

Weekly Bulletin

May 23rd 2025



Willow Class Life Bus Visit

With half term just around the corner, I am sure, like the staff, you are all looking forward to the week's holiday. It has been another busy half term and it is hard to believe that we are approaching the final weeks of the school year! Just in case of wet weather, please can I take this opportunity to remind you all about the online resources that the HSA funds for all the pupils – MyMaths and SATs Companion. These sites provide our children with lots of opportunities to practice the key skills which they need to support their progress. If you do not have, or have misplaced passwords, please see your child's class teacher. Finally, thank you for your continued support in all we do. Please remember we have a staff training on Monday 2nd June. I hope that you all have a lovely half term when it arrives and we look forward to welcoming you all back to school on Tuesday 3rd June.

Year 5 Maths Challenge

This week, a team of our Year 5 pupils took part in the annual Year 5 Maths Challenge, organised by the Cambridgeshire Maths Team. This exciting event brings together schools from across the county to tackle a variety of mathematical challenges and problem-solving activities.



Be in the line at quarter to nine

Our team of four pupils worked brilliantly together, showing fantastic teamwork, perseverance, and enthusiasm throughout each round. They represented our school with pride and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Well done to **Safaa, Omar, Asha