

BISHOP CHALLONER NEWS

08 DEC 2023 | ISSUE NO.127



FROM THE HEADTEACHER:

Dear Parents and Carers
I hope you have had a good week.

It was truly lovely to host the *Faith in Action* Awards ceremony last Saturday at Bishop Challoner where young people in the parish celebrated their pin, bronze, silver and gold achievements. Our Chaplain, Lolly Bell, did a wonderful job organising such an inspiring event and managing to arrange for Archbishop John Wilson to attend as a special guest and prize distributor. Congratulations also to Martha S, Year 6, on her Pin Award.

The Christmas build-up has begun in earnest at Bishop Challoner this week with our **Reindeer and Christmas Crafts** day taking place on Monday with face painting and a bubble machine all part of the activities.

Our Year 5 had an outreach retreat with fellow Year 5 pupils from St James' Primary School, Petts Wood, who we hosted in our Chapel on Monday. It was a good time for the St James' pupils to visit with the Reindeer here!

Tuesday saw our pupils from Years 3-5 attending and celebrating the annual advent service with the Archbishop at Southwark Advent Service, St George's Cathedral, Southwark, while on Wednesday, we hosted the SELCAT (we are working in association with SELCAT schools, a new partnership we have recently developed) Primary Chaplaincy Advent Retreat in our Chapel.



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This retreat provided training and spiritual development for those pupil leaders within all our schools whose responsibility it is to develop the faith of their peers.

Today it was our children's EYFS Christmas Party in the School Hall, supported by our wonderful PTA. Father Christmas even made a surprise visit!

As well over the course of this week, our Preparatory and Pre-Preparatory pupils have been very busy rehearsing for their **Christmas Show** next week. I had a sneak preview on Tuesday morning and I have to say, you are all in for a treat next week. Timings are Wednesday 13 December at 2pm & Thursday 14 December at 6pm.

A reminder that on Tuesday next week our **School Carol Service** takes place at **St Edmund's Church** starting at **7pm**.

School Vacancies

There are two school vacancies available at present. They are for a **EYFS/Prep Lunchtime Supervisor** and an **Exams Officer (p/t)**. For further details and job descriptions, please contact Carolyn Chamberlain at cchamberlain@bcsweb.co.uk

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and as many of you can attend the **PTA's Christmas Fair** as possible tomorrow. It will run from **12 noon – 3.30pm**.

With best wishes
Mark Wallace

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Autumn Term 2023

INSET DAYS - 30th, 31st August and 1st September 2023

START OF TERM - Monday 4th September 2023

HALF TERM - 16th - 27th October 2023

PUPILS BACK TO SCHOOL - Monday 30th October 2023

CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS - Friday 15th December 2023
(1/2 day)

Spring Term 2024

WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS - Monday 8th January 2024

HALF TERM - 12th - 16th February

PUPILS BACK TO SCHOOL - Monday 19th February 2024

SPRING TERM ENDS - 28th March 2024 (normal time)

STAFF INSET DAY - Monday 15th April 2024

Summer Term 2024

WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS - Tuesday 16th April 2024

HALF TERM - 27th May 2024 - 31st May 2024

WHOLE SCHOOL RETURNS - Monday 3rd June 2024

LAST DAY OF TERM - Friday 5th July 2024 (12 noon)



Last year we were international finalists for the EDI Award 2022, this year we are going for **Gold!**

We would like to invite parents to contribute and join our **Parental EDI Comittee**

If you would like to participate, please join us on **Thursday 14th December** at **3:35pm** in the **Senior Library**.



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Congratulations to our year 9 football team for playing in an impressive 4-1 win on Tuesday. A special mention to Aidan for scoring a fantastic hat trick and also Ayomi for scoring one of the best goals of the season. Every single player was excellent and delivered a true team performance.

-Mr Harrison



Huge congratulations to Isabella G, Y11 who won an award for the best teaching assistant at Pineapple Performing Arts in Covent Garden!



Movie Night was a success last week with the juniors and parents. Each child was given a special Polar Express ticket on entry and a bell to take home afterwards, it was quite magical hearing them all ring them as they left.



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HOUSE NEWS

This term our festive House theme was 'Deck the Halls.' The children were asked to create a small Christmas decoration to be placed on the school Christmas tree in the reception area. The decorations were to be adorned with the child's house colours. Once again there has been a number of high quality entrants and judging was very difficult.

Well done to everyone who took part, the tree looks beautiful. Furthermore, the competition House points have made a great difference to the leader board! Who will be number for Christmas?



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Pre-Prep and Prep School

Our child led assembly this week was by the Year 6 class, they shared an important message to remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas. The children did an excellent job; their assembly included drama, singing and sharing facts about the real meaning behind Christmas traditions. The assembly ended joyfully with a beautiful Christmas carol accompanied by Makaton signs. Well done Year 6 and thank for your excellent effort.

