

## The Harmony Trust Sumdog Competition starts on Friday 13th October.

We need all children to enter our Harmony Trust Sumdog contest, which starts on 13th October!

All children can enter regardless of their level or year group, and rewards children with excitement, fun and prizes for the winners.

All children have their login information to enter. Support your child by making sure they are logging in and taking part at home.



Calling all Key Stage 2 children...

## Take part in the third Harmony Trust Sumdog contest!



Friday 13th October to Thursday 19th October



- 🐾 The winning class will have the highest average score and receive a real-life Sumdog trophy.
- 🐾 Each student can answer 1,000 questions during the contest to contribute to their class score.
- 🐾 All students who take part and answer at least 100 questions will receive a gift for their Sumdog house!

Who will be the Harmony Sumdog Champions?! 🏆

## EYFS

### Amber and Ruby

This week, we collected sticks and leaves to create Autumn pictures using red, orange, brown and gold paint. They turned out beautifully!



## KS1

### Opal

In RE, we have thought about what it means to be part of a group and how we all fit together and support each other.



### Jade

In Jade class, we have been exploring numbers to 10 and beyond. We have been finding one more and one less of any given number, counting the amount, ordering and writing numerals. Super maths!

### Pearl

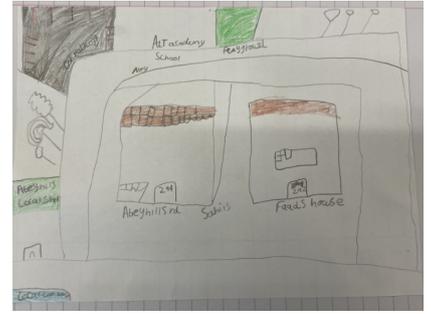
In maths this week, we have been learning to find one more and one less than a number.



## Lower KS 2

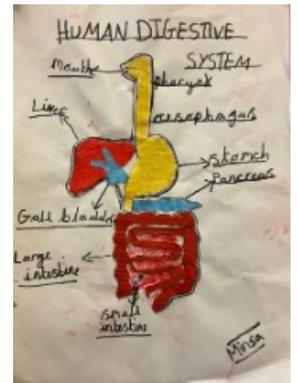
### Topaz

We have been drawing maps of the local area, labelling land marks and familiar places (but sadly, no sign of any buried treasure!)



### Citrine

This week, our Year 4 children learned from the magnificent Sir Lenny Henry that we can bring characters that represent us to life and see ourselves in our stories. We have loads of exciting writing projects coming up soon!



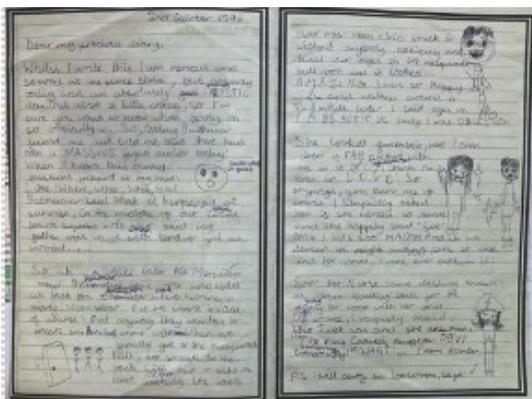
### Emerald

In science this week, we have been learning about all the different parts of the digestive system. Some of us created some lovely home learning. Make sure your child is completing the tasks on their home learning rubric.

## Upper KS2

### Amethyst

This week, we have challenged ourselves in our maths focusing on addition and subtraction. We have approached a range of problem solving and reasoning challenges and have showed great resilience and determination.



### Tanzanite

In English, we have been writing a diary entry as if we were Romeo after he had met Juliet for the very first time. The whole class has taken really well to this story and have enjoyed the chance to show, demonstrate and exaggerate Romeo's emotion and overall sense of drama into their writing.

### Sapphire

This week in science, we have been investigating air resistance. We carried out experiments involving spinners to see if we could speed up or slow down air resistance. We discovered that the larger the surface area the longer an object took to fall and the more mass an object was carrying the faster it took to fall.



## Star of the Week

Well done to this weeks stars of the week.

