



Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

Headteacher: Manda George

Telephone: 0208 697 2762

Email: [admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk)

30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear parents and carers,

The summer term is flying by and we are rapidly approaching the end of the academic year. Many of our year 6 children will be visiting their secondary schools next week and we have started lots of transition work to prepare them for their new adventures in Year 7.

The PTA have been very busy indeed getting everything ready for the Summer Fair which will take place next Saturday. We hope you will be able to join us for all the fun games, performances, lovely food and bouncy castles. We are keen to have as much help as possible so if you are available and can give even an hour of your time, please [Sign up here](#).

Flora and Emily, our wonderful art teachers, are inviting you to pick up your pencils, paintbrushes, crayons and chalks to create something amazing for their art competition. Look out for more details later in the newsletter.

For all who celebrated Eid this week, I hope you had a lovely time with your friends and family.

Have a great weekend.

Very best wishes  
Manda George  
Headteacher



## NEU Strike Action

### Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July

School is closed for children in Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6.

Online learning is available here:

<https://www.torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk/remote-learning-offer/>

School is open as usual for children in Nursery, Reception and Resource Base.

# Summer Fair – Saturday 8th July, 12-4pm

## Summer Fair - Saturday, 8th July, 12-4pm

The fair is almost here! Entry is free, and all are welcome. We have an exciting lineup of live entertainment, food and drinks, games and activities, plus raffle prizes worth over £1300. Check out what's on [here](#).



**Save queue time at the fair and pre-purchase your Torridon Tickets and Adults' Raffle entries - online sales extended!** Torridon Tickets are 50p each and will be accepted as payment throughout the fair. Some stalls will also accept card payment, but you'll need Torridon Tickets for games and activities. Order tickets on ParentPay by the morning of Wednesday, 5 July, and they'll be distributed to your child's classroom on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> July.

Entries into our Adults' Raffle are £1 each and can be purchased via our [SumUp shop](#) until the morning of Friday, 7th July. We'll fill in your entry slips for you and send you an email to confirm

your entry numbers. Please note, you must be 18+ to enter this raffle. There will be a separate kids' raffle on the day of the fair.



## Volunteer at the Summer Fair

The Summer Fair is a large scale event that requires support from lots of volunteers on the day. To fully open all of our stalls, we need about 50 people helping out at any given time throughout the 4-hour event. So far we've filled fewer than half of our shifts, which means some stalls won't be able to open and queues will likely be long. Can you help make the fair happen? Learn more about what's involved [here](#).

To sweeten the deal, we're offering a free drink from the Licenced Bar to all volunteers for each hour they work. One lucky helper will also win a luxury facial at Le Crisadore!

[Sign up here](#)

## Contributions needed for the Summer Fair

- **Sweet treats for the Cakes & Tea stall:** Homemade or store bought treats, ideally pre-portioned (cupcakes or pre-sliced cakes, for instance) and accompanied by a list of ingredients.
- **Savoury dishes for the World Food stall:** Ready-to-eat dishes labelled with the name of the dish and a list of ingredients. If possible, please supply serving utensils as well.
- **Equipment we'd like to borrow:** Cool boxes, pop-up gazebos, trestle tables, chafing dishes, portable sound system

Please bring food donations directly to the fair. Be sure to label any non-disposable crockery with your name and contact details so we can return them to you. If you have any equipment to loan, contact Megan at [friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com](mailto:friendsoftorridonpta@gmail.com) or on 07760520790 to arrange collection or delivery. Thank you!

**Let's Get Arty! For our Summer Fair**

# Let's Get Arty!

## Art competition open to all

Children - Teachers - Parents - Carers - Siblings

Painting, drawing, sculpture, textiles - it could be anything!

## Prizes to be won!

Deadline: Thursday 6th July

All entrants will be on show at the School Summer Fair.

Art room open to submissions anytime before the fair.

Judging at 3pm on Saturday 8th.

**What are you waiting for?**



# Summer Music Dates

## Year Group Music Performances

14th July at 2:30pm - Year 5 steel pans performance (They will also be performing at the Summer fair)

19th July at 9am - Year 2 recorder performances

20th July at 2:30pm - Year 3 Ukulele performances

## Summer Music Concert

Our summer music concert is on 18th July at 5:00pm.

There will be a variety of performances by both solo performers and ensemble groups.

# Year 6 Ice Lolly Sales

## Torridon summer treats!

As the weather becomes much warmer and we lead up to the summer holidays, we will be selling summer ice lollies.

