar lessons

Swimming for Emerald class

Athletics Club for Y4 & 5 (4.15pm finish)

#### Thursday

Year 6 Transition day – Blue Coat Academy

Sapphire Class dress Rehearsal

#### Friday

Brass lessons

## From the office...

- Please ensure that school dinners are ordered by midnight on Sunday for the following week.
- Please check Wisepay accounts for outstanding trip payments and music lesson payments.

# Wellbeing Bingo



Have a go at playing our wellbeing bingo and see if you can find people to play with you or try it later with your friends and/or family.

**In the past week I have...**

<p>Sung in the shower</p>	<p>Played with a furry friend</p>	<p>Had a good sleep</p>	<p>Spent some time with my family/friends</p>
<p>Listened to my favourite tune</p>	<p>Read a good book</p>	<p>Watched a great movie/TV show</p>	<p>Eaten something delicious</p>
<p>Done some exercise</p>	<p>Stayed hydrated</p>	<p>Drawn a picture</p>	<p>Laughed until my cheeks hurt</p>
<p>Spent some time in a park</p>	<p>Danced</p>	<p>Treated myself</p>	<p>Visited somewhere new</p>

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps 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

# AMINO



Amino is a social media platform offering a large group of subcommunities under one digital 'roof'; it was envisaged as the online version of a convention, where fans gather to celebrate a shared interest like comic books or sci-fi, for example. While many such platforms are harmless spaces for devotees of a certain TV show or video game to congregate, there are still some aspects that trusted adults should be aware of. With a focus on sharing user-generated content, the idea of Amino is for users to communicate with like-minded individuals – but even that can create plenty of hazards.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MODERATION GAPS

Amino has a 12+ classification in the App Store and a 'Teen' rating on Google Play. However, certain communities on the platform have little to no moderation in place – increasing the potential for more adult-themed content to reach young users. It's also possible to create an account without proof of age, raising the possibility of even younger children finding their way onto the platform.

### UNSAFE CONTENT

The central concept behind Amino is for users to share content, then make and receive comments on these uploads. The level of anonymity that the platform offers (someone's true identity can be completely obscured behind their username, for instance) means that it would be extremely difficult to stop suggestive or outright predatory comments and messages being sent to young people.

### INAPPROPRIATE IMAGES

Like most social media, Amino offers easy sharing of images. Its community guidelines state that any suggestive photos of under-18s will be removed immediately, but of course this doesn't prevent inappropriate pictures being seen by a young person. Not all of Amino's communities are rigorously moderated, so there's a chance that some unsuitable images could temporarily evade detection.

### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Amino+ is a premium membership for the platform, offering a bevy of customisation options such as stickers, 'moods' to display and an exclusive profile badge. Users can also purchase one-off cosmetic items including different styles of chat bubble or profile frames. If your child has payment methods available via their device, they could potentially make these in-app purchases without you realising.

### REPEATED USAGE

As a social media app, Amino is focused on keeping its communities engaged and coming back for more. Part of this approach is encouraging people to build up 'streaks', as users are awarded 'reputation points' for logging in regularly. This type of mechanism, of course, always carries the risk of young people feeling a compulsion to repeatedly check in with the app, further increasing their screen time.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### TALK ABOUT IT

If your child is old enough and chooses to download and use Amino, it's probably wise to remind them of some online safety basics – such as how not everyone in the digital world is who they claim to be, for example, or not to give out personal information online. It might also be a good idea to go into the app's settings and disable incoming chat requests from users that your child doesn't know.

### MEMBERSHIP MEDIATION

If your child asks for an Amino+ membership but you're not entirely comfortable with that, be prepared to explain your decision in depth. Young people's sense of injustice can naturally become inflamed when their friends have things that they don't. Parents of older teens, meanwhile, might actually decide to agree to the membership request but continue to monitor their child's activity on the app.

### STAY UPDATED

Ensure that your child knows to report any upsetting or worrying online content they might see to you. As much as possible, try to stay aware of which communities they're joining on Amino. Most of these areas are well moderated and full of innocent conversation about common interests, but on any platform of this breadth, there's always the potential for chats to veer off into potentially harmful places.

