



Weekly Newsletter

Living to Learn, Learning to Live



REACH FOR THE STARS

23.05.2025

KEY DATES

09.06.25 - Return to school for Summer 2

W/C 09.06.25 - Y1 Phonics Screening Checks and Y4 Multiplication Checks

12.06.25 - 6KJ Field Trip

13.06.25 - 6MC Field Trip

23.06.25 - Y1 Sports Day

24.06.25 - KS2 Sports Day

24.06.25 - kNOW Knife Crime Relay

25.06.25 - Y2 Sports Day

25.06.25 - Y1 Family Assembly

27.06.25 - EYFS Sports Day

17.07.25 - EYFS/KS1 Prize Giving

18.07.25 - KS2 Prize Giving

21.07.25 - Y6 Leavers' Assembly

22.07.25 2pm - Finish for Summer Holidays



Hello Parents and Carers!

This week we have had lots of exciting things going on in school! On Wednesday, 4CM went on their TTRS competition –winning trip. They had a fantastic time in the sun at Norris Green Park playing rounders and having a picnic, finished with a lovely visit to Norris Green Library, where the children got their own library cards and could choose a book to borrow! 4CM had a great time! We have also had our Year 1 children visit Strawberry Field this week linked to their History focus of The Beatles. Their behaviour was brilliant and they were so engaged!

On Thursday, our Key Stage 2 children were lucky enough to take part in workshops with Ian Bland, a children's poet. The children really enjoyed these workshops and were so enthused!

You may remember that, last year, we were identified as a Centre of Excellence school for the Inclusion Quality Mark Inclusive School Award. In order to retain Centre of Excellence status, we have to have a yearly review to check we are maintaining our standards. This took place on Monday this week, and was very positive - the assessor was really impressed and very complimentary about school! We will share highlights of the report once we receive this.



We are so lucky to have some amazing footballers in our school! Well done to Jack and Sonny in Year 6 who recently won a football tournament, progressing through all of the rounds with ease and even scoring a few goals along the way! Also, a huge well done to Harley in Year 3 who was awarded Players' Player of the Year for his football team. Well done boys!



We finish today for half term, and will return to school on Monday 9th June at 8:45am.

Wishing all of our families a wonderful half term holiday!

Miss Howard

Year One Phonics

This week in Phonics, Year 1 have been revising previously-taught sounds in preparation for the Phonics Screening Check in June.

We have been focusing on split digraphs, particularly in alien words.

Can you read the following alien words?
splade, cheve, blime, stoipe, kuse, flabe, swibe, clome

Keep working hard by practising your reading and phonics during half term!

ATTENDANCE is one of our school values

As a school we strive to achieve at least 97% attendance. This week, we have not even hit 95% which is very disappointing. It is important children are in school, on time, everyday in order to ensure they reach their full potential.

OVERALL - 93.9%

Monday - 92.8%
Tuesday - 92.8%
Wednesday - 94.4%
Thursday - 92.2%
Friday - 88.5%

Due to attendance being so poor this week, particularly on Friday, only one class achieved over 97% attendance - 6MC. Well done! You will receive Champions' Breakfast in the first week back after half term.





SPOTLIGHT ON...

Design and Technology (DT)

Within Design and Technology, we strive to prepare children to take part in the development of tomorrow's rapidly-changing world. We aim to encourage children to become creative problem-solvers, both as individuals and as part of a team. Through the study of DT, children combine practical skills with an understanding of aesthetic, social and environmental issues, as well as of functions and industrial practices. This allows them to reflect on and evaluate present and past design and technology, its uses and its impact. Our DT curriculum is high-quality, well-thought-out and is planned to demonstrate progression. We focus on progression of knowledge and skills and discreet vocabulary progression also form part of the units of work.

Each year group from Year 1 to Year 6 will teach three units throughout the year, each with a core focus; cookery, textiles and structures and mechanisms. Within each sequence of lessons, the following structure is followed:

1. Research: look into works of particular artists, designers or engineers
2. Practise: children are able to have a go at the skills they are covering in their sketch books/art books
3. Plan: children to plan out and sketch/design what they will produce for their final piece drawing upon the skills practised in previous lessons.
4. Make/Create: children will create their design.
5. Evaluate/Reflect: children look back at their work and comment on what went well and what they could improve.

In Years 5 and 6, the most recent units taught have been linked to structures and mechanisms.

Year 5 have been creating pulleys.

The pulley needed to raise and lower a country's flag in front of a major landmark from that country. Can you guess any of the countries from the flags or landmarks?



Year 6 created Anderson Shelters linked to their History topic of the Second World War. They had to consider materials and appropriate structures.



TTRS AND NUMBOTS WINNERS THIS WEEK

TTRS

Most correct answers: Alice CI Y3 - 2,945

Most coins: Alice CI Y3 - 20,740

Improved speed: Aday SA Y3 - Improved by 6.15 seconds

Fastest current studio speed: Momen M Y4 - 0.51 seconds

Numbots

Most minutes played: Elijah MJ - 46 minutes

Correct answers: Ayaan K Y2 - 474

Most coins: Ayaan K Y2 - 3,533

Respect



NUMBOTS

CURRENTLY READING...

In school, every class dedicates 15 minutes a day to reading for pleasure from a carefully-crafted reading spine. This allows children to explore new worlds, builds imagination and develop a lifelong love for books! From now until the end of the year, children from each year group will share a book that has been one of their favourites this year.

2MB's favourite book this year is the book we are currently reading, 'You're a Bad Man, Mr Gum!' by Andy Stanton. We like that it has many funny parts, including the big whopper of a dog leaving a 'little gift' in people's gardens and Mr Gum getting hit with a frying pan by a fairy that lives in his bath! Perfect for fans of Roald Dahl and David Walliams.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by wasting hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, so they're encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play Minecraft without having to contend with enemies. It's also a great way for you to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is far lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server presents dangers from finding it, as few have been given strings from finding it, as few they've been given their address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a child knows never to tell a stranger about themselves online and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with clay or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Joyce Coombes is brand editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College