Please see details below:

### Dates

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July

### Where?

KS1/KS2 playground

### When?

After school

Please note that the stall will be cash only. All proceeds will go towards the end of year celebrations and activities for the children. We look forward to seeing you.



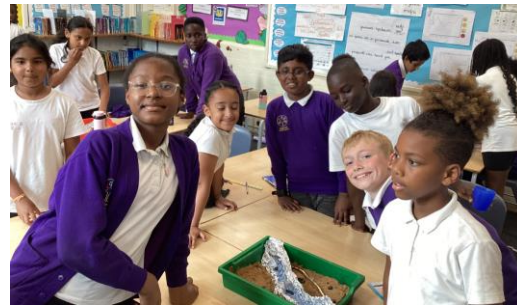


## Year 6 Orienteering

In Year 6 this week, we took part in orienteering. We used a map to find control points around our school. We orientated our map at each control point to locate the next one. At each control point, there was a number and a letter. We recorded each letter in a table. Then, we cracked the code to find the final word. We developed our geography skills and enjoyed working within our groups.



## Year 5 – River Models



Year 5 has been learning about rivers, and we have created models inspired by the River Thames.

They have used their knowledge of the vocabulary learned in lessons and made sure to include: **sediment (rocks and sand)** and have designed their rivers to **meander**.

## Resource Base Buddy Group



Our buddy group children have been learning turn taking skills and cooking in the base today. We are making rainbow meringues, and the the children tested if the mixture was ready by putting the bowl upside down

# Forest School News!

## Forest School news

We dug up our first crop this week at  
After school club!!

The children were so happy to uncover the  
potatoes that the Reception children had  
planted in the Spring term.



Cooking club cooked the potatoes for us.



We are so proud that we can now grow and  
eat our own produce at school.

We are patiently waiting on our tomatoes  
and strawberries now!



## Stars of the Week

Class	Name	Reason
Nursery	Josiah	For managing change well and for having a great week in nursery. Well done!
Nursery	Alaia	For her amazing drama skills and being a kind friend
Red Class	Niara	For her fantastic writing this week. Well done, Niara!
Blue Class	Oghenenyerhovwon	For consistently showing excellent behaviour at carpet times. Well done!
Yellow Class	Carlos	For always being an active learner. He always shares and explains his ideas. Well done!
1G	The whole class!	For their absolutely incredible stories this week! They have all tried their very best, I am so proud of all their stories. Well done 😊
1M	Aeirren	For sharing his great ideas for our primate stories.
1N	Amarachukwu	For making fantastic progress since joining the class and for impressing us by writing independently.
2G	Kamsi	For her hard work during our writing activities and for reading through her work independently. Keep it up! 😊
2S	David	For settling into Torridon Primary School so well and for impressing with his wonderful times tables! Keep it up David! 😊
2SW	Zenab	For her positive attitude to learning and for producing some wonderful pieces of work this week! Well done Zenab 😊
3A	Vaishnavi	For being such a kind, helpful member of our community. Thank you!
3L	Nanshika	For consistently showing focus, excellence and readiness for learning. Superstar!
3S	Rafferty	For showing a mature attitude when collaborating with others and ownership of his learning. Well done.
4C	Acacia	For doing exceptionally well in her spelling today.
4V	Harley	For motivating his friend, staying positive and being a good role model. Well done. 😊
4W	Moliesa	For working extremely hard throughout the week. She has shown excellent focus and readiness to learn. Well done!
5L	Sariah	For consistently showing effort, resilience, and focus in all areas of learning. Well done!
5R	Yasmine	For always demonstrating kindness to others and showing excellent empathy to all members of the Torridon community. Well done.
5S	Lucy	For consistently showing outstanding learning in all areas of the curriculum. Well done, Lucy!
6A	Roc'El	For being an excellent role model to our class and school community; always helpful and kind towards her peers and adults alike. Well done!
6C	Keiran	For a fantastic effort during singing practice. You have been working hard to learn the lyrics to the songs and trying your best – well done!
6L	Orin	For being engaged during the transition workshop and asking loads of useful questions.
Blue Pathway	Isaiah	For doing amazing writing and being focused in his year 5 class.
Green Pathway	Gabriel A	For doing fantastic work in year 2 and very good listening in the resource base.



# Meeting with Teachers

Polite reminder

We kindly ask that you do not come onto the site in the morning to try to speak to class teachers. The start of the day is very busy and we cannot have parents and carers in the buildings as this creates a safeguarding issue.

