



# HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future"

Jeremiah 29:11

ISSUE NO. 31 16 May 2025

## DIARY DATES

Tues 20 May	Ladybirds Class Trip to Penshurst Place Reception Height, Weight, Vision Screening
Wed 21 May	Dragonflies Class visit to The Bigwood Estate <b>2.45pm Information Session for Year 1 Parents: Phonics Screening Test</b>
Fri 23 May	School Rounders Match—PE Kits required in school
Mon 2 Jun	INSET Day—school closed for staff training
Fri 6 Jun	Mufti Day: home clothes in return for fete donations for the 'Adults' Tombola' (wine, beer, spirits, toiletries, jams, etc)
w/c 9 Jun	St Peter's Health & Wellbeing Week
Fri 13 Jun	"Bring your Dad to School" morning / 1.30pm Sports Day (weather permitting)

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been **NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK**, so we kicked off on Monday with a brilliant live assembly led by Grieg from the charity '52 Lives'\* - an organisation very familiar to the children and Greig is a regular visitor to St Peter's. The assembly focused on what we can do to keep our minds healthy and what mental health for children means. There were about 200,000 children on the live assembly and, remarkably, we had two shout-outs for our children when we replied to answers. Joseph was able to succinctly say that mental health was about "keeping your mind healthy", while George spoke about the power of community as being "a group of people that work together". We had lots of fabulous answers to questions by all of the children, including James who said that "we belong to a Christian community" when we were thinking about the different types of communities we have, and Flynn who said that "mental health is very important to keep you healthy". Wow, well done everyone, you astonish us daily with your maturity and understanding.

Yesterday the school came together for a Well-being morning participating in painting activities, such as painting stones for the cross in our Peace Garden, reading and gardening; allowing them time for relaxation, self-expression and lots of fun together! We then read a book together all about conquering our fears and knowing that if we are feeling wobbly about something it is always good to say: there is always someone else who will be feeling the same. What a wonderful way for the school to spend time together!

On a similar note regarding whole school collaboration - our rounders match to mark VE Day last week was so successful and enjoyed by everyone, that we have decided to have another one next Friday to mark the end of the first half of the summer term; please make sure the children have their full PE kits in school right up to the last day!



\* The 52 Lives charity emphasizes the importance of mental health by promoting kindness and fostering community, recognizing its significant impact on both physical and emotional well-being >> <https://www.52-lives.org/>

## YEAR 1 PHONICS MEETING

A little reminder that Miss Saines will be holding a Phonics Screening meeting for Year 1 parents ONLY in the school hall next Wednesday (21 May) at 2.45pm.



### OH, HOW DID THAT GET IN THERE???

Please check little pockets and bags: we are finding that some children are bringing in random pieces of Lego and other small items to fiddle and play with during the school day (especially in Year 1). Please can you check that your child isn't bringing such items in as they may get lost and can be distracting. If we notice such treasures they will be confiscated by their class teacher for collection at the end of the school day. Thank you for your help.



## REMINDER: FIELD ACCESS AND SAFETY UPDATE

To support our safeguarding measures, the picket fence and gate leading to the field will now be locked during the school day. We understand how much the children enjoy using the field after school, and on dry days, we will do our best to open this area at pick-up time for families to enjoy. Please note that After School Football uses the field on Tuesday afternoons, so access will **not** be available on those days.

If your children are using the field and/or play equipment after school, we kindly ask that they are closely supervised, as school staff are not responsible for pupils once the school day has ended. To help secure school grounds outside of school hours, the gate **will be locked at 4pm**. We respectfully ask all families to vacate the premises before this time. The swings area, which is publicly accessible, remains available for continued use after 4pm if you'd like to stay longer.

Finally, a polite reminder that dogs are not permitted anywhere on school property, including the Parish play area. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

## CLASS NEWS

### BUSY BEES

This week Busy Bees have learned the names for the different parts of a plant and used this knowledge in a labelling writing task. The children also planted seeds in their pots—choosing from a selection of vegetables and flowers—and, after that, they wrote in their writing books the steps needed to plant a seed. They have also learned how to look after the seeds and the plants and what they need to grow. In Maths we learned all about halving and how it relates to doubling. In RE the children thought about the importance of looking after our beautiful world and the importance of offering a helping hand to do that task. They drew around their hands and wrote a message about how they could use their hands to look after our Planet.

