



Churnet View Newsletter



A Message from our SLT

We wanted to say thank you to all of you who attended our open evening on Wednesday 4th October 2023. We were delighted to be able to welcome you and your children into our school. We had a fantastic turn out and enjoyed speaking to so many of you. Our staff enjoyed sharing the evening with you and your families, and we feel privileged to have been able to showcase our school to you. We hope that you enjoyed what you saw and that we were able to answer all of your questions.

Please do not forget that you are more than welcome to book onto one of our school tours, which will be led by Mrs Spooner. The tours will take place on: Tuesday 10th October 2023 at 10:30 – 11:15 or 13:30 – 14:15, Wednesday 18th October 2023 at 10:30 – 11:15 or 13:30 – 14:15, Monday 23rd October 2023 at 10:30 – 11:15 or 13:30 – 14:15.

Please contact Mrs Spooner on **01538 384939** if you would like to book onto a tour to see our school in action.

The application window for entry to middle school in 2024 opens on 1st November 2023 and closes on 15th January 2024. If you require any support or have any further questions in relation to your child's admission to middle school, please do not hesitate to contact with us.

Please look out for a letter detailing some of our transition arrangements, that will be circulated to our first schools and published on our website. We will also be adding some picture and video footage of the Year 5 area to our social media sites over the next week.

We hope to see you and your child for our transition days in 2024 and look forward to working alongside you in the future.

Reading at Home

Your child should be reading at least 4 times a week at home. Once they have finished reading their book, they can complete a quiz which will ask them a range of comprehension questions based on their book. They can complete these quizzes in school but also at home by clicking the below link and logging in: <https://global-zone61.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/1892674>

If your child wants to see if their book at home is on Accelerated Reader, they can type the name of their book into the website below:

<https://www.arbookfind.co.uk/UserType.aspx?RedirectURL=%2fdefault.aspx>



Important Dates

October half term:
Monday 30th October
– Friday 3rd November

Inset day: Monday 6th
November

Christmas holiday:
Monday 25th
December – Friday 5th
January 2024

Inset day: Monday 8th
January 2024

Social Media Updates

You can now find us on Facebook and Instagram. We'll be posting our latest updates and news on these platforms.

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Churnet-View-Middle-School-Leek/100063578257320/>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/churnetviewmiddleschool/>



National Poetry Day

To celebrate National Poetry Day, Miss Pranauskas would like to share a poem, by Gary Paulsen, which she loves!

Why do I read?
I just can't help myself.
I read to learn and to grow, to laugh
and to be motivated.
I read to understand things I've never
been exposed to.
I read when I'm crabby, when I've just
said monumentally dumb things to the
people I love.
I read for strength to help me when I
feel broken, discouraged, and afraid.
I read when I'm angry at the whole
world.
I read when everything is going right.
I read to find hope.
I read because I'm made up not just of
skin and bones, of sights, feelings,
and a deep need for chocolate, but I'm
also made up of words.
Words describe my thoughts and what's
hidden in my heart.
Words are alive--when I've found a
story that I love, I read it again and
again, like playing a favourite song
over and over.
Reading isn't passive--I enter the
story with the characters, breathe
their air, feel their frustrations,
scream at them to stop when they're
about to do something stupid, cry with
them, laugh with them.
Reading for me, is spending time with a
friend.
A book is a friend.
You can never have too many.

If any of our pupils would like to share their favourite poems, we invite them to join Miss Pranauskas in room 7 on Tuesday lunchtime for our Writing Workshop where we will be celebrating with a Read Aloud Poetry Special.

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/>



Hello Yellow Day

The mental health and emotional wellbeing of our pupils has never been more important; for this reason, and following discussion in our Pupil Council meetings, we will be marking World Mental Health Day by taking part in the 'Hello Yellow' campaign for the mental health charity, Young Minds.

This year, Hello Yellow day takes place on Tuesday 10th October. Therefore, on Friday 13th October 2023, pupils and staff will be invited to wear a yellow item, e.g. a t-shirt, hair band, socks etc along with non-school uniform. The aim of the campaign is to show young people that they are not alone with their mental health and to raise vital funds for Young Minds.

We are asking for a voluntary donation of £1, to be made via ParentPay, to support the Young Mind charity. Pupils do not have to take part if they do not wish to – in which case full school uniform should be worn.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>



P.E. Hoodies

PE hoodies are available to order from now with a cut-off date of Sunday 22nd October. After the cut-off date expires, no orders will be able to be made and all orders will be processed and go into production.

Please do not order any other products from the supplier's website on the same order as your hoody. The supplier requires hoodies to be ordered individually.

Delivery will be made to the school as one bulk delivery.
Sample sizes to try on are in reception.

Please follow the link:

https://schoolsuniform.co.uk/?s=churnet%20view&post_type=product



Churnet View Lionesses

On Wednesday, our year 7 and 8 girls football teams took part in another training session to prepare for fixtures and tournaments for this upcoming season.

The team displayed excellent levels of work rate, teamwork and skills and we are excited to see them in action on the 17th October at Endon High School.

It was also lovely to have ex pupil **Courtney** come and support our training session and to pass on her expertise.



Sports Leaders

Well done to sports leaders **Aoife Clancy** and **Logan Howson-Probert** from year 8 who supported Mr Simpson in delivering a PE lesson to year 4 pupils Beresford Memorial First School. Well done both of you for your organisation and communication to the younger pupils.



Family Maths Challenge

It's that time of the year again, and we are excited to announce the return of our **Family Math Challenge**! This event is a fantastic opportunity to create a fun and engaging environment for you to work with your children while highlighting how we use Maths in our daily lives. Families are warmly invited to this event so please bring yourselves and your family members, and a willingness to embrace some fun Maths. You can take on as few or as many challenges as you like and work together to find your own solutions.