If you need to get a message to your child's teacher, please speak to the member of staff on the gate or email [admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk). Staff will be very happy to speak to you over the phone or make an appointment to meet with you.

Thank you for your understanding.

## SPORTS DAY

We are looking forward to our sports day events this year. Our sports day team have been busy planning the activities. Please see below for the days, locations and timings. We look forward to seeing you at the events.

### EYFS (Nursery and reception) Sports Day - Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July

Location: Torridon Primary School

Time: 9:15 – 11:00am

The morning will be individual and team races on the pitch.



### KS2 (years 3 – 6) Sports Day - Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July

Location: Whitefoot Lane

Time: 9:45 – 2:45pm

The morning will be individual races until 12:45pm. The children will have a packed lunch at the playing fields. In the afternoon, there will be opportunities for family participation including parents and friends' races, community games such as our football teams playing the teaching staff and parents!

### KS1 (years 1 and 2) Sports Day - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July

Location: Whitefoot Lane

Time: 9:45 – 2:45pm

The morning will be individual races until 12:45pm. The children will have a packed lunch at the playing fields. In the afternoon, there will be opportunities for family participation including parents and friends' races and community games.



# Parent Governor Elections

**Two of our team of 4 parent governors have now completed a 4 year term. This is an opportunity for YOU to be part of the team delivering Torridon's vision and value.**

*"The school has a compelling vision for an inclusive, high-quality education for all which enables our children to achieve and thrive regardless of background. Our Core Values underpin all policies and practice. To this end, leaders at all levels ambitiously and purposefully work to achieve short- and long-term goals".*

Manda and her team have daily front-line responsibility for this. The governing board is a group of community representatives who work with Manda to keep the Vision and Values fresh and relevant, to hold school leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff and to ensure that all resources are being used effectively

The Governing Board is a diverse group of people - although the men are seriously outnumbered! As a parent governor you will bring a parent's perspective to the discussion as well as your own personal skills and insights. It's a fine line to tread, but you're not there to speak on behalf of parents. The Governing Board needs your perspective to help the board make good decisions and maintain a link between governance and the parent community.

You **don't** need to be an expert, training is available and your fellow governors are also a good source of information. THEY will also look forward to learning about YOUR experience and perspective as a parent/carer.

If you are interested please complete and return a personal statement, explaining why you would like to fulfil the role of parent governor. (A template can be found on the website or the office can provide a hard copy). Please email your statement to

[governors@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:governors@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk) by MIDDAY on THURSDAY JULY 6<sup>TH</sup>.




Manda or Margaret Brightman (Chair of Governors) would be happy to chat to you about the role. Please email the school ([admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk](mailto:admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk)) if you would like to talk to them.

## **What is the time commitment?**

*Governors currently meet as a full Governing Body 4 times each year, with additional regular committee meetings and/or Working Party meetings throughout each term. Papers for each meeting are circulated 7 days ahead. They will usually take a couple of hours to read through and think about the questions you will want to ask.*

*We also ask each governor to be a link governor taking a special interest in a particular area linked to the School Improvement Plan or another identified priority. Each link governor will liaise with the school to work out the best way for them to monitor their area. Most times this will involve visiting during the school day but the last year has shown that there are some things which can be done over MS Teams. After the visit governors write up a short Note of Visit so that their findings can be shared with other Governors*

## Weekly Attendance by Class

Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1G	94%		3A	95%		5L	93%	
1M	87%		3L	92%		5R	90%	
1N	93%		3S	94%		5S	92%	
2G	91%		4C	93%		6A	91%	
2S	91%		4V	94%		6C	90%	
2SW	95%		4W	92%		6L	94%	

Well done to 2SW, 3S and 6A and who were out attendance cup winners this week!

## Summer Holiday Sports Camp

**SUMMER HOLIDAY  
SPORTS CAMP**  
**24th of July - 18th of August**  
**Abbotshall Road, CATFORD, SE6 ISQ**

Fun Activities & Games @Abbotshallhc  
over the 2 weeks.

