

16TH MAY 2025

NEWSLETTER:

COTEFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our weekly newsletter, here we will keep you
Up to date with important information and upcoming events.
Please also keep an eye on your year group newsletters
And our school website: <https://www.cotefordjunior.org.uk/>

Merit Book:

The following children are in the merit book this week:

3EB: Chloe for her fantastic letter to Blue Peter

3TH: Neve for showing great resilience

4HS: Franklin for his huge effort in all aspects of work

4LF: Frankie & Aryana for representing the school with HRH

4IW: Kush for his fabulous 3D model of TOL

5DJ: Jessie for incredible progress in Netball

5EP: Reggie for his recent efforts

5UQ: All of 5UQ for swimming progress

6CK: All of 6CK for working hard in SATs

6KB: All of 6KB for working hard in SATs

6SP: All of 6SP for working hard in SATs

6LK: Fergie & Romeo Beau for representing the school with HRH

Miss Skinner: Ethan & Mason S for Hard work during SATs

Mrs Eckley: Felicity for constant enthusiasm during performance club

Miss Martin: Dylan 4LF for personal progress



- *READY*
- *RESPONSIBLE*
- *RESPECTFUL*

ATTENDANCE THIS WEEK

Year Group	Percent
Year 3	%
Year 4	%
Year 5	%
Year 6	%
Whole school	%

Horse Riding:

Our wonderful horse riders were lucky enough to be invited to a special event at the SBRDA – to celebrate their 60 Year Anniversary.

The centre was also visited by HRH The Princess Royal. Our Coteford students represented the school and the SBRDA by presenting HRH with a lovely bunch of flowers made by one of our talented Year 5 parents.

For more info please visit: <https://southbucksrda.org/sbrda-visited-by-her-royal-highness-the-princess-royal-2/>



Pastoral Info: There are a range of resources which you can find online to help children to feel calmer and also to deal with feeling stressed, worried or overwhelmed.

One really useful website with a range of strategies can be found at:

at <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Here you will find breathing exercises, calming videos, activities and games to help let go of stress.

Why not give them a try!

A screenshot of the Childline website's 'Calm Zone' page. The header is blue with the 'childline' logo and the tagline 'ONLINE, ON THE PHONE, ANYTIME'. Navigation buttons include 'Info and advice', 'Get support', 'Toolbox', 'Get involved', and 'Your locker'. The main content area has a purple background with the text 'CALM ZONE' and a sub-header 'There are lots of ways to feel calmer. It's about finding what works for you. Try some of our breathing exercises, activities, games and videos to help let go of stress.' There is also a search bar and a 'Search Childline' button.

Online Safety: TopTips for parents and Educators

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



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 £15. 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.



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UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

(any new dates will be added in red)

Date:	Information:
W/C 12/05/25	Year 6 SATs
W/C 19/05/25	Year 3-5 Assessments
21/05/25	Open evenings
23/05/25	Inset day (School closed to children)
26-30/05/25	HALF TERM (School closed)
02/06/25	Children Return to school
09/06/25	Year 3 SCARF Workshops
10/06/25	3EB to St Lawrence's Church
10/06/25	Year 4 SCARF Workshops
11/06/25	3TH to St Lawrence's Church
18/06/25	Sports Day
20/06/25-23/06/25	Year 6 School Journey
24/06/25	Year 4 Trip to Synagogue
14/07/25	3EB to Manor Farm
15/07/25	3TH to Manor Farm
21/07/25	Year 6 End of Year Production
22/07/25	END OF TERM (School closes at 12pm)