



School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 19th May	• Class 2 Forest School- Please see letter for further information. • Football League Match- You will have received a message of your child has been chosen to play.
Tuesday 20th May	• Churchtown Tots- 9am-10.30am. All welcome. • After school sports club- Dodgeball. Please see Parentpay for bookings.
Wednesday 21st May	• Class 1 Multiskills at All Saints Junior School- See Parentpay for details and consent. • Swimming- Class 2
Thursday 22nd May	• After school sports club- Athletics. Please see Parentpay for bookings. • Bunting Cup- Please see Parentpay for consent and further information. • Thursday Church- 10.30am, families welcome.
Friday 23rd May	• Celebration Assembly- 3pm, you will receive an invitation if your child has been chosen to receive an award this week. • Last day of term.
Monday 26th May	• School closed for half term
Tuesday 27th May	• School closed for half term
Wednesday 28th May	• School closed for half term
Thursday 29th May	• School closed for half term
Friday 30th May	• School closed for half term

Other news:

- We have lots of good quality, donated school uniform in school. Please contact the office if you need anything.
- Just to remind you, if you pay for your child's school lunches these should be paid in **advance** of the meal being taken where possible. Thank you.
- Please ensure children have a water bottle in school every day.
- We still have a few children without a PE kit in school. Please make sure a full PE kit including trainers is kept in school at all times, these will be sent home every half term to be washed. PE days do change and kits are also needed for after school sports clubs. We have spare uniform available in school so please do ask if you need anything.
- **Healthy Snacks-** Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack to school to eat at morning break. **Please ensure this does not include chocolate, cake or sweets.**
- The sunny weather looks like it is here to stay for a while. Children will need sun hats, water bottles and suncream in school please. Please apply suncream **before** school so we can get outside and enjoy the lovely weather.
- After school clubs for next term will be available to book via Parentpay from early next week. These will be tennis on Tuesdays and football on Thursdays.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
03/06/2025	Class 2 Forest School
09/06/2025	Class 2 Forest School
10/06/2025	Football league match
12/06/2025	South Peak sports
17/06/2025	Class 2 Forest School
18/06/2025	Class 1 dance at All Saints Junior school
18/06/2025	Class 3 Grass track cycling
19/06/2025	Class 2 Activity day and sleepover
19/06/2025	Football league match
20/06/2025	Class 2 Activity day and sleepover- 2 nd day
23/06/2025	New starter parents meeting
23/06/2025	Football League Match
25/06/2025	Lady Manners Transition day 1
27/06/2025	PTA leavers disco
01/07/2025	Highfields transition day
01/07/2025	New starter transition day
01/07/2025	Move up day
02/07/2025	Lady Manners transition day 2
02/07/2025	Class 3 residential
08/07/2025	New starter stay and play
09/07/2025	Class 1 sports day event at All Saints Juniors
11/07/2025	Sports Day- New date
12/07/2025	PTA Summer Fair
14/07/2025	Football league match
15/07/2025	Junior Play
16/07/2025	Sports presentation
17/07/2025	Year 6 pizza party
24/07/2025	Leavers service
23/05/2025	Last day of term
02/06/2025	INSET
03/06/2025	School reopens
24/07/2025	Last day of term

In September 2013 the government introduced new regulations making it clear that Headteachers must not give approval for any leave of absence during term time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Parents are not entitled to take their children on holiday in term time. Planned absence can only be taken with the prior written approval of the headteacher. Each case will be considered on its own merits and the decision of the headteacher is final.

Any requests for term time leave should be made on a leave of absence request form available from the school office and handed in at least two school weeks before the first date of the requested absence whenever possible. You must have received written authorisation before your child can be absent from school.

If a request for leave is denied and the pupil is absent for 5 days or more then the school is expected to refer the case to the local authority. Parent/carers may be issued with a penalty notice fine or prosecution should leave of 5 days or more be taken which is not authorised by the Headteacher, or where repeated incidents of leave in term time for less than 5 days occur or where the unauthorised absence contributes to wider poor attendance that meets the legal threshold. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996

Absence deemed for the reason of unauthorised leave in term time will be marked in the register with the Attendance code G.

Further information regarding school attendance and penalty notices can be found on the DCC website <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/welfare-services/attendance/school-attendance.aspx>

Please see our Attendance policy on our school website for more details.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 732236 or by email info@darleychurchtown.derbyshire.sch.uk with any questions or queries.

