



St Mary's C of E (Aided) Primary School



# NEWSLETTER

"A Christ-centred school with a child-centred curriculum through wisdom and love"  
Jesus said, 'Love one another as I have loved you.' John 15 v 12

Telephone: 01798 872007

WB 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025

This half term we are thinking about Trust, Truthfulness and Faith and the children have thought about who they trust and why they trust them. The entrance hall is now filled with our thoughts.

PE Kits for KS2 – A reminder that PE kits must be school uniform. Y6 may wear Leaver's hoodies but the rest of KS2 should wear a fleece or school jumper – no other hoodies please. Football kits and home clothes are not permitted and are not school uniform. Thank you for your cooperation with this.



## Church Links

**Reflection** - This week's reflection! [Faith](#) Thank you to Mrs Smith for such a wonderful reflection!

## Learning

**SAT's KS2 Breakfast** – What better start to the day and the week but breakfast! The children were treated to a range of pastries, hot and cold options, yoghurts, fruit kebabs and scrambled egg. This is the perfect way to meet with your friends, reduce any anxiety, ask questions of the staff and see the exam set up before having to do the tests. We are very grateful to Tesco for helping us with some of the costs and to Howdens who sponsored some of the food as well.



**Year 5 Residential – Cobnor** – A great residential for Year 5. The children arrived in Cobnor to sunshine and we participated in lots of outdoor activities. The children paddled, sailed, orienteered, completed pioneering activities and aero ball. In the evenings we hiked to the beach to create pebble sculptures, look at shore life and watch the sunset and we had our own campfire with smores. A great time was had by all!



**Millionaires** – Well done to Mattie who has achieved a million words and well done to Flora who has achieved two million words. What a great achievement!



**Visit to The Anchorage** – Mrs Hatcher and Mrs Flinders took some children to The Anchorage. This is a speaking and listening opportunity to work with the older generation and find out more about their lives and share our school life. Thank you to The Anchorage for having us.



## News

**Hayfever** – Hayfever season is now in full swing. Parents should be administering any hay fever relief medication before the pupil starts school each day if needed. Thank you

## Things to know...

**Summer Fayre** - Lundy-Lester Estate Agents are keen to advertise our summer fayre using 'For Sale' boards and will donate £10 to our PTA for every one displayed. If any parents / carers / neighbours etc are happy to have an advertising board outside their home for the two weeks leading up to the event, please let the office staff know.

**Chartwells' meal choices** – Please could we ask that when ordering your child's meal choice, you sit down together and choose their preferred option. We have had a number of children refusing to eat what was ordered for them and, as a school, we only receive what you have ordered to reduce food waste.



#### June Cut off Dates

Thurs 22/05 for w/c 02/06

Thurs 29/05 for w/c 09/06

Thurs 05/06 for w/c 16/06

Thurs 12/06 for w/c 23/06

#### Dates for your diary – Summer Term

21<sup>st</sup> May – Film Night Y2/3/4

2<sup>nd</sup> June – Y6 Residential PGL

#### Celebration Assemblies – These are class assemblies that start at 9am.

21<sup>st</sup> May – SL

22<sup>nd</sup> May – China

5<sup>th</sup> June – Thailand

12<sup>th</sup> June – USA

19<sup>th</sup> June – Mexico

25<sup>th</sup> June – NZ

26<sup>th</sup> June – India

3<sup>rd</sup> July – Italy

10<sup>th</sup> July – UK

22<sup>nd</sup> July – Japan and SA Leavers Assembly – 9.30am – 2 seats per family (no more due to space)

#### Celebrations

**Kindness Award** – For May – **Ivy D (SA)** – You amaze us with your kindness, humility and generosity. Your kindness extends to anyone you come across and your words are always kind. You come alongside others in a sweet and compassionate way. Never change – what a fantastic role model you are!



**Vine leaves** – Anthony M (Chi) - Humility - for always clearing up after others and sorting out personal belongings – without being asked. **Ella C** and **Bea G (Mex)** - Responsibility – for taking care of others who needed some support with the day's activities on residential. **Alfie P (Chi)** - Courage - for going above and beyond in everything on residential and being a shining light. **Caitlin T (Jap)** – Courage – for pushing through with resilience during SATs **Oscar M (SA)** – Kindness – for offering the last fruit kebab to another child **Lucas M (Mex)** - Perseverance – for participating in every activity with determination and showing resilience to overcome new challenges. **Tommy M** and **Fred M (USA)** - Compassion and Friendship – for being kind to a younger child who felt left out. They stayed with him and made him feel included. **Violet H (NZ)** - Wisdom – for teaching a group of 6 children origami in Quiet Club. **Martha G (NZ)** - Courage - for coming into school independently each morning and showing such bravery throughout the day. **Lewis C** and **Ivy R (Ita)** - Perseverance - for trying incredibly hard in their writing, you should be proud of all you have achieved this week! **Molly L, Callie W, Bonnie H** and **Luna B (Ind)** - Friendship – for always being great friends and enjoying making up plays together in the playground. **Bailey N (SL)** - Kindness – for checking in on a friend who was feeling sad.