£40 per day, £135 Full Week (9am-3pm)

Late pick up (4pm) available for additional  
£5

**Hot lunches  
available upon  
request  
@Abbotshallhc**



**Abbotshall Road, CATFORD, SE6 ISQ**

**Havinabubble.com  
Abbotshallhc.org.uk**

**Book Now via:  
info@havinabubble.co.uk**



## Dates For Your Diary

Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Assessment week for Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 3, 4 and 5
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Year 6 First Aid workshop
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	Welcome meetings for new nursery and reception parents and carers – PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE Year 6 secondary school transition day
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	NEU proposed strike action
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 and 6 swimming gala (TO BE CONFIRMED) NEU proposed strike action
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fair 12-4pm
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	9.30am – 11.00am Nursery and Reception Sports Day
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	9.15am Year 6 production
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 Capoeira workshops 6.00pm Year 6 production Year 5/6 girls' football tournament
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	9.45am – 2.45pm Year 3,4,5 and 6 Sports Day
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	9.45am – 2.45pm Year 1 and Year 2 sports day
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 BEAM transition workshop
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> July	5pm – summer music concert
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 transition workshop Year 6 leavers' event
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Resource Base picnic – Forster Park Year 6 trip to Airthrill
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July	Last day of the summer term – 2pm finish 9.30 – Year 6 leavers' assembly

## Lewisham Bulletin – Short Swimming Courses

### Short Swimming Courses

The Better run leisure centres in Lewisham are doing 5 day short swimming courses at Forest Hill Pools and Glass Mill Leisure Centre - £40 for 5 days.

#### Forest Hill Pools: 24 July – 18 August 2023

**Foundation classes** - 9.00am, 9.30am 10.00am 10.30am 11.00am and then a **Development Class** at 11.30am - 12.00pm

#### Glass Mill Leisure Centre: 24 July – 1 September 2023

**Foundation classes**- 9.00am, 9.30am 10.00am and then a **Development Class** 10.30am – 11.00am

Parents can use the code **SWIMHAPPY** to save 25%  
TO BOOK [CLICK HERE](#)





# Lewisham Children Centre Activities

## Baby Massage

Spend quality time with your baby at our 5 week Baby Massage course for babies aged 6 weeks to 1yr.

All courses delivered by International Association of Infant Massage certified infant massage instructors

### Wednesdays

26th July - 2nd August,  
9th August, 16th August  
10.30am - 11.30am

**Sydenham Green  
Health Centre**

26 Holmshaw Close, SE26 4TH

Please note, you must be able to attend ALL 4 sessions

Age group:  
Under 1 year

"We really enjoyed the very calm and relaxing atmosphere there. It was nice to talk and meet other mums as well." Parent

To book your place email  
[bookings@lewishamcfc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@lewishamcfc.org.uk)  
or call 07377 724243



## Baby Massage

Spend quality time with your baby at our 5 week Baby Massage course for babies aged 6 weeks to 1yr.

All courses delivered by International Association of Infant Massage certified infant massage instructors

### Thursdays

27th July, 3rd August  
10th August, 17th August  
11.30am - 12.30pm

**Clyde Family Hub  
(Large Hall)**

Iverson Street, Deptford, SE8 5NH

Please note, you must be able to attend ALL 4 sessions

Age group:  
Under 1 year

"We really enjoyed the very calm and relaxing atmosphere there. It was nice to talk and meet other mums as well." Parent

To book your place email  
[bookings@lewishamcfc.org.uk](mailto:bookings@lewishamcfc.org.uk)  
or call 07377 724243



# Circus Skills Finding Childcare in Lewisham

Come and join us for FREE fun circus skills workshops this Summer

### Forster Park

Southend Lane, SE6  
**Tuesday 25th July**  
10.30am - 12.00 noon

### Hilly Fields Park

Adelaide Avenue, SE4  
**Tuesday 1st August**  
10.30am - 12.00 noon



Age group:  
Under 8's

Adults must stay and supervise their children during the session.

### Bellingham Green Park

Bellingham Green, SE6  
**Tuesday 8th August**  
10.30am - 12.00 noon

### Deptford Park

23 Scawen Rd, SE8  
**Friday 18th August**  
10.30am - 12.00 noon

Bookings open a week before each session

To book your FREE place

go to [www.lewishamcfc.org.uk/booking-form](http://www.lewishamcfc.org.uk/booking-form) or call  
Bellingham CFC 07513 727793 Evelyn CFC 07513 727797  
Ladywell CFC 07513 727795

Need help finding a nursery or childminder? Come and join us for this online session.