On Tuesday, the children from Years 3 to 5, along with several other Catholic schools, were involved in the annual Southwark advent service led by the Archbishop at St. George's Cathedral. The children joined in beautifully and really enjoyed the service. Their behavior was excellent and they received many positive comments about this.

On Friday the Early Years enjoyed their annual Christmas Party. It was lots of fun, with a workshop from Perform Drama, a party food style lunch, party games and an exciting visit from Father Christmas. This coincided with Christmas Jumper day at school, making it a very exciting day for the children!

Our rehearsals continue for the Christmas play next week. We are really looking forward to it and hope to see you at one of the performances – Wednesday 13th at 2pm and Thursday 14th at 6pm. For the evening performance we ask that children are dropped back to the main hall at 5.45pm dressed in their costume; a member of staff will be there to greet them and take them to their classes where they will get ready for the play.

We wish you a wonderful weekend,
Mr Peck, Mrs Bateman and Ms Hoyles



Pre-Prep and Prep School

STARS OF THE WEEK



Reception

Christian for his excellent subtraction work in maths



Year 1

Antonio for his attitude towards learning and always wanting to find out new facts



Year 2

George for excellent effort in literacy and improvements in writing



Year 3

Jessie for her friendliness and positivity



Year 4

Luca for always being up for a challenge and never giving up, even when faced with difficulty



Year 5

Georgina for always being kind and helpful



Year 6

Prue for wonderful singing in the play rehearsals

Many congratulations to all our Stars. We are very proud of you!

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EYFS



This week, the children have continued to enjoy the festive activities, including a visit from Santa's reindeer, crafting Christmas baubles, taking a trip to post Christmas postcards to their families, and concluding the week with a joyous Christmas party alongside the fantastic team from Perform, featuring a special appearance by Santa himself. A heartfelt thank you extends to all the parents and helpers who generously dedicated their time to make this week magical.

-Mrs Milton, EYFS Practitioner



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The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.

Scan the QR code to
take part



www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition



The survey takes 5-10 minutes to complete. Scan the QR code above or click [HERE](#) to take part.

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BISHOP CHALLONER SCHOOL PTA

CHRISTMAS FAIR

ENTRY
ADULT £1
KIDS FREE

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY FESTIVE FUN INCLUDES:
SANTA'S GROTTO, GAMES, RAFFLE, GIFT STALLS,
FOOD & DRINK STALLS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
AND MUCH MUCH MORE

SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER
12PM - 3.30PM

228 BROMLEY ROAD, BROMLEY, BR1 0BS
Website: www.bishopchallonerschool.co.uk
Email: pta1@bcsweb.co.uk



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CEREBRUM ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

ONCE UPON A KINGSWOOD CHRISTMAS



SCAN CODE
FOR TICKETS

16 - 23 DECEMBER 2023

KINGSWOOD ARTS • SEELEY DRIVE, SE21 8QN



KINGSWOOD
ARTS





ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE ONLINE

FREE LOCAL DELIVERY
OR CLICK & COLLECT
FROM BROMLEY FC



FOR EVERY CHRISTMAS TREE SOLD
£5 WILL GO TO
BISHOP CHALLONER SCHOOL

WHEN SELECTED FROM DROP-DOWN MENU AND PURCHASED ONLINE



WWW.OTHEREARTH.CO.UK

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Art on Parade

20 23

CHRISTMAS FUN ART DAYS

18th & 19th December (Mon & Tue)

21st & 22nd December (Thu & Fri)

23rd December (Sat)

10am-3pm

RIPLEY ART CENTRE,
SUNDRIDGE AVENUE, BR1 2PX

THE CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES ARE:

Making: Christmas Crackers,
Light-Up Christmas Cards
& Christmas Table Centerpiece.

Decorating: Christmas Gingerbread,
Christmas Gift Tags
& Chris-tingle Orange.



MORNING SNACK & PACKED LUNCH MUST BE NOT FREE

EMAIL OR TELEPHONE TO BOOK

07736400763

email-info@artonparade.co.uk



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 need it. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about **AMONG US**

A multiplayer 'social deduction' game set in outer space, Among Us enjoyed a surge in popularity in 2020, and has since maintained a dedicated fan-base (globally, around 60 million regular players each month) thanks to its unique nature, simple premise and ease of access across numerous platforms. The game's on-screen action revolves around danger, disguise and deception – and there are certain parallels to be drawn with some of the real-life risks that parents and carers of young Among Us players need to be aware of.



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 grisly 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 – as you could make sure that no payment methods are enabled on the device that your child plays the game on.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coleman is Editor in Chief of gaming and experts site G4G4.com 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 iHerald and TechRadar.



**National
Online
Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday



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@national_online_safety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.10.2023



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

AGE RATING
13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

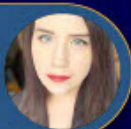
The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmmw3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse and Web3 – are impacting people, places and things.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/tech/article-1180481/discord-app-safety-settings-how-to-protect-your-child-from-explicit-content.html>
<https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/what-is-discord> is a resource for gamers and social media users. <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/what-is-discord> is a resource for gamers and social media users. <https://www.nationalonlinesafety.com/what-is-discord> is a resource for gamers and social media users.



