



One family, belonging, believing and learning together.  
Romans 12v5 'So in Christ we, though many, form one  
body, and each member belongs to all the others'.



## Amethyst Book Recommendations

### The children of Castle Rock by William W

I like this book because it can take you on an adventure. It is about a group of children going to a boarding school and wanting to escape.

### Danny the Champion of the World by Oliver

I think it's a great book because Roald Dahl is a great author and he uses amazing language.

### Alexander Arnold by Sonny

I chose this book because I like football and it inspires me to become a footballer and be something better in my life.

### Dragon Mountain by Charlotte

I recommend this book because if you are an adventurous person I think you would like it. It is about 4 people who search for dragons on a mountain called Dragon Mountain and they go looking for dragons. The main characters are called Billy Chan, Dylan, Charlotte and Liu Ling-Fie.

## Great events

Well done to all our choir members who went to Young Voices and performed at the Manchester arena on Wednesday. 28 children and 4 staff had a great time.

Also, well done to our Y3/4 athletes who won the latest round at the indoor athletics and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> overall out of 14 teams!!

## Email protocol

We are developing an email protocol to ensure that messages get to the correct place at the correct time, whilst also recognising teacher workload. Our teachers spend a lot of time planning, assessing and marking and don't always have time to check their emails daily. They are also not expected to check their emails outside of normal working hours.

- If your message is something that absolutely needs to be known on the day (e.g. who is picking up, child not feeling well, no PE) please send these emails (or phonecalls) to the office: Mrs Glennon doesn't work Wednesdays but Mrs Preece is in on this day. These will be checked every morning and passed on to teachers.

[bursar@stpauls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:bursar@stpauls.lancs.sch.uk)

[preecea@stpauls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:preecea@stpauls.lancs.sch.uk)

[head@stpauls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:head@stpauls.lancs.sch.uk)

- For other messages (about learning, friendships, concerns etc.) that need to be sent to the class teacher, the teachers will attempt to contact you via email or phone within **72 hours**. This is a recognition of the time taken to formulate an informed reply, as well as a recognition of the amount of other work teachers have to undertake to ensure the day runs smoothly for your child.
- If your concern is something that you feel requires an earlier reply, please email Mr Gittins who will assess the email and ensure a reply is sent within an acceptable time frame.

We understand that email is now the main source of contact with parents and hopefully this will continue to be productive under these guidelines. Once fully formulated, we will send an email protocol home for parents. Thank you for your understanding.



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## Accelerated reader

AR certificates will be presented in family worship.

**Word count: Amethyst class: 2,226,661 words**

1. Sophia W: 385,710 words
2. Sophia H: 341,932 words
3. Edward L: 202,359 words

**Sapphire Class: 2,352,700 words**

1. Hannah R: 385,907 words
2. Isaac C: 368,816 words
3. Anayah A: 303,576 words

**Emerald Class: 1,200,258 words**

1. George C: 381,715 words
2. Elizabeth H: 184,141 words
3. Isaac G: 73,773 words

**Topaz class: 53,725 words**

1. Sebastian M: 13,847 words
2. Ethan H: 9,140 words
3. William C: 7,275 words

**Successful quizzes: Amethyst class: 69 quizzes**

1. Sophia H: 11/11 quizzes
2. Sophia W: 6/6 quizzes
3. Thomas J: 5/5 quizzes

**Sapphire Class: 103 quizzes**

1. Isaac C/Esme R: 14/14 quizzes
2. Anayah A: 11/13 quizzes
3. Hannah R: 10/10 quizzes

**Emerald class: 123 quizzes**

1. Rose J: 14/19 quizzes
2. Makar M: 13/16 quizzes
3. Katie D: 8/11 quizzes

**Topaz class: 49 quizzes**

1. Elodie R: 12/12 quizzes
2. Isla W: 9/10 quizzes
3. Sebastian M: 9/13 quizzes

## VIPs

A massive CSP well done to all our super VIPs this week.

**Diamond** - Tabitha for working hard on her tricky words!

**Ruby** – Oscar for a wonderful attitude in PE, he organised himself and joined in well. He has worked really hard and has been helpful in class.

**Topaz** – Beatrice for bringing joy and fun into our class every day with her wonderful smile, funny jokes and positive attitude in every situation. You are a joy to teach!

**Emerald** - Charlie for showing a mature attitude, working hard and making good progress. Well done!

**Sapphire** - Evie C for growing in confidence and showing a mature attitude consistently.

**Amethyst** – Sophia W for outstanding contributions to all lessons and for always giving 100% in class, thank you.

## Confirmation

Bishop Jill Duff will be taking a confirmation service on Sunday 12th May at 10 am at St Paul's Church. If you think you or your Yr 6 child would like to find out more about confirmation and what it means as a commitment of faith, please contact Helen Scamman (the vicar) on 07515498860 or [vicar@stpaulscaton.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stpaulscaton.org.uk) I would love to hear from you.

## School lunches

We will be on week 2 of the autumn/winter lunch menu when we return to school on Monday 19 February.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

Also known as Monkey Cool, this platform aims to fill the gap left by Omegle (which has now shut down) by placing users in random video chats with strangers. Participants use their mobile number and Snapchat username to connect to the service, where they can make matches, message other people and join group chats. The mobile version has been removed from the App Store due to safety concerns, but iPhone owners can still access the site via their web browser. The app remains available on Google Play, where its listing claims that Monkey has more than 30 million users worldwide.

AGE RESTRICTION  
**17+**

(Although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a fake date of birth)

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



### IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



### INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



## Advice for Parents & Carers

### DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



### RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



### REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



### SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

