



### Achievement Assembly

Our achievement assembly celebrated children who have "stayed focused" this week. Well done to the following children:

**Reception:** Ariah **Year 1:** Jessica **Year 2:** Lola

**Year 3:** Alex **Year 4:** Alfie **Year 5:** Maisie **Year 6:** Year 6

### Celebrating Attendance

Whole school attendance is currently at 95.5%

Well done to Year 6 for best attendance this week at 99.6%!

### Date for Diary

- Thur 22nd May - Y5 to Gibside
- **Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Inset day - school closed to pupils**
- W/C 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Multicultural week - would you like to tell us your story?
- Fri 6<sup>th</sup> June - Y3 visiting Birtley library
- **Midnight 15<sup>th</sup> June - School Uniform order deadline for free to School Delivery**
- Tues 17<sup>th</sup> June - Y2 & Y4 Newcastle trip & Discovery Museum Workshops
- Thur 19<sup>th</sup> June - Sponsored colour run event/national picnic day lunch
- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> July - Summer School Fayre 2pm
- **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July - Occasional Day - school closed to pupils and staff**
- Thur 10<sup>th</sup> July - DT Showcase/workshop, timings will be shared in the summer term

### School Catering Notification

We have received notification from School Catering regarding a food supplier who will be closing their Northern depot in July. In the meantime, Catering may experience some substitutes or shortages which could then affect school meals.

We have been assured kitchens will inform school as best they can in advance where feasible, although deliveries are often made daily to suit weekly orders made by our school catering team, so stock of certain items may not be available on the day and the dinner menus may then need to change quickly to ensure a lunch is provided to those children who have ordered one. Please be assured those on a medical diet will be always catered for. Please bear with us and school catering, this is beyond our control,

### Polite reminder

The vast majority of parents, carers and others visiting our school are keen to work with us and support the school. We recognise that disagreements and differences of opinion may occur, however, it is important that while issues are resolved we continue to treat each other with respect.

We believe staff, parents and children are entitled to a safe and protective environment in which to work. Behaviour that will cause harassment, alarm or distress is contrary to the aims of the school.

### Rights Respecting

Article 28 & 29: I have the right to an education



### TEMPEST Class Photo Order deadline

Free delivery back to school is Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Order through the Tempest website using your unique link or visit [www.tempest-orders.co.uk](http://www.tempest-orders.co.uk) If you need any assistance in ordering your photos, feel free to contact Tempest on 01736 751555 (option 3).



BIG AWARD  
awarded by the Education  
Endowment Foundation



**Multicultural Week w/b 3<sup>rd</sup> June – would you like to come in and tell us your story?**

Every year we take part in Multicultural Week which allows us to explore different parts of the world and the different environmental issues that may affect them. This year, we are going to explore the diversity of Great Britain. We would love volunteers to come in and discuss their heritage with the children in school W/B 3<sup>rd</sup> June. We are looking for people to:

- Tell stories of what it was like in the area when they were younger. Has there been changes?
- Tell us about your religion
- Tell us if you have always lived in the area or if you moved here. If so, why?
- Share or help cook one of your favourite family meals
- Share your family tree and any interesting facts you have found out about your family.

**National Picnic Week/Sponsored colour run**

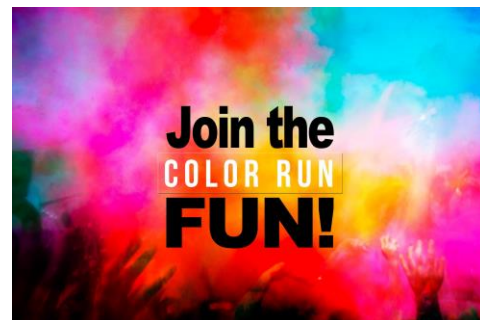
On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June we are having a sponsored colour run event

We will also be celebrating national picnic day too and have a special lunch see below for children who would usually have a school dinner please review the below and relay to your child the day before.

**There will be no other dinner option available.**



As part of our Health and Sports fortnight we are going to also celebrate PRIDE month and take part in a Sponsored Run with a twist of colour! This will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm and **you are all invited!**



**Please complete below consent by 16<sup>th</sup> May**  
<https://forms.gle/yfMAanrJVApfPFG7>

**Children in Need**

Have developed a FREE tool to boost children's mental healthiness The mental and emotional wellbeing of children has long been an issue, and it's vital that we do everything we can to break this cycle for the next generation. Our most recent survey revealed that around 30% of the UK's children now regularly feel anxious or worried.

At BBC Children in Need, we know lots of grownups want to help but aren't always sure how. That's why we've developed Pudsey's Pause with clinical psychologist Dr Julie. It's a super-straightforward, free tool that adults can use with the children in their lives. [Pudsey's Pause - BBC Children in Need](#)





## National Numeracy Day at Portobello will be held on Wed 21st May

The topic this year is all about money this is the first year there has been a themed topic too.

? Why is it important? Research shows, the UK is currently facing a numeracy crisis - 49% of working-age adults have numeracy skills equivalent to primary school level. Poor numeracy costs the UK economy £25 billion each year.

30% of 18-24-year-olds report feeling anxious about using maths - the most maths-anxious group in the UK. If you would like more information, free tips or advice please check out:

<https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/numeracyday>

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI 7

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.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### 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, which is typically around £18. 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

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