SAFEGUARDING & WELL-BEING

If you feel unable to keep yourself, or others, safe from harm, call the NHS 111 telephone line or go to Accident & Emergency. For non-emergency concerns please contact your GP.

Crisis Support Lines

Samaritans	Free phone 116 123	www.samaritans.org
The Miz (for under 25s)	Text THEMIX to 85258	www.themix.org.uk
Papyrus HOPELINE (suicidal feelings in young people)	0800 068 4141	www.papyrus-uk.org
Childline (up to 18 years)	0800 1111	www.childline.org.uk

Support websites for help with mental health, dealing with bullying, or supporting a friend

Kooth		www.kooth.com
Young Minds		www.youngminds.co.uk

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SAFEGUARDING & WELL-BEING

**School Counselling
General Consent Form link
and QR Code: [HERE](#)**

**Child Mental Health &
Wellbeing - 10 Top Tips
for Parents: [HERE](#)**

**Protecting Young People
From Social Scams:
[HERE](#)**

**What Are Social Media
Scams?: [HERE](#)**

Snapchat Checklist: [HERE](#)

**Mobile Phones for
Children: [HERE](#)**

TikTok Checklist: [HERE](#)

**Children's Tech Guide
2023: [HERE](#)**



Parenthood..

The most rewarding job in the world

And also the toughest

Need some advice about your child's behaviour?

Contact YoungMinds
Parents Helpline
0808 802 5544
www.youngminds.org.uk/parents

YOUNGMINDS



SAFEGUARDING & WELL-BEING

For help contact Bromley Well

0808 278 7898

spa@bromleywell.org.uk

Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm

<https://www.bromleywell.org.uk/assets/documents/counselling-services>

<https://www.bromleywell.org.uk/assets/documents/emotional-wellbeing-factsheet>



e-scooters
are illegal in Bromley
except on private land with the
landowners permission!

e-scooters and the law

Under Government regulations, e-scooters are classed as 'powered transporters' – a term used to cover a variety of novel and emerging personal transport devices which are powered by a motor.

This means they are treated as a motor vehicle and subject to the same legal requirements such as MOT, licensing, tax and insurance.

As e-scooters don't have number plates, signal ability and don't always have a visible rear light, they can't be used legally on the roads.

Their use is also prohibited on cycle lanes and pavements.

e-scooters are currently only legal to ride on:

- private land with the landowner's permission, **or**
- as part of a Government trial rental scheme, which Bromley is **not** part of.

Any **illegal** e-scooters stopped by the Police can be seized, and riders can be **fined in excess of £300.**

Supported by  

Scan the QR code for more information 



SAFEGUARDING & WELL-BEING



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Message from your Safer Schools Officers: Talk to your child about phone safety

Mobile phones are a great way to stay in contact with family and friends. Most Secondary School aged children now own one or have access to one.

As useful as they are, they can make children vulnerable to thieves who are particularly interested in new models and other valuable items such as cash, airpods and expensive coats. Reducing robbery is our top priority and our officers are working hard to catch those responsible, with activity to prevent it taking place daily.

There are however, a number of things you can do to help reduce your child's risk of becoming a victim and keep safe whilst using their phone. **If you can, talk to them about where and how they use their phone using the following advice:**

Safety when out and about:

- Keep your phone and valuables out of sight in a safe place when travelling to and from school. Be careful when you take your phone out in public places.
- Bus stops, train stations and surrounding areas are common target areas for thieves, who can approach on foot, moped or on a pedal bike or e-scooter.
- Earphones/headphones can distract you, stopping you from seeing or hearing someone approach you from behind.
- Don't confront a thief – it's not worth risking your own safety for possessions that can be replaced.
- Robbery or attempted robbery are serious crimes and should be reported. It's important you *seek help straight away by dialing 999* rather than contacting police when you get home or at school the following day. Use a friend's phone or the phone of a trusted adult. This gives us the best chance to catch the suspects, recover any stolen property and ensure your safety.

If you have information about a robbery and do not want to report it to police, speak to Fearless 100 % anonymously at www.fearless.org. Fearless is the youth service of independent charity Crimestoppers.

Whether you have a phone or not, memorise or keep a parent/carer's phone number in a separate place in your bag/zipped pocket in case of emergency.

Help protect your child's phone if it's stolen:

- Use your device's security features, apps or PIN locking mechanisms to protect your data and prevent the phone being used.
- Keep a record of the phone's IMEI number (not on your phone!). This is a 15-digit unique number which can be obtained by keying in *#06#. You need this information if the phone is lost or stolen.
- Consider installing a tracker app, available online.

For more information go to www.fearless.org/campaigns/robbery. For help and advice on staying safe online and how to keep cyber criminals at bay, the Met has some great videos and other resources at www.met.police.uk/littlemedia