### ONLINE

**Thursday 13th July**  
11.00am - 12 noon



### Information on:

- Finding a nursery
- Choosing a childminder
- Free Early Education Entitlement (FEEE)
- Extended 30 hours for 3 and 4-year-olds
- Tax Free Childcare

To book your place go to  
[www.lewishamcfc.org.uk/booking-form/](http://www.lewishamcfc.org.uk/booking-form/)





# CorbFest at St Andrews Church hall

We hope that you can join us to celebrate our brilliant community with events at both St Andrews Church hall and The Corbett Community Library for Arts & Crafts - Ice Cream - Bouncy Castle - Food & Drink Stalls - Fun Games! We will finish the day off with an interactive quiz at St Andrews Church hall 7pm- 10pm - Licensed bar (or corkage) & Prizes!

Tickets available online or at the library. For more information: [www.thecorbett.org](http://www.thecorbett.org)



## Open Morning – Christ's Hospital

We warmly invite current Year 5 pupils and their families who are considering secondary education in September 2024 to our [Open Morning on Saturday 9 September, book today.](#)



# Omega Sportz – Summer Camp Lewisham

Parents and families who are on free school meals, this is a **funded Lewisham programme**. The children get involved in free daily activities and also get a free hot meal every day they attend.

click the link and sign up to our booking system, register your child and choose the days you would like to attend.

## Booking link:

<https://omegasportzLtd.kidsclubhq.co.uk/rdr?u=book&id=8813&t=2023-07-24>



## Omga Sportz Summer Activity Camp

@ Invicta Primary School Deptford,  
Trevithick Street, SE8 3HL



Ages 5-12  
9.00 – 13.00

Week 1: 24th July - 27th July  
Week 2: 31st July - 3rd Aug  
Week 3: 7th Aug - 10th Aug  
Week 4: 14th Aug - 17th Aug

### Activities include:

- Ball Sports
- Bouncy Castle
- Team Games
- Dance
- Science Experiments
- Arts & Craft
- Circus Workshops

And sooo MUCH MORE!!!



### Free Activities

Free Lunch (Lunch served at  
12.00pm daily)

Paid Places Available

**FREE FOR FREE  
SCHOOL MEAL  
CHILDREN BOOKING  
CODE: FSM2023**



## Book Here:

Site Phone: 07706255439 (Camp Only)

Head Office: 07444592073

[www.omegasportz.com](http://www.omegasportz.com)

[info@omegasportz.com](mailto:info@omegasportz.com)





# Ballers Sports Coaching

## MULTISPORTS SUMMER CAMP



**LOCATION:**  
SYDENHAM SCHOOL,  
DARTMOUTH RD,  
LONDON,  
SE26 4RD



In partnership with Lewisham Council and the Department of Education

### Who the spaces are for :

- Children eligible for and in receipt of free school meals.
- Children assessed as being in need.
- Children with EHC plan (education, health and care)

### Aim of provision:

- To take part in engaging activities during the school holidays.
- Eat healthier and gain knowledge of healthy nutrition.
- Be more active, safe and not socially distanced.

### 4 WEEKS OF SPORTS AND FUN!

**WK 1** 24.07.23 - 27.07.23 **WK 2** 31.07.23 - 02.08.23  
**WK 3** 07.08.23 - 10.08.23 **WK 4** 14.08.23 - 17.08.23

(PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND ONE OR ALL OF THE ABOVE DATES)

**TIME: 10:00AM - 3:00PM**  
(LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED)

**Ages:**  
4-14

**BOOK NOW TO SECURE  
YOUR FREE SPACE!**



**0207 1013 652**



**admin@ballerssportscoaching.com**



**@BALLERSSPORTSCOACHING**

## MULTISPORTS SUMMER CAMP



**LOCATION:**  
WHITEFOOT LANE  
PLAYING FIELDS,  
DOWDERRY RD,  
BROMLEY,  
BR1 5QE



In partnership with Lewisham Council and the Department of Education

### BOOK NOW TO SECURE YOUR FREE SPACE!

**WK 1** 24.07.23 - 27.07.23 **WK 2** 31.07.23 - 03.08.23  
**WK 3** 07.08.23 - 10.08.23 **WK 4** 14.08.23 - 17.08.23  
(PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND ONE OR ALL OF THE ABOVE DATES)

**TIME: 2:00PM - 6:00PM**  
(LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED)



**0207 1013 652**



**admin@ballerssportscoaching.com**

### Who the spaces are for :

- Children eligible for and in receipt of free school meals.
- Children assessed as being in need.
- Children with EHC plan (education, health and care)

**Ages:**  
10-16

### Aim of provision:

- To take part in engaging activities during the school holidays.
- Eat healthier and gain knowledge of healthy nutrition.
- Be more active, safe and not socially distanced.



