



Weekly News

FRIDAY 26TH JUNE 2026 - ISSUE 36

A Message from Mr Spink and Mrs Wathen

Good afternoon everyone.

It has been a fairly musical week this week. On Tuesday, our choir headed off to Greenacre school in Barnsley to take part in the first ever trust-wide singing event, Wellsing! The children thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this inclusive event with 20+ other schools from across the trust: primary, secondary, alternative and special schools. In total there were around 300 children singing together. On Wednesday, Year 5 headed to the Howard Assembly Room to sing with some of the talented members of Opera North in a production of Hansel and Gretel. They rehearsed in the afternoon and then performed to parents from both our school and a neighbouring school in the evening - they worked incredibly hard! It was a phenomenal performance and a real proud moment for the staff. On Thursday, Year 6 headed off to Whitby for their geography trip. They enjoyed seeing the architecture and the appearance of this very quaint North Yorkshire fishing town. We truly believe trips bring learning to life and thank you for your support in helping make sure they can happen.

The temperatures this week have, no doubt, been a challenge for many of us. Rest assured we have been following DfE guidance to keep the school environment as pleasant as can be. Thank you all for your continued support. It is looking like it will be much cooler next week.

Have a super, safe weekend everyone.

Mr Spink & Mrs Wathen



EBOR GARDENS PRIMARY ACADEMY



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DIARY DATES 25/26

Tuesday 30th June 2026 - Sports Day (LKS2 am, UKS2 pm)

Wednesday 1st July 2026 - KS1 Yorkshire Wildlife Trip

Thursday 2nd July 2026 - EYFS & KS1 Sports Day (pm)

2nd & 3rd July 2026 - Y6 Co-Op Leeds & Dixons Unity Transition Days

Monday 6th July 2026 - Year 6 Cinema Trip

Tuesday 7th July 2026 - Whole School Transition day

Tuesday 7th July 2026 - New Reception Class visit (am)

8th, 9th & 10th July 2026 - Y6 Residential

Friday 10th July 2026 - Ian's Farm to visit EYFS

Monday 13th July 2026 - Summer Fun Day

Wednesday 15th July 2026 - Art Gallery

Thursday 16th July 2026 - Y6 Prom

Friday 17th July 2026 - School Closes for Summer (1pm)



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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 false 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 false 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.

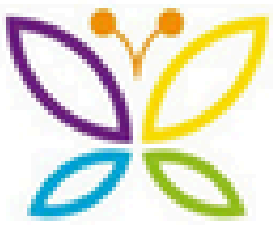
Meet Our Expert

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.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



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Primary Academy

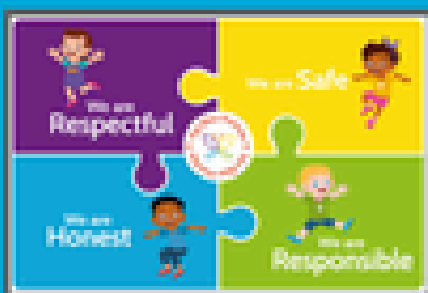
Healthy Snacks at Ebor Gardens

**Lots of children bring snacks for
break times.**

**These should be healthy snacks
consisting of fruit and vegetables.**



**Children should also have lots
of water throughout the day.
Please send a water bottle into
school with your child.**





LARK in the PARK

free family fun day

SATURDAY 18TH JULY 2026
12NOON TO 4PM

East End Park, LS9 9NG

Councillors Nkele Manaka, Asghar Khan and Luke Farley, are proud to invite all our community to attend the festival supported by local partners and organisations



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