

Friday 12th July 2024

Dear Parents,

What a lovely week we have had here in school! The children have had a great trip to the Discovery Museum and Safety works today.

Mrs Hardcastle's daughter, Rachel has joined us this week and brought Boris the tortoise to meet us on Wednesday!



Early Years Breakfast

Mr Harrison would like to invite all of the Early Years parents into school (straight after drop) off for an 'Early Years Breakfast' in our Early Years Unit alongside the children.

Also, as previously mentioned, I will be having coffee and tea with whoever would like to join me also on Thursday morning straight after drop off in the hall until 9.45am (Early Years Parents can join me after their breakfast if you would like to.)

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 18th July – First Aid Responders Workshop

Friday 19th July – 9.15am Leavers Assembly in church –

Please don't forget – School finishes at **1pm on Friday**

Transition Meetings for Parents – Come into school and find out more about the next stage of your child's learning journey!

Tuesday 16th July – 2.45pm – 3.15pm

For parents of children moving from Reception to Year 1

Wednesday 17th July – 2.45pm – 3.15pm

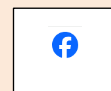
For parents of children moving from Year 2 to Year 3

Thursday 18th July – 2.45pm – 3.15pm

For parents of children moving from Nursery to Reception

Facebook

If you would like to follow our page, please type in Whitley Chapel C of E and the page should appear. We will of course respectfully honor the wishes of parents who did not give consent.



Have a lovely weekend everyone!
Let's hope England win on Sunday!
See you all next week!
Mrs Hayward



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING
7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying: it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too unworldly in the game. However, some of the 'badies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

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 lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your 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.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (p.k.a. Lunafox) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2011, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunafox Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday