

Avondale Primary School Weekly News

4TH OCTOBER 2024

AUTUMN WINDOW ART

Many thanks for taking part in our 'Autumn Window Art Project'. Below is a link to a press release showcasing the amazing work and the finished window art.

<https://darwentowncentre.co.uk/2024/09/27/pupils-pitch-in-with-awesomely-autumn-window-display-in-darwen/>

It was great to have you taking part in this project!



ECO

The Eco-council unveiled their new wormery this week which was paid for by funds they helped to raise during the last academic year. The wormery will hopefully produce compost for our gardens around school.



Eco
Warrior

STARS OF THE WEEK

YEAR 1 1N: Teddy 1S: Luke	YEAR 2 2B: Lilly 2L: Alice	YEAR 3 3B: Ada 3L: Belle
YEAR 4 4F: Willow 4P: Finley	YEAR 5 5M: Junior 5S: Jack	YEAR 6 6C: Ava-Mae 6J: Ellie B
CLASS GRUFALLO: Emaan ELMER: Zaviyar		Stars



House of the Week

WINNER

Team	Sunnyhurst	Bold Venture	Ashton	Whitehall
Weekly Totals	150	100	275	75

Respect
Resilience
Learning
Do Your Best
Make the Right Choice
Kindness

OUR NEW SCHOOL COUNCILLORS





Weekly Menu

WEEK 1

MONDAY

Cheese & Ham Pizza or Jacket Potato

TUESDAY

Savoury Mince or Cheese Roll

WEDNESDAY

Pork Sausage or Veg Sausage

THURSDAY

Roast Chicken Dinner or Cheese Flan

FRIDAY

Fish & Chips or Jacket Potato



LUNCHES

Please could we remind parents that if you wish to change your child(ren) lunch preference from packed lunch to/from school dinner please would you inform the Office via email at office@avondale.blackburn.sch.uk or in person at the office. Please avoid letting the teacher know or asking the child(ren) to pass on the message as this invariably gets forgotten and the office then don't know who should have a dinner or packed lunch.

PTFA

We are looking for parents to re-join or join our PTFA. The PTFA work hard to help raise vital funds. If you haven't time to join the PTFA maybe you would like to help out by attending future events. If you are interested in joining the PTFA please either email them on friendsofavondale@avondale.blackburn.sch.uk or via the Friends of Avondale Facebook page.

DO YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO LEARN TO PLAY AN INSTRUMENT?

WE HAVE SOME AVAILABLE SPACES FOR TUITION FOR THE FOLLOWING INSTRUMENTS:



GUITAR
DRUMS
PIANO
VIOLIN



IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR CHILD TO LEARN TO PLAY ONE OF THESE INSTRUMENTS, PLEASE FOLLOW THE LINK BELOW TO SIGN THEM UP -

[HTTPS://BOLTON.PARITOR.COM/ENROL/TUITION/ACAA9E8F-C4AA-4A4E-B90A-F0618A77A074/32902851-F614-41FA-A6A2-5FEE2A663DAC](https://bolton.paritor.com/enrol/tuition/ACAA9E8F-C4AA-4A4E-B90A-F0618A77A074/32902851-F614-41FA-A6A2-5FEE2A663DAC)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE SPEAK TO MISS WORMALD.



WATER & ELECTRIC WORK

We have information that from Monday 7th October until Friday 11th of October 2024, BGS Utilities will be conducting essential water and electric works on Salisbury Road to enable for a new water and electric supply for new Salisbury Road development. The works will be undertaken between the hours of 08:00-16:00. Due to these works, there will be restrictions parking on Salisbury Road for the week while the work is being completed and they anticipate it will all be completed by Monday 14th October 2024.

The school is not involved in these works we are only sharing this so that you are aware of the inconvenience it may cause you dropping off and picking up. If you have any problems please contact their Project Manager, Adam Pearson, on 07570725675.

MAYORESS EVENT

This event is being organised to raise funds for the chosen Mayoral charities for this year. These are two incredible charities close to the mayor's family's heart: CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and Papyrus, (Prevention of young suicide), which work tirelessly to prevent young sudden cardiac deaths and support suicide prevention among young people.

Everyone's presence will help make a meaningful impact, supporting these life-saving causes. Together, we can raise awareness and provide crucial support, all while enjoying an unforgettable evening of fashion!

A flyer for the Charity Fashion Show is included in our newsletter for further information.

HARVEST

Just another reminder about our harvest celebration will take place on Tuesday 8th October. Harvest is a time when we are thankful for what we have and think about others who aren't as fortunate. We appreciate times are hard for lots of people in this current climate, so if you feel you can then please could we ask that on Tuesday 8th October children bring into school a harvest donation. It maybe just one tin it maybe a harvest basket, all items will be gratefully received. Suggested harvest donations this year include: tins, dried foods (pasta, rice), soups, nappies, toiletries, sanitary wear or cleaning products.

As a community school we feel it is right that our donations serve the local community so we will then forward our Avondale donation to the local Darwen food bank and also to other people in the community who may benefit from additional items. If you know anyone in the community who you know is struggling and would benefit from a harvest donation, then please email into school with a name and address. Thank you in advance for your support.



