



School News

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 6th June - Year 6 Class Worship

Parents and carers of children in Year 6 are invited to join us for their class worship at 9.00am in the school hall.



Sunday, 8th June - Pentecost Service 10.00am at St. Mary's Church, Eastry

All parents, carers, family and friends are warmly invited to join us for the third of our special joint services with St. Mary's Church Eastry on Sunday, 8th June at 10.00am when we celebrate Pentecost. We hope to see you there.



Monday, 9th to Friday 13th June - PTFA Father's Day Present Wrapping during Lunchtimes

The PTFA will again be holding their Father's Day gift shop during lunchtimes in the library from Monday to Friday next week. Children will be able to purchase small gifts for loved ones costing from 50p to £3.00. Please can we ask that children bring money in a purse labelled with their name, thank you. **If you can help one lunchtime next week in our Father's Day shop, please let the school know - thank you.**

Monday 9th June - Partnership with Parents meeting at 9.00am - Drop in Session on Internet Safety and Setting up Parental Controls

On Monday we have the last of this year's Partnership with Parents meetings. We will be running a drop in session on internet safety and how to set up parental controls on your devices at home. Please bring your questions or queries and we will do our best to help resolve these. We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Wednesday, 11th June - Year 5 visit to Dover Castle

Wednesday, 11th June - Year 6 visit to the Science Jamboree

Wednesday, 11th June - Year 3 & Year 4 Catch-up Swimming Lessons

Thursday, 12th June - Vision Screening Checks & Hearing Retests for Fledglings

Friday, 13th June - PTFA Non-Uniform Day

We are holding a non-uniform day on Friday, 13th June for donations towards the PTFA 'Children's Gift Tombola' and 'Adult Bottle Tombola' to be held at the summer fair.

Friday, 13th June - Year 5 Class Worship

Parents and carers of children in Year 5 are invited to join us for their class worship at 9.00am in the school hall.

HEALTH ADVICE/ONLINE SAFETY SECTION

MINECRAFT



Minecraft continues to be the most popular game of all time with children able to use their creative side, building castles or mining for resources. This week we have attached a guide for parents with some top tips on keeping your child safe while playing this game. The guide is aimed at reducing the risks of chatting online or unintended purchases whilst still embracing the game's creative and educational side.

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



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.



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PTFA News



Summer Fair

Friday, 20th June at 3.30pm on the School Field

We are holding our annual Summer Fair after school on Friday, 20th June. This is a very popular event for our children and families but this is only made possible by the support from parents, their family and friends, and donations towards our raffle and other stalls.

If you feel you can help with setting up, manning a stall during the event, or clearing up after, we would love to hear from you. All help would be very gratefully received. We would also welcome any gifts for our Summer Fair raffle. If you can help please email eastrypta@outlook.com or let the school office know.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AND NEWS

Budding Artists Needed!

'Eastry Painting for Pleasure' group are holding their exhibition over the weekend of 28th-29th June and would like to include a display of paintings from any talented artist at Eastry School. Please bring your paintings to the school office by Wednesday, 25th June. We can't wait to see your entries and there may also be some art related prizes from the group for some of our artists!

'My Dad' In Newspapers Next Week

The KM Media Group will be publishing their 'My Dad' supplement in all paid newspapers next week. We hope all our Dad's and special people in our children's lives enjoy Father's Day on Sunday, 15th June.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Week commencing 9.6.2025

MONDAY	
Football Club (3.30 to 4.30pm)	Yes
Netball Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	Yes
TUESDAY	
Cheerleading Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	Yes
WEDNESDAY	
Singing Club (8.00 to 8.30am)	Yes
Home Learning Club (3.30 to 4.00pm)	Yes
Reading Club (3.30 to 4.00pm)	Yes
THURSDAY	
Harmony Club (3.30 to 4.15pm)	Yes
FRIDAY	

Kind regards

Mrs Sarah Moss
Headteacher