



**Newsletter**  
**Date 06.10.2023**



**Parking**

Our local residents have been in touch about parking. Please can we remind you to use the roads around school with care. Please observe double yellow lines and take care when driving/parking around our community. Please do not park on pavements as we have members of our school who use wheelchairs as well as parents with pushchairs who are struggling to keep safe due to poor parking. Thank you for your support!

**October 2023**

**Autumn Term Discos – Next week!**

EYFS & Year 1 – Monday 9th October  
Year 2, Year 3 & Year 4 – Tuesday 10th October  
Year 5 & Year 6 – Thursday 12th October £3 per child to attend to be paid on Parent Mail NO LATER than night before. (See Discos poster for more information)

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October - Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve Trip – Year 2RT

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October - Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve Trip – Year 2RA

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October - Sandwell Valley Nature Reserve Trip – Year 2AB

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – EYFS RHC Parent drop-in 2.45pm

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October – EYFS RKD Parent drop-in 2.45pm and ABC Afternoon

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October - EYFS REP Parent drop-in 2.45pm

Half term Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November

**Forest School for Year 2**

**Clothing**

Children can come in non-uniform on their Forest School days – long trousers please and preferably long sleeves. As the weather becomes colder, please ensure children have a jumper or fleece, a waterproof coat and a hat and gloves. **Please also send wellingtons and extra socks in a carrier bag.** We will have a few spares but not many. We do have waterproof dungarees which we can loan out if necessary but if your child has their own waterproofs, they can bring them and put them on before we leave the classroom. We serve Galaxy hot chocolate and may toast marshmallows (vegan option available) so please remind us if your child cannot have these items.

Session	2RT	2RA	2AB
3	Mon 9/10	Thurs 12/10	Mon 16/10
4	Thurs 19/10	Mon 23/10	Thurs 26/10
<b>HALF TERM</b>			
5	Dates to be confirmed		
6			

Thank you for all your contributions to our harvest collection – they have all been taken to the Black Country Foodbank in Halesowen and they will send us a certificate soon!

**Attendance**

**2nd – 6th October 2023**

Class	%	Class	%	Class	%
REP	92.48	RHC	96.48	RKD	90.64
1HH	97.70	1LI	99.26	1SB	100
2AB	94.26	2RT	91.37	2RA	99.18
3EG	100	3KR	99.63	3LO	97.42
4GO	98.93	4HG	97.78	4LH	96.95
5LW	92.53	5RF	89.71	5SM	94.12
6BR	97.05	6EG	99.26	6ES	90.11

**Worker of the Week 6th October 2023**

Well done to all of these children who have been noticed for their hard work throughout the week!

Class	Name	Class	Name	Class	Name
REP	Kade B Oliver B	RHC	Joshua Ada	RKD	James T Aurora – Rose P
1HH	Maryam B	1LI	Rachel	1SB	Riley D
2AB	Delilah A	2RT	Toby D	2RA	Alfie K
3EG	Thomas W	3KR	Arjan S	3LO	Thomas D
4GO	Evie T	4HG	Caycee F	4LH	Stanley R
5LW	Emma W	5RF	Aoife-Rose R	5SM	Grace P
6BR	Nathan D	6EG	Elliot H	6ES	Lewis M

Each week we will share a handy parent guide on a range of online safety topics. These are also available free to you if you sign up to National Online Safety. Check out our feed on X as we use this regularly too! Keep your children safe by staying up to date! **THIS ONE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO READ!**

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



Omegle is a website that pairs random strangers for live text or video chats. It first launched in 2009 and its slogan is "Talk to strangers!" There is an option for adult (18+) content and a section for people aged 13+ with parental permission. Anyone can use the site. Users simply go to [Omegle.com](http://Omegle.com) and then choose 'Text' or 'Video' chat and the page states how many users are currently online. Depending on the time of day this can be hundreds of thousands. Omegle markets itself as a great way to meet new friends however has been known to feature pornography and inappropriate content within chats, so it's important parents are aware of the risks associated with the site.



## What parents need to know about

# OMEGLE



### NO AGE VERIFICATION MEASURES

Omegle is completely free to use and allows users to communicate with others without the need to register, supply an email address or create a profile. This means users can remain anonymous and it's hard to trust who your children are talking to. Furthermore, there are no age verification measures and other than agreeing to the terms and conditions, your child can easily start online engagement with strangers and potentially access more adult themed content.



