



Weekly Newsletter

Living to Learn, Learning to Live



REACH FOR THE STARS

24.10.2025

KEY DATES

31.10.25 - Deadline for Year 6 parents to apply for secondary school preferences

03.11.25 - Return to school for Autumn 2

W/C 03.11.25 - Y3 and 4 Stay and Learn Sessions

10.11.25 - Y6 Residential

W/C 17.11.25 - Parents' Evening Week (Further details to follow)

02.12.25 - EYFS Open Day

05.12.25 - Flu Vaccination Programme

W/C 08.12.25 - Christmas Performances (Dates TBC)

17.12.25 - Christmas Fair

18.12.25 - Christmas Parties

19.12.25 2pm - Finish for Christmas Holidays

Hello Parents and Carers!

This week in school, we have held numerous events - a Coffee Morning for parents, a Sleep Workshop, Stay, Play and Learn events for Years 1, 2 and 6 and the children's highlight of the school calendar - discos! Thank you to everybody who attended, and to the children for being fantastic at the discos last night! We had a brilliant time! In the first week back after the half term break, Years 3 and 4 will host their Stay, Play and Learn sessions at 2:15pm on each of the following days:

Tuesday - 3OK

Wednesday - 4CM

Thursday - 3CY

Friday - 4SM

Please report to the school office at the time specified on the invite sent by your child's class teacher.

After half term, we will be holding Parents' Evenings where parents are invited to meet with their class teacher for an update on their progress. Further details will be shared about this during the first week back.

A reminder that we finish today at 3:15pm for the October half term break.

We wish all of our families a lovely week off!

Miss Howard

Respect



Cooperate



THIS WEEK IN PSHE

This week in PSHE Assembly, we were lucky enough to have an assembly delivered by Children's University! Children who achieved awards last academic year were presented with their certificates, and we were given a reminder about what Children's University is. If you would like a Children's University Passport for your child, these can be purchased from the school office.

What is Children's University?

We are a national charitable organisation which celebrates learning that takes place outside of school hours. Pupils collect 'credits' for the time they spend outside of school hours participating in a huge variety of different learning activities.

How does it work?

Your child can collect 'credits' by:

- Attending after school clubs run by your child's school
- Attending 'Learning Destinations' in your area (such as swimming lessons, cubs, brownies, football training, gymnastics lessons, music lessons, the list is endless!)
- Attending structured activity sessions at libraries, museums, farms, leisure centres and more across the whole country.
- By taking part in holiday challenges set by your local Children's University.

Year One Phonics

This week, Year 1 have been revising Phase Four sounds and blending consonants at the end of words.

These types of words are known as CVCC words - for example, 'lamp', 'band', 'vest', 'tent'.

Can you spot the consonant clusters in this sentence?

The band with the lamp stayed in a tent at the camp.

We have also been practising the tricky words 'said', 'have', 'like', 'some' and 'come'.

Look in your book and see if you can find these tricky words!

ATTENDANCE is one of our school values

As a school we are striving to achieve at least 97% attendance each week. This week we have had two days over 96%, which is an improvement, however we still have not had one 97% day this year! It is vital children are in school every day and that holidays are not taken in term time.

OVERALL - 93.3%

Monday - 91.6%

Tuesday - 92.4%

Wednesday - 96.2%

Thursday - 96.0%

Friday - 91.1%

Well done to 3OK who, again, were the only class with over 97% attendance this week!

Attend



Home Learning

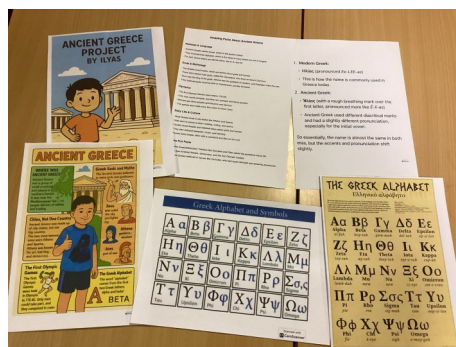
At Wellesbourne, we want to give our children the best possible chance to achieve well. In school, we use every minute to deliver high-quality teaching and learning, however we know the impact that regular recall and retrieval practise has on committing learning to long-term memory. Practising key concepts and skills taught in school at home really helps with this. This year, we are having a big push on home learning, as we know the different regular practise of concepts such as learning spellings, times tables and reading can make for children. We have introduced a new Home Learning certificate in our weekly Praise Assemblies, which is given to a child from each class to recognise their efforts and commitment in this area. We also reward home learning by moving children's names up the ladder and by giving our Wellies, our school currency. Where children do not complete the weekly home learning set by their teacher, school staff will spend time catching them up during part of their break time to ensure they do not fall behind.

Teachers set the following home learning each week:

Reading (Reception – Y6)	Read at least three times per week
Homework (Reception – Y6)	Maths (Reception – Y4) Maths and SPAG (Y5 and Y6) Sent home on a Friday, needs to be returned by the following Wednesday
Spelling (Y1 – Y6)	Sent home on a Friday, tested the following Friday

We also encourage the use of **Lexia**, **LetterJoin**, **Numbots** and **Times Tables Rock Stars** as often as possible - please speak to your child's class teacher if you do not have your child's login for these platforms.

Some of our children have taken their home learning a step further by doing their own research and presenting it to their class.
Look at Ilyas from Y4's hard work!



TTRS AND NUMBOTS WINNERS THIS WEEK

TTRS

Most correct answers: Luke S Y4 - 12,376

Most coins: Luke S Y4 - 71,798

Improved speed: Ngcali O Y4 - Improved by 1.24 seconds

Fastest current studio speed: Luke S Y4 - 0.5 seconds (Wow! I think this may be our fastest ever!)

Numbots

Most minutes played: Aurora D Y1 - 37 minutes

Correct answers: Aurora D Y1 - 226

Most coins: Aurora D Y1 - 1,302

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!

This week's recommendation comes from 1GA!

1GA recommend 'Old Bear' by Jane Hissey.



1GA say, "We have loved reading about how Old Bear's friends work together to help rescue him from the attic. We have also enjoyed reading other stories from the Old Bear collection!"

NUMBOTS

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 erasing 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, actively 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 prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its 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 LEGO 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

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming 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