## Achievements -



**Max H (Mex)** –  
received Player of  
the Match at cricket



**Sienna-Jane C-G &  
Ada B (SL)** – achieved  
first place in their  
slow pairs dance  
competition



**Arlo H (NZ), Ryan D  
(SL) and Theo L (Ind)**  
– won their football  
tournament at the  
weekend



**Esmee J (Ita)** –  
achieved first place in  
their slow pairs  
dance competition

Like us on  
facebook



# THE ANCHORAGE CARE HOME **ART COMPETITION**

## **We Need Your Help!**

Next month is Hydration Month, and we're holding an exciting art competition to help spread the word about how important it is to stay hydrated.

We'd love you to get creative and make a piece of artwork that reminds everyone especially our residents why drinking enough water keeps us healthy, happy, and strong.

You can use drawings, paintings, collages, or any fun and colourful ideas you have

**There will be a prize** for the winner, and the winning artwork will be proudly used to promote the importance of drinking water.



**Please send entries before 30<sup>th</sup> May to**  
The Anchorage Care Home, Coombelands  
Lane, Pulborough, West Sussex  
RH20 1AG



# 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, 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.





The National College®





west  
sussex  
music

ORCHESTRAS INC.  
SEND MUSIC GROUP  
SATURDAYS



## JOIN US

Orchestras Inc. is our incredible SEND music group, open to children and young people with additional needs in Key Stage 2 and above (up to 25 years). No previous experience required. The aim of this group is to have fun exploring music together through a range of instruments, and it's **free** to attend.

FIND OUT MORE AT  
[www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/orchestras-inc](http://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/orchestras-inc)

Supported using public funding by



ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



SIGN UP  
HERE



## ORCHESTRAS INC.

**SATURDAYS DURING JUNE & JULY**

**Orchestras Inc.** is our wonderful SEND ensemble which is open to all children and young people with additional needs, including those attending special schools, those at mainstream schools or colleges with additional needs and those who are home schooled.

This inclusive, creative music group is for children and young people under 25 with special educational needs or disabilities. It is open to young people from anywhere with a parent or carer attending for support, and it's **free** to attend.

### Find your nearest Orchestras Inc. ensemble

**Horsham Music Centre** – Saturday 7, 14, 21, 28 June, 12.30pm – 1.30pm  
Millais School, Depot Road, Horsham RH13 5HR

or

**Worthing Music Centre** – Saturday 5, 12 July, 10.30am – 11.30am  
Bohunt School Worthing, 65a Broadwater Road, Worthing BN14 8AH

### MEET THE TEAM



Alison Sutton



Rania Rummery



Jo Eames

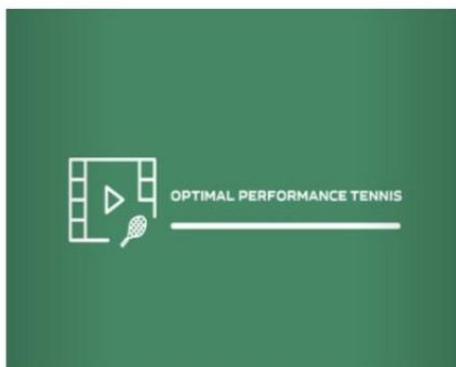


Anna Ryder

[www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/orchestras-inc.](http://www.westsussexmusic.co.uk/orchestras-inc.)



## OPEN DAY Billingshurst Tennis Club - 18/5/2025



**TIMINGS = 2-5pm**

### **SCHEDULE 2-4:15pm:**

- Courts 1 and 2 = Junior tennis (fun games, agility timed challenge)
- Court 3 = Adult intro to coaching
- Court 4 = Beat the members for tennis prizes

### **SCHEDULE 4:15-5pm:**

- Court 1 = Singles match club champ vs coach
- Court 2 = Mixed doubles match (ladies/mens 1st team players)
- Court 3 = ball machine
- Court 4 = free play

### **Sign up deals:**

- free used racket for 8u players who join on the day (fresh grip + dampener)
- 25% off memberships