<b>Amber</b>	Hina	For being a role model helper in the class.
<b>Ruby</b>	Hamza	For his enthusiasm during music.
<b>Opal</b>	Kayon	For a fantastic effort in all his learning.
<b>Jade</b>	Oliver	Settling into his routine well and trying his best in all of his learning.
<b>Pearl</b>	Areeha	Settling into a new school so well.
<b>Topaz</b>	Bonny-Lee	For representing Alt at the Year 4 author experience and showing there is always time to have fun at school.
<b>Citrine</b>	Destiny	For giving her best effort and showing her love of learning.
<b>Emerald</b>	Kayson	For being resilient in all his learning this week.
<b>Amethyst</b>	Nelly	For showing a sparkling personality and settling well into her new class.
<b>Tanzanite</b>	Gracie	For showing a great level of maturity and sensibility with her attitude to her work and her relationships with others.
<b>Sapphire</b>	Scarlett & Kateef	For their very first official engagement as head boy and girl. They represented Alt amazingly at Health Champions on Wednesday this week.

### Principal's Award:

**Hooriya (Jade)** – for always challenging herself in English and Phonics

**Jaxon (Jade)** – for blowing Miss Voak's socks off with his independent maths work!

**Mohammed Taqi** – for an excellent week, joining in and showing lots of effort in Phonics.

### Principal's Reading Champions:

**Hajra, Delanie, Haya, Ali, Fatima, Hadi, Afsa, Jenson, Rayyan, Yasin, Faad**



### Health & Safety Reminder

Please be reminded that children are not to play on the climbing frames or with the play equipment either before or after school. Bikes and scooters are to be pushed once on school grounds and either stored in the bike shed or taken home with parents.

## Programme of Coffee Morning Agenda 2023-24

Coffee mornings will take place every Tuesday morning at 9:00am in the KS2 hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Please join us next week to find out about the new, exciting parenting workshops, starting soon in Alt Academy.

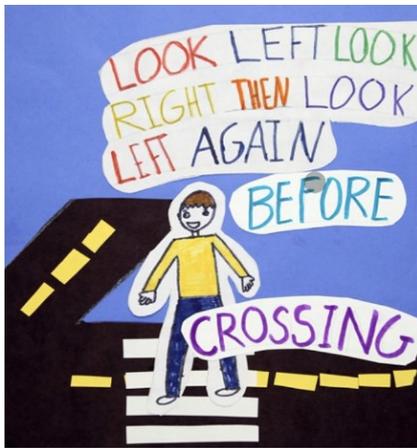
We know that being a parent is not always easy and families need extra support at some stage as children grow up. The Parenting workshop will help you better understand and support your child's learning, improve their communication/social skills and help them to learn strategies to reduce challenging behaviour.

Also, coming soon...ESOL, Maths and First Aid course.

**Please see Roseena to register interest.**



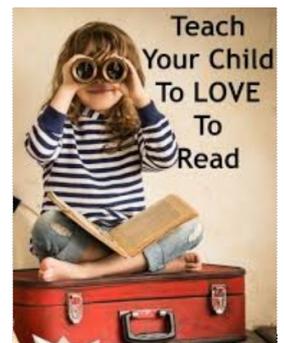
### Crossing Patrol



We are currently experiencing intermittent levels of school crossing patrol outside Alt Academy. This means, that there will be some sessions where there is not a crossing patrol on site. In assembly on Monday, we are going to recap the 'look left, look right' approach so that children know to watch the road very carefully. Whilst staff on duty can support a child crossing the road if they appear to be in danger, this support is not consistently available and is not to be relied upon. Please support your children to be safe on the crossing. If your child walks to and from school alone, please discuss road safety with them.

### Reception and Nursery Stay and Read

We have invited parents and carers to join us for Stay and Read in **Reception classes on Monday 9th October or Monday 16th October at 2.45pm** and in **Nursery Monday 16th October at 11.15am**. In these sessions, we will share how we start our reading process with the children in Early Years and there will be some great tips on how to support your child to develop a love of reading at home.



### Extra Reading in Breakfast Club



Each morning in Breakfast Club, we have Miss Hilton-Brown and Mrs Shad delivering extra reading sessions. This is a great chance for your child to read with an adult before the start of the school day. Why not listen in on the reading session to see how we read with children in school. Miss Hilton-Brown and Mrs Shad can read with any children – they just need to have their reading book with them!

**Fun fact – if children read for 5 minutes a day, this equals 30 hours a year!**

## Health Champions



On Wednesday, our Head Girl and Head Boy, Scarlett and Kateef, attended some training to become health champions. They worked with the other health champions from across Oldham to learn about how to be healthy and they then wrote an action plan which explained how they were going to promote their role across school, and they also planned some challenges for the school to take part in. We were so proud of their hard work, and they represented our school really well.



## Attendance

Please support your child's learning by ensuring they are in school, and on time every day.

We ask all families to book holidays in the school holidays (except for exceptional circumstances).