Last year's challenge was a tremendous success, thanks to your enthusiastic participation. This year, we are determined to make it even bigger and better. Details below:

Date: 20th October 2023

Venue: Churnet View Middle School

Time: Session 1 14:00 – 14:45 (Year 7 and Year 8)

Session 2: 15:00 – 15:40 (Year 5 and Year 6)

To express your interest and join in on the Maths-filled fun afternoon, please click on the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/sPFH99h9eM>

Let's come together as a community to embrace the beauty of Mathematics and create wonderful learning experiences for our children. We look forward to seeing you at the Family Maths Challenge!

You can make a difference, get involved, join the fun!

Parents and carers have a big impact on their children's understanding and attitude towards Maths. By providing learning opportunities and support at home, you can help encourage Maths learning from an early age right through high school. Taking part in the Maths Challenge is a great opportunity to show your interest and share a love of learning with your child.

October is **walk** **into school** **MONTH**

Get involved
and get
active by
pledging
to walk to
school at
least once
a week
throughout
October.

air
aware
Staffordshire

Walking to
school is
great for your
mental and
physical
health &
also helps the
environment!



Discover more at
staffordshire.gov.uk/activeschooltravel

 Staffordshire
County Council

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about AMONG US

AGE RESTRICTION
7
PEGI

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SENSITIVE PREMISE

In Among Us, up to three players are secretly assigned to be alien imposters, tasked with murdering their colleagues while the survivors try to unmask them. While the concept's not far removed from traditional games like Wink Murder or TV shows such as The Traitors, some parents may feel uncomfortable about their child playing a video game in which deception and killing are prioritised.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

The on-screen death of characters may be fundamental to the gameplay of Among Us, but the majority of the animations depicting this are deliberately cartoonish and only appear very briefly. However, it is worth bearing in mind that the game has a PEGI age rating of 7 – meaning that certain elements (however heavily stylised they may be) could still upset some younger players.

CHAT BETWEEN PLAYERS

With up to 15 people participating in each game online, a large part of Among Us' appeal is speculating with fellow players who the imposters might be and making accusations. This dialogue through the in-game text chat can occasionally become heated – and could, of course, involve your child being put into contact with people (including adults) who they don't know in real life.

GOING OFF PLATFORM

While Among Us provides basic ways to communicate, many gamers prefer to use external services such as Discord: a popular app which offers voice and video chat functions. These undeniably make cooperation easier, but also create a potential route for children to hear inappropriate language – or for strangers to message them privately in an environment which isn't regulated by the game itself.

IN-GAME PURCHASES

Among Us is free to download on mobile devices, and costs less than £5 to obtain on console and PC. A related longer-term pitfall, though, is that the game also includes options to pay for upgrades such as removing ads on the mobile version or adding cosmetic touches to characters (such as different costumes). It's certainly possible that a child could spend a significant sum without realising it.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER SOFTER ALTERNATIVES

Although Among Us is hugely popular with young gamers, it's possible that some children might find the murder themes unsettling. If so, plenty of similar social deduction games are available (in both digital and traditional board game formats) which downplay the potentially grislier elements: some centre around undercover spies, for instance, and there's even a Marvel superhero-themed variant.

CHAT ABOUT CHATting

You might feel it's prudent to talk to your child about the risks associated with voice chat while gaming, explaining in particular that strangers online aren't always who they claim to be. Keeping the conversation relaxed will reinforce your child's confidence that they can always come to you with any online concerns – not just about Among Us, but any potential future issues as well.

DISCUSS DISCORD

In general, Discord is an excellent app for keeping online communities together because of its use of dedicated individual servers, which allow comprehensive control over who can join – and who can't. Once you're familiar with the platform, you could set up a secure server for your child and their friends to communicate during games of Among Us, with no access for people they don't know.

AMONG US, AMONG FRIENDS

When your child and their friends get together, they can enjoy a private game of Among Us by choosing a 'local' lobby – that is, only people connected to the same WiFi (your home network, for example) can enter. This prevents any random online users – who may be total strangers – from joining and removes the need for voice chat, as the players are all physically in the same location.

STOP SURPRISE SPENDING

If you're concerned about the possibility of your child racking up an unexpected bill on Among Us' microtransactions, you could consider using a prepaid card with a set limit. Likewise, you could specify in the game's options that adult authorisation is required for every purchase – or you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

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.



NOS
National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

@natonlinesafety

/NationalOnlineSafety

@nationalonlinesafety

@national_online_safety

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Core Value Winners

The following pupils have earned the most Core Values this week. Well done to everyone for their efforts, hard work and dedication.

Year 5

Dahl

Finlay Wallace

Hughes

Chloe Ballard

Mackenzie

Hattie Griffin

Alfie Hine

Morpurgo

Alesha Mills

Felix Tarasiuk

Palacio

Lola Waters

Fred Savage

Year 7

Gibbons

Leah Carr

Tommy Greatrex

Hargrave

Lilly Kell

Noah Riddlesworth

Horowitz

Mya Emery

Ryan Miller

Riodan

Kira Koslowski

Eddie Shiers

Sachar

Leah Thompson

Albie Machin

Year 6

Carroll

Beatrice Thorpe

Felix Sillito

Fletcher

Katie Gratton

Noyes

Eva Bloor

Pullman

Ffion Bird

George Moss

Rowling

Daisie-Mae Tatton

Harry Hall

Thompson

Enzo Kidd

Seth Meakin

Year 8

Blackman

Milly Egerton

Connor Birch

Fountain

Elodie Wells

Jack Gliddon

Hill

Poppy Davies

Flynn Clulow

Stevenson

Skye Coble

Alexander Klacko

Stoker

Ashleigh Stevens

Jack Pitcher

Zephaniah

Joshua Corden