**Homework:** 'Write an animal caption'.

### LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have had a brilliant week. We have started to learn how to divide in maths mastering the method really quickly. In English, we have been focusing on different punctuation, and in particular question marks. We thought carefully about what a question is and what a statement is and how we know whether our sentence needs a question mark or a full stop. In art, we studied the artist Georgia O'Keefe and we learned all about her life. We then tried drawing some flowers based on her art work, thinking really carefully about the detail.

**Homework:** Division

### DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have been flying this week! They have all shown superb comprehension skills in different reading challenges. They have been focusing on embedding their knowledge of punctuation, spellings and handwriting when writing a sustained piece; so remembering to think about all these components together rather than simply one or two elements. In Maths they have been learning about capacity and linking the different volumes to fractions of a litre; for example working out that 250ml is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a litre or 500ml is  $\frac{1}{2}$  a litre.

**Homework:** Think of 5 words you find tricky to spell. Use a dictionary or 'google' to find the correct spelling of these words and then write them in your best handwriting 5 times (or more if you wish).



### HOUSE TEAM POINTS



## CHURCH NEWS



Our services this Sunday:

**11am All Age Worship**  
**6.30pm Evening Prayer**

The February/March St Peter's Church & Tandridge Village Parish Magazine is now available. It includes some wonderful articles and upcoming local events. Please let Louise Jones (Editor) know if you have any feedback and suggestions/articles for the future. We hope you enjoy reading it.

[>> St Peter's Church & Tandridge Village Magazine—May Edition](#)

The current/previous publications are also on St Peter's Church Website.

Dear Father God,  
Help me to live your goodness and kindness each day.  
Remind me that my actions express who I am even more than my words.  
May I love as you love.  
Let me be good to those who wish me harm,  
forgive those who need forgiveness,  
and reach out in kindness to all I meet so they can experience the unconditional love of God.  
Set our hearts on fire for you.  
Amen.



## FRIENDS OF ST PETER'S



### Message from the Fete Planning Group:

If you can **host an advertising board** for the fete, please email [friends@stpetersinfant.org](mailto:friends@stpetersinfant.org).

**Friday 6 June will be a Mufti Day** where the children can wear non-uniform in exchange for donations for the Summer Fete. Please may we remind you however that the children will still need to wear suitable clothes and shoes as they will be on the playground or field during their break times.

We would love donations of bottles – of any kind (with a suitable use-by-date) – for the Adults' Tombola. Please note, if you would like to donate a bottle of alcohol, parents/carers should hand this to a member of staff in person. We are also happy to receive new toiletries, luxury food items and/or other suitable gifts for the stall.

Many thanks in advance.



May you all have a truly wonderful weekend and may the sun keep shining for you all. God Bless, Lenia Greenaway

**Do you have school age children?**  
**Have they ever had a sight (eye) test?**  
**Are there barriers to having these tests?**

Please share your experiences with us

Please complete our survey - Scan the QR code or use the link below:  
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/HWSYSightTestsChildren/>

Please contact us if you need a paper copy of the survey - we will be happy to send one out to you.

### CHILD PROTECTION CONTACT CENTRE

At St Peter's we take the safety and well-being of every child very seriously. If you are ever concerned about a child please speak in confidence to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Greenaway or our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Vaquinhos, or telephone Surrey Child Services contact centre on:



**Tel: 0300 200 1006**

**"Safeguarding is Everyone's Business"**

Emergency information regarding the school will be announced on HEART RADIO 102.7FM and the school website

01883 712439 | [hello@stpetersinfant.org](mailto:hello@stpetersinfant.org) | [www.stpetersinfant.org](http://www.stpetersinfant.org)



Southwark Diocesan Board of Education  
Supporting Christian Education





# 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.



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