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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Spring & Summer Menu

Available Daily:
Bread, Salad,
Fresh Fruit,
Yoghurt &
Drinking Water

Allergen Key

Celery	C	Molluscs	Mo
Cereals	G	Mustard	Mu
Crustaceans	Cr	Nuts	N
Eggs	E	Peanuts	P
Fish	F	Sesame Seeds	Se
Lupin	L	Soya	So
Milk	M	Sulphur Dioxide	Su

Week 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Main Event	"Meal designed by pupils at Staveley Junior School" Crispy Beef Tacos with Sunshine Rice	V Creamy Tomato Lasagne G/M/Mu/So with Garlic Bread G & Side Salad	Roast of the Day with Stuffing G Mashed Potatoes M Seasonal Veg. & Gravy	Big Breakfast Sausage G/So/Su, Bacon, Hash Browns, Baked Beans & Tomatoes	Fish Fingers F/G with Chips, Carrots & Sweetcorn
Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal - Please speak with your school for their selection				
Dessert	Chewy Cherry Cookie E/G 	Ice Cream M with Fruit 	Flapjack G with Fruit 	Jaffa Choc Pot M 	Strawberry Marbled Muffin E/G/M

Weeks Starting: 21.04.25 / 12.05.25 / 09.06.25 / 30.06.25 / 21.07.25 / 15.09.25 / 06.10.25

Week 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Main Event	Golden Pastry Topped Pie E/G/M with New Potatoes, Seasonal Veg. & Gravy	V Cheese & Tomato Pizza G/M with Potato Wedges & Side Salad	Pork Sausages G/So/Su with Mashed Potatoes M Seasonal Veg. Yorkshire Pudding E/G/M & Gravy	BBQ Chicken Fajita Wrap G with Sweetcorn Salsa, Oven Baked Potatoes & Seasonal Veg. 	Fish Stars F/G with Chips, Baked Beans & Peas
Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal - Please speak with your school for their selection				
Dessert	Oaty Cookie Su/G	Chocolate Pear Slice E/G 	Sprinkle Cake E/G	Strawberry Whip M 	Scrumble G with Fruit & Ice Cream M

Weeks Starting: 28.04.25 / 19.05.25 / 16.06.25 / 07.07.25 / 01.09.25 / 22.09.25 / 13.10.25

Week 3

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Main Event	Cheese & Bean Enchilada G/M with Mexican Rice & Salad 	Beef Burger G in a Bun G with Diced Potatoes, Salad & Rainbow Slaw E/Mu	Roast of the Day with Stuffing G Mashed Potatoes M Seasonal Veg. & Gravy	Chicken Curry M served with Rice & Homemade Flatbread G/So 	Fish Fingers F/G with Chips, Carrots & Sweetcorn
Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal - Please speak with your school for their selection				
Dessert	Chocolate Orange Cookie G	Lemon Muffin E/G	Chocolate Cracknel M/G & Fruit 	Jelly & Fruit 	Pancakes E/G/M with Fruit Coulis

Weeks Starting: 05.05.25 / 02.06.25 / 23.06.25 / 14.07.25 / 08.09.25 / 29.09.25 / 20.10.25



Beat the heat

Plan ahead



Check the weather
forecast and the news



Plan ahead to
avoid the heat



Schedule activities to
cooler times of the day

Keep yourself cool



Drink plenty of fluids and
avoid excess alcohol



Wear sunscreen, a
hat, and sunglasses



Cool your skin with water
and slow down

Find somewhere cool



Close blinds and curtains
during the day



Go indoors or outdoors,
whichever feels cooler



Avoid closed spaces
like stationary cars

Be safe



Be on the lookout
for signs of heat
related illness



Look after yourself
and check in with
others



Stay safe when
swimming



Get help. Call
NHS 111 or in an
emergency 999

For more information go to: gov.uk/ukhsa/beat-the-heat

Keeping children safe during hot weather



- Are you aware children are more vulnerable to the hot weather?
- Children cannot control their body temperature as efficiently as adults because they do not sweat as much.
- Here are some top tips to keep children safe in the heat.

Stay cool

Avoid direct sunlight during the hottest times of the day from 11am – 3pm.

Be prepared!

Think about signing up to the [Met Office Alerts](#) and watch the weather forecast to prepare for heatwaves.

Ensure you are aware of the procedures in your setting if there is a heatwave and any action you may need to take.

Staff should be aware of health risks from heat, including heat stress, heat exhaustion & heatstroke. It is important to be aware of the symptoms and how to treat.

[Looking after children and those in early years settings before and during hot weather: teachers and other educational professionals - GOV.UK](#)

Stay hydrated

Provide and encourage frequent drinks to children to ensure they are hydrated.

Staying safe outside

Ask parents to dress children in loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing that covers as much of their child's body as possible.

Children should wear hats that shade the face, neck, and ears.

Apply sunscreen before going outdoors and reapply every 2 hours.

Children should be encouraged to stay in the shade as much as possible.

Remember:

- ✓ The best way to enjoy the sun safely and protect your skin is to use shade, clothing, and sunscreen
- ✓ Shade and clothing are better than sunscreen at protecting your skin.
- ✓ Sunscreen shouldn't be used to spend longer in the sun. But they can be useful for protecting the parts of the body not covered by clothing or shade.

Note: This guidance applies equally to adults.

For more information visit: [Keeping cool in summer - Derbyshire County Council](#)