



Newsletter Friday 16th May 2025

ELIJAH

Elijah told her not to fear, and to first make him a small loaf of bread.

He then said:

"For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.'"

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you've been able to enjoy the beautiful weather we've been experiencing recently!

Enjoying the Sunshine!

What a glorious spell of weather it has been! The sunshine has certainly lifted everyone's spirits across the school. It's wonderful to see the children enjoying their playtimes outdoors and to be able to make the most of our lovely school grounds. Let's hope it continues! Just a reminder that a hat and a water bottle are vital kit to keep everyone safe and well on these sunny days.

A Huge Well Done to Year 6!

This past week has been a significant one for our Year 6 children as they took on their SATs. These are statutory tests in reading, mathematics, spelling, grammar and punctuation, taken by all children in England. I wanted to take this opportunity to express just how incredibly proud all the staff are of each and every one of them. They approached the tests with such focus, determination, and a positive attitude. Their resilience and effort throughout the revision period and the test week itself have been wonderful. They worked incredibly hard, and regardless of the outcomes, their positive approach is what truly shines through. Well done, Year 6 – you are all stars!

Celebrating Effort with Dojos!

Our Class Dojo system continues to be a fantastic tool for recognising and celebrating the children's wonderful efforts and positive behaviours throughout the school day. We are constantly impressed by the children's enthusiasm and commitment to earning Dojos for everything from excellent work and demonstrating kindness to showing great listening skills and perseverance. Every child is making a fantastic effort to earn points, contributing positively to their class community and their own learning journey.

A special mention and huge congratulations go to all the children who have already reached the fantastic milestone of achieving their **Bronze Dojo Star**! This is a brilliant achievement and a testament to their consistent hard work and positive contributions. Well done to you all! Keep up the brilliant work, everyone, as you continue to strive towards your next targets.

Looking Ahead

As we move further into this busy and exciting term, we want to thank you, as always, for your continued support for your children and for the school.

With warm regards,

Mrs M Underwood



Change of address

Please ensure the school office has the most up-to-date phone numbers and addresses for parents/carers and emergency contacts. This information is crucial for the school's records.



Take what you need - Give when you can

The GMSJ food bank receives regular top-ups during the week, and we usually stock fresh items on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Due to the current warmer temperatures, items may have a shorter shelf life. We encourage you to visit the food bank specifically on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to access the latest supplies. Please take what you need and give when you can and remember to be considerate to other people by not taking more than is needed.

Warmer Weather

With the warmer weather hopefully staying a while longer, please ensure your child comes to school dressed appropriately. This includes bringing a sun hat if needed, applying sunscreen before school, and remembering a water bottle.



You can order school uniform online

<https://www.pbuniform-online.co.uk/greatmarsden>

Please ensure that all clothing and belongings have your child's name in. Thank you

Stay and read for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 is every Tuesday from 8.45am - 9am in the classrooms.

Don't forget: There is no crossing patrol until further notice. Take extra care on roads around school and assist other children crossing where possible. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

19th May	Y1	Whalley Primary School
19-21st May	Y6	Robinwood
21st May	Whole school	Last day for sunflower entries
26th-2nd May/ June	Whole school	May half term
3rd June	Whole school	School re-opens 8.45am
11th June	Y3	Ingleborough Caves
11th June	New Intake	Parents Meeting for September starters
13th June	Whole school	GMSJ Beat the Teacher
30th June	Reception	Blackpool Zoo
30th June	KS2	Sports Day
1st July	KS1/EYFS	Sports Day

GMSJ Good News Page

Dojo Certificate Winners



Well Done to our First Bronze Dojo Winners. All of these children have received over 50 dojos already since it was rolled out at Easter.

This weeks Medal Winners are:

Lily	- Year 1 -	for fantastic independent writing about Boris
Lorenzo	- Year 1 -	for fantastic independent writing about Boris
Riley	- Year 1 -	for fantastic independent writing about Boris
Fletcher	- Year 2 -	for devastatingly good diary entry as Samuel Pepys
Hassan	- Year 4 -	for working so hard to improve his handwriting and presentation
Ruby	- Year 5 -	for superb maths
Eric	- Year 6 -	for being a responsible and mature play leader

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 ending 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