You can read more on our school website

@www.avondaleschool.co.uk

and also on our Facebook page

@avondaledarwen

FOLLOW US



**SAVE
THE DATE**

Date	Event
Wednesday 16 th October 2024	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 30 th October 2024 9.15am & 11.00am	Open Event
Thursday 13 th February 2025 1.30pm finish	Parents' Evening
Tuesday 10 th June 2025 1.30pm	EYFS & KS1 Sports Day
Thursday 12 th June 2025 1.30pm	KS2 Sports Day

We welcomed new prospective parents and their children on Wednesday 2nd October for our Open Evening. It was wonderful to meet the children that may choose to join us in September next year.

If you know someone that is interested in a place at Avondale but they were unable to make the Open Evening, we have two Open Morning slots available for Wednesday 30th October at 9:15 and 11:00. We would be grateful if you could pass on this information. If they contact the school, we will book them on one of the slots.



The poster features the Ofsted Good School logo (2023) and the Avondale Primary School logo. It includes a photograph of the school building. The text on the poster reads: 'New Admission OPEN MORNING FOR CHILDREN STARTING SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025 VISIT OUR SCHOOL AND SEE FOR YOURSELF Wednesday 30th October 9:15am & 11am'. Contact information is provided at the bottom: 'Contact us 01254 703449 office@avondale.blackburn.sch.uk'.

PARENTS' EVENING

The link has been sent out to choose your slot for parents' evening which will take place on Wednesday 16th October between 3:30-5:00pm and 5:30pm-7:00pm for all classes except 2B. Slots are available for 2B on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th October between 3:30pm and 5:00pm.

Online Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about IN-GAME CHAT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Video games are continuing to grow in popularity – including, of course, among children and young people – and the emergence of gaming communities has been accelerated by the inclusion of chat functionality across many different titles. While in-game chat isn't inherently a bad thing, it can create some concerns about online safety and the people that children might be interacting with.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHAT

There are a number of ways that gamers commonly chat with one another online. As the name would suggest, in-game chat happens within the game itself. There's also party chat: a group voice conversation that console users can have with anyone on the same platform. This tends to be more commonly used by players who already know each other. Finally, many gamers – especially on PC – will chat via a third-party app such as Discord.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Whether it's text- or voice-based, in-game chat is frequently open to all players to use. Many games default to making it an opt-in function, but some don't: meaning a child could start seeing messages within the game from people they're playing with, regardless of whether they know those individuals or not. While most strangers won't necessarily have ill intent, there are some who may behave inappropriately when chatting to a child – intentionally or otherwise.

DANGER OF GROOMING

It's been reported that some young gamers have encountered older players online who pretend to be a lower age to manipulate children, sending gifts in exchange for chatting and sending photos. Just as on any messaging platform, it's good to advise young people to avoid speaking to strangers; emphasise that they shouldn't accept gifts from anyone online that they don't know.

BULLYING AND ABUSE

While some in-game chat can turn toxic because of how a match plays out, others turn that way because of people who engage in trolling – in essence, behaving in an offensive and abusive way simply to cause pain or get a rise out of whoever they're talking to. These 'trolls' often lean on racial slurs, anti-LGBT sentiment and other hateful rhetoric; they normally feel most confident preying on younger, more impressionable gamers.

POTENTIAL FOR PRIVATE CHAT

If a player would like a re-match with a stranger after meeting them in the game, they can send a friend request, or use the party chat together in private. For the most part, this is harmless – but it might lead to messages being exchanged in private. This could then escalate to the sharing of private information, and potentially attempts to manipulate or scam younger players.

COMPETITIVE ATMOSPHERE

Certain games are very competitive, and players can sometimes get upset if they feel a teammate is underperforming, an opponent won unfairly, or they're just a bad loser. This can lead to unpleasant messages that stray away from playful 'trash talk' and wander into the territory of bullying. Some players have been known to get incredibly abusive in situations like this, and the impact of this on a young gamer's emotional wellbeing could be severe.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LOCK-DOWN IN-GAME CHAT

In-game chat can often be disabled in the game's settings. This allows children to play without risk of contact from strangers – but it will need to be done in each individual game. Text chat appears in the corner of the screen in many titles, so it's normally easy to take a quick glance and see what's being said. With voice chat, explain to children what behaviour is inappropriate, so they can spot the dangers themselves.

REPORT POTENTIAL OFFENDERS

Most games offer a robust means of reporting other players, so you can flag an account as potentially harmful. This normally leads to the account not being matched with yours in the future and, if that person's conduct breaks any of the game's rules, they may be banned from playing entirely. This is done within the game itself, so each title has a slightly different process, but these tend to be designed for simplicity.

CONSIDER OTHER CHAT OPTIONS

If a child wants to play with people they know, consider using party chat or a third-party service like Discord. This allows everyone involved to chat on a private server and even enjoy each other's company while playing different games. It's also far more secure, as anyone looking to join will need to request and be granted access – normally by whoever is hosting the chat.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

Make sure children understand the differences between being competitive and being abusive. Talk about what constitutes unusual or inappropriate behaviour from strangers online. Be clear that if anything ever concerns or worries them, they should tell a trusted adult as soon as possible. Empower children to identify the risks of in-game chat for themselves and reassure them they won't get in trouble for seeking help if anything goes wrong.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor in Chief of GGRecon and has been working in the games media industry for five years. He's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/in-game-chat

@wake_up_weds

/wuw.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 02.10.2024