



Compassion Friendship Respect Forgiveness Trust Thankfulness

Keep your roots deep in Jesus Christ the Lord, build your lives on him and always be thankful. *Colossians 2:7*

9th June 2026

This week our Year 1 pupils are undertaking their Phonics Screening check and Year 4s their Multiplication Times Tables check, both national statutory tests. Please ensure your children are well rested, have had a good breakfast and are ready to perform at their best. Thank you

Water safety – Important message

Following recent tragic incidents involving water, this is an important reminder of how quickly situations can change. As the weather gets warmer, more children and young people are spending time around rivers, lakes and the coast, increasing the risk of harm. Even on hot days, open water can be dangerously cold, and conditions are often unpredictable.

Key water safety messages

Please help reinforce the following advice:

- **Stop and Think:** Check for hidden hazards such as deep water, currents and cold temperatures
- **Stay Together:** Never go into or near water alone; choose areas with lifeguards where possible
- **Call 999 in an emergency:** Ask for the Coastguard at the coast, or Fire & Rescue if you are inland
- **Float** – If you fall in, stay calm, float on your back and control your breathing.



Lost Property – We have a huge pile of lost property and a large amount of excellent condition uniform that has been donated to school, please have a look on the rail and help yourself if you have lost something or need a different size.

Class Blogs – We are constantly updating our class blogs, please take a look to see what is going on in school - <https://www.inskip.lancs.sch.uk/blog/category/lower-school-ks1>

Online Safety – our school safeguarding pages contain lots of practical advice about staying safe online, please take a look - <https://www.inskip.lancs.sch.uk/parents/operation-encompass>.

Parent Pay – all charges on parent pay are completely up to date, please log on and make a payment.

Year 5 – Are you currently in year 5 and thinking about high school places? Some local high schools are running open days during the summer term, if you would like more details please ask Mrs Hill.

Parking - Please could we remind all parents to respect our neighbours and each other on the school pick up and drop off. Please ensure you are not blocking any roads or driveways. Thank you for your support.

Cycling to school – we love seeing the children cycling to school however, please ensure if your child does cycle that they wear a helmet.

Term Dates – our term dates for 2026/2027 are available on the school website - <https://www.inskip.lancs.sch.uk/parents/termdates>

Summer Fayre – FRIDAY 10th JULY from 3:15pm to 5pm. Everyone Welcome!



Operation Encompass – We are proud to be part of operation encompass, this is a unique Police and Education early intervention safeguarding partner-ship which ensures that a child's school is informed, prior to the start of the next school day, that there has been a domestic abuse, vulnerable child or missing incident to which the child or young person has been exposed, and which might then have an impact on them in school the following day.

Dates for the diary: - new items in red

12 th June	Non-uniform day – tombola prize
12 th June	School Nurse drop-in session
19 th June	Library van visit
24 th June	Upper School Trip (details to follow)
26th June	Sports Day – Parents are invited to join us at 2pm
30 th June	Bike ability for Upper School
30 th June	Lower School Trip (details to follow)
2 nd July	Move Up Day
2 nd July	Garstang Community Academy Transition Day
3 rd July	Non-uniform day – tombola prize
7 th July	Bike ability for Upper School
10 th July	Library Van Visit
10 th July	School Nurse drop-in session
10 th July	Summer Fayre – 3.15pm until 5pm
13th July	Upper School Performances – 2pm and 6pm
14th July	Middle School Musical Performance – 3pm
14 th July	Friends Summer Disco – 5.30pm until 7pm
17 th July	School closes at 1:15pm for the Summer Holidays

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. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.






See full reference list on our website

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www.thenationalcollege.com
[@wake.up.wednesday](https://www.instagram.com/wake.up.wednesday)
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