The attendance policy for Alt Academy is on our website. Here is a link:

[https://www.alt.theharmonytrust.org/serve\\_file/19778567](https://www.alt.theharmonytrust.org/serve_file/19778567)

If you have any questions about this, please speak to Mrs Cooper, our Office and attendance manager.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Overall attendance year to date – 93.4%**

**Weekly winners – Well done to: -**

**EYFS and KS1 – Pearl 94.7%**

**KS2 – Tanzanite 96.1%**

**Our target is 96%**





# Blackpool Trip and Illuminations

## Sunday 22nd October 2023

### Departure time: 10:00am

**Enjoy a day out in Blackpool with the whole family and travel through the Illuminations on the way home**

**COST:** £10 per person

The price per person is a contribution to the travel costs. The price does not include any entry into attractions or food vouchers so families will need to make their own arrangements.

#### **BOOKINGS:**

Bookings can be made from 9am on Monday 4th September 2023 by contacting POINT Activities on **07783 143 737** (please be patient as phone lines will be busy. If you cannot get through leave a voicemail and we'll return your call as soon as possible.

You must pay for your booking in full by bank transfer within 5 days of reserving your places, otherwise they will be reallocated. Payment details will be supplied once your booking has been made.

#### **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

These trips are for families of children and young people (aged 0-25) with additional needs or disabilities who live within Oldham. Your child or young person must be included in your party in order for you to access this trip.

## 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 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

Daryl 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

## Sensory needs seminar for families of autistic children



**Friday 10th Nov 2023**  
**9.30am —2.30pm**

**Honeywell Business and  
Community Centre**  
Hadfield St, Oldham  
OL8 3BP

This is a **Free** seminar for families of Autistic children.  
Refreshments are provided, please bring your own lunch.

**Please note this event is for parents/carers only**

### **Booking is essential**

Book your place by following this [link](#)

To find out more contact:-

Tel: 0161 998 4667

Email: [abigail.gibson@nas.org.uk](mailto:abigail.gibson@nas.org.uk)

# FREE Customer Training



**ACCREDITED COURSES** - Places will need to be booked for the following, by emailing [customertraining@fcho.co.uk](mailto:customertraining@fcho.co.uk) or speaking to your FCHO Directions advisor if you have one.

\*See criteria - Open to 19 years old, Not in employment or education and have been in the EU for 3 years plus. Support maybe provided on request for travel expenses.

## Warehouse and Logistics Level 1

Get a qualification and a guaranteed interview with Amazon warehouse.

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September (10 days) 9am – 3pm @ First Choice Homes. Union Street. Oldham. OL1 3BE. \* See criteria

## Teacher Training Level 1

Passionate about education. Dreamt of working in a school setting?

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October for 10 weeks (Mondays) 9.30am – 3pm @ First Choice Homes. Union Street. Oldham.  
\* See criteria

## Business Admin Level 1

Perhaps working in an office is more your career move. We have you covered at FCHO!  
Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December (Thursdays and Friday) 9.30am – 2.30pm  
@ First Choice Homes. Union Street. Oldham. OL1 3BE. \* See criteria

## Sports Facilitator Level 1

Considering a career in sport take your first step!

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October (2days) 9am – 3pm @ Werneth Cricket club in collaboration with Dream big sports. Open to anyone 16-28 years of age.

## Food & Hygiene Level 1 and 2

Looking for a career in catering? Fancy completing an accredited course from the comfort of your own home, at a time that suits? Open to all.

**NON-ACCREDITED COURSES** - Places will need to be booked for the following, by emailing [customertraining@fcho.co.uk](mailto:customertraining@fcho.co.uk) or speaking to your FCHO Directions advisor if you have one. Open to all.

## Step into NHS coming soon to FCHO!

A helping hand to gaining employment in the NHS within a variety of roles.

Information day Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October.

Course start 31<sup>st</sup> October for 7 weeks (Tuesdays) 10 am till 2pm @ First Choice Homes. Union Street. Oldham. OL1 3BE.

## Finding and applying for work

Sometimes interview questions can be tricky! Come to this training and stand out from other applicants.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September – 10 am till 12pm @ First Choice Homes. Union Street. Oldham. OL1 3BE.

## Interview Techniques

Does your mind go blank in interviews? Struggling for examples? Come and join our training to feel more confident and prepared!

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October - 10.30 am till 12.20 pm @ First Choice Homes. Union Street. Oldham. OL1 3BE.

## Conversation English

Are you learning the English language and not yet confident? Come and have conversations and build up your confidence for ESOL with our amazing ESOL tutor. Commitment is required for 12 weeks, put your name down to join the list to start.  
Every Wednesday 1pm till 3pm.

Follow us on:    

[www.fcho.co.uk](http://www.fcho.co.uk)