### RISK OF CYBERBULLYING

The anonymity of Omegle can increase the risk of cyberbullying on the site. Engaging in chat with strangers means that topics of conversation can lead almost anywhere including discussions about looks, body image or the sharing of other personal information. With the availability of video chat as well, this could lead to children being coerced or forced into carrying out activities online which could then be used against them.



### UNMODERATED CHAT

Omegle encourages video chat as much as it can, prompting users during their text chat to activate their webcam. Whilst text chat has a degree of moderation, the content in Omegle's video chat rooms is not moderated by administrators and at any time of the day, there can be thousands of users online. This means that your child could easily come across illegal, unacceptable or inappropriate images or media. Omegle currently offers no function for reporting online abuse or inappropriate behaviour on its site and instead only offers advice to please be careful. It also advises to 'Use Omegle at your own peril. Disconnect if anyone makes you feel uncomfortable.'



### PRIVACY RISK VIA FACEBOOK

Omegle can be linked to a user's Facebook account to match their interests and likes with other users. This means that Omegle can access your child's basic Facebook information, and Facebook friends may potentially view Omegle activity. In addition, users can save the chat log and share the link without the other user's knowledge. It is not uncommon then for users to request being added to Snapchat, Instagram or WhatsApp for further interaction, moving the conversation into a more personal setting.



### RISK OF EXPLOITATION

Omegle chat picks another user at random and there is very little way of verifying who your child may be chatting to. This can lead to a number of risks including catfishing (users pretending to be of similar age), identity theft (users eliciting information to commit fraud) and sexual psychological grooming (users coaxing others to act in a way or do something they wouldn't normally do).



### ADULT THEMED CONTENT

Unfortunately, Omegle is infamous for its pornographic content and it is not uncommon for users to expose themselves or engage in sexual acts. If a user selects video chat, then the other user's webcam will automatically be switched on before the action to 'end chat' can be selected. There is also no 'preview' in smaller thumbnail windows. As video chat is so easy to access, it means that unintentionally viewing more mature, inappropriate or even illegal images can't always be avoided.



## Safety Tips For Parents

### DISCUSS RISKS WITH YOUR CHILD

It's important to speak to your child about the dangers of Omegle. Grooming and educating young children is far more useful than ignoring the possibility of Omegle being accessed. Explain to your child that Omegle is not completely anonymous and that other users will and do use Omegle to exploit others. Try to emphasise the risk of speaking to strangers and that engaging online is no different to engaging offline.



### PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION

Omegle does not provide advice about how to protect your personal information so it's important that children are aware of what they should and shouldn't share online and with whom. If they use Omegle, always advise against sharing any personal information such as their real name, age, phone number, address or any other personal identifiable information. This also includes details of their social media accounts or gaming ID's. You should also adjust your child's Facebook settings to control what information is shared with Omegle.



### REPORT CONCERNS

If your child comes across any inappropriate content or something which upsets them on Omegle, then it's important that they are able to discuss it with you and that you provide them with the support they need. If you think the content is illegal, then it must be reported to the police.



### DISCOURAGE VIDEO CHAT

Try to discourage your child from using video chat on Omegle. Not only is there no filters or moderation in place, but children may be coerced into sharing intimate images or videos of themselves, which is illegal if they are under 18 and may be used against them. Omegle text chat has a degree of moderation controlled by Omegle through software and several actual moderators. The software moderates, identifies and prevents certain words and sequences of words to try and prevent bullying and grooming however is still not a 100% failsafe.



### TRY OMEGLE YOURSELF

It's always an excellent idea to get a feel for the website or app you're using so that you can see and understand the issues and risks for yourself. More importantly, it will also provide you with first-hand experience of the risks and dangers if/when you decide to speak to your child about Omegle and what they need to be aware of.



### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Omegle is a website chat service. Children can only access the text chat on their phone and would need access to a PC or laptop to engage in video chat. If you have genuine concerns over Omegle and don't wish your child to access the site, you can add [www.omegle.com](http://www.omegle.com) to the list of banned websites and URLs. However, it's important to remember that Omegle can still be used via a web browser on an iPad, tablet, smart TV or gaming device and similar controls would need to be implemented on each of these devices separately.



### Meet our expert

Jonathan Taylor is an online safety expert and former Covert Internet Investigator for the Metropolitan Police. He is a specialist in online grooming and exploitation and has worked extensively with both UK and international schools in delivering training and guidance around the latest online dangers, social media apps and platforms.



SOURCE: <http://www.omegle.com>