### MONITOR SCREEN TIME

If you haven't already, you might want to consider setting up controls such as Family Sharing (on iOS devices) or Family Link (on Android) so, from your own device, you can keep an eye on how much screen time your child is having – and what apps they're spending it on. This can be extremely useful with regard to platforms such as Amino, which can be quite addictive and reward repeated use.

## Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon 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.

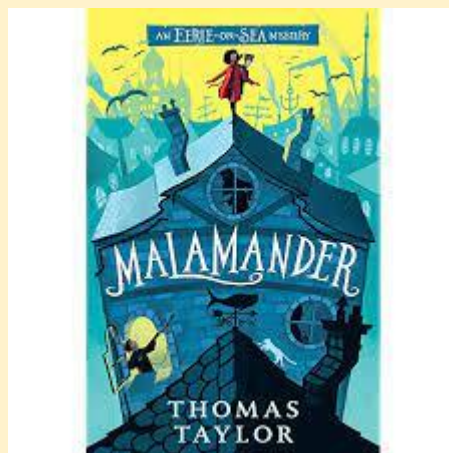


Source: <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scottish-news/mum-horrified-after-daughter-10-18773339>

## Recommended Books



A great book for children who ask lots of why? questions.



An ideal book for children in year 5 and above. This is a mysterious and quirky tale of Herbert Lemon, who helps Violet Palma to find her parents who went missing twelve years before



We are hoping to go ahead with Sports Day on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Amethyst, Ruby and Opal class will be from 9.15am on the school field. This is followed by Emerald and Sapphire classes from 11.00am.

Families are very welcome to join us on the school field. To help us manage the children, it is easier for families not to interfere with their children, who will need to stay with their classes. The school field is a non-smoking and non-vaping zone as it is part of our school grounds.

In addition, we do not allow dogs on the school field, so please leave your furry friends at home.

There is a competitive edge to our sports day as we do have to encourage a sense of competition amongst the children. We encourage all of our children to take part, however, we do not force them to. Some children may require adaptations to allow them to join in and we ask that you are respectful of this.

If there is enough time, we will offer pre-school children the opportunity to have a go and of course we will do our best to fit in races for the parents too!

## Staffing Changes

At the end of this academic year, we will be saying goodbye to several members of staff. Some have been with St. Thomas' for a long time.

We will be saying goodbye to Ms McAllister, Mrs Horridge and Mrs Barraclough at the end of term. Mrs Horridge has worked at St. Thomas' for 23 years and Ms McAllister has worked at St Thomas' for almost 22 years.

Mrs Horridge has been an amazing teaching assistant, working with many children over the years. She has worked with children from every year group over her time with us. Mrs Horridge started as a teaching assistant supporting a child with Special Educational Needs. Most of her work in recent years has been with our oldest children, preparing them for their tests and life at high school. Without the exceptional work she has done with them, many would not have achieved the outcomes they did. Mrs Horridge has also supported with concerts, Church services, residential and many other school events. Mrs Horridge will be missed by us all at St. Thomas', she will be leaving behind some big shoes to fill.

Ms McAllister has also worked throughout the school, starting off in early years, before moving into Ruby class. For the past few years, Ms McAllister has been working with the year 4 and 5 children in Emerald class. She has taken on many responsibilities over the years including; leading science, history, being a local authority moderator for the year 2 tests, being involved in the linking schools project and led after school club. In addition, Ms McAllister has been involved with many school events over the years – including dressing up as a flamingo at last year's carnival. We will all miss the dulcet tones of Ms McAllister's Northern Irish accent and the fountain of knowledge that she possesses!

Mrs Barraclough hasn't been with us for quite as long. She started off as a teaching assistant student, before joining our team of teaching assistants who support some of our most vulnerable children in school. Mrs Barraclough is known in school for her laid back style and having the patience of a saint. We will all miss, Mrs Barraclough's calming influence.

In addition to these staff leaving, Miss Orme has made the decision not to come back to work, following her maternity leave. The lure of spending time with her own children was too great. Mrs Redikin (lunchtime supervisor) has also decided not to return after spending the past year undergoing cancer treatment. Miss Orme and Mrs Redikin will both be missed by us all.