**@BALLERSSPORTSCOACHING**

## MULTISPORTS SUMMER CAMP



**LOCATION:**  
ELM LANE PLAYING FIELDS,  
ELM LANE,  
LONDON,  
SE6 4LB



In partnership with Lewisham Council and the Department of Education

### Who the spaces are for :

- Children eligible for and in receipt of free school meals.
- Children assessed as being in need.
- Children with EHC plan (education, health and care)

### Aim of provision:

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(PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND ONE OR ALL OF THE ABOVE DATES)

**TIME: 10:00AM - 2:00PM**  
(LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED)

**Ages:**  
4-14

**BOOK NOW TO SECURE  
YOUR FREE SPACE!**



**0207 1013 652**



**admin@ballerssportscoaching.com**



**@BALLERSSPORTSCOACHING**



## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AMINO

AGE RESTRICTION  
**12+**

**PETS**

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### MODERATION GAPS

Amino has a 12+ classification in the App Store and a 'Teen' rating on Google Play. However, certain communities on the platform have little to no moderation in place – increasing the potential for more adult-themed content to reach young users. It's also possible to create an account without proof of age, raising the possibility of even younger children finding their way onto the platform.

#### UNSAFE CONTENT

The central concept behind Amino is for users to share content, then make and receive comments on these uploads. The level of anonymity that the platform offers (someone's true identity can be completely obscured behind their username, for instance) means that it would be extremely difficult to stop suggestive or outright predatory comments and messages being sent to young people.

#### INAPPROPRIATE IMAGES

Like most social media, Amino offers easy sharing of images. Its community guidelines state that any suggestive photos of under-18s will be removed immediately, but of course this doesn't prevent inappropriate pictures being seen by a young person. Not all of Amino's communities are rigorously moderated, so there's a chance that some unsuitable images could temporarily evade detection.

Amino is a social media platform offering a large group of subcommunities under one digital 'roof': it was envisaged as the online version of a convention, where fans gather to celebrate a shared interest like comic books or sci-fi, for example. While many such platforms are harmless spaces for devotees of a certain TV show or video game to congregate, there are still some aspects that trusted adults should be aware of. With a focus on sharing user-generated content, the idea of Amino is for users to communicate with like-minded individuals – but even that can create plenty of hazards.

**COMICS & COSPLAY**

#### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Amino+ is a premium membership for the platform, offering a bevy of customisation options such as stickers, 'moods' to display and an exclusive profile badge. Users can also purchase one-off cosmetic items including different styles of chat bubble or profile frames. If your child has payment methods available via their device, they could potentially make these in-app purchases without you realising.

#### REPEATED USAGE

As a social media app, Amino is focused on keeping its communities engaged and coming back for more. Part of this approach is encouraging people to build up 'streaks', as users are awarded reputation points for logging in regularly. This type of mechanism, of course, always carries the risk of young people feeling a compulsion to repeatedly check in with the app, further increasing their screen time.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

#### TALK ABOUT IT

If your child is old enough and chooses to download and use Amino, it's probably wise to remind them of some online safety basics – such as how not everyone in the digital world is who they claim to be, for example, or not to give out personal information online. It might also be a good idea to go into the app's settings and disable incoming chat requests from users that your child doesn't know.

#### STAY UPDATED

Ensure that your child knows to report any upsetting or worrying online content they might see to you. As much as possible, try to stay aware of which communities they're joining on Amino. Most of these areas are well moderated and full of innocent conversation about common interests, but on any platform of this breadth, there's always the potential for chats to veer off into potentially harmful places.

#### MEMBERSHIP MEDIATION

If your child asks for an Amino+ membership but you're not entirely comfortable with that, be prepared to explain your decision in depth. Young people's sense of injustice can naturally become inflamed when their friends have things that they don't. Parents of older teens, meanwhile, might actually decide to agree to the membership request but continue to monitor their child's activity on the app.

#### MONITOR SCREEN TIME

If you haven't already, you might want to consider setting up controls such as Family Sharing (on iOS devices) or Family Link (on Android) so, from your own device, you can keep an eye on how much screen time your child is having – and what apps they're spending it on. This can be extremely useful with regard to platforms such as Amino, which can be quite addictive and reward repeated use.

### Meet Our Expert

David Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site Gameon 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 iD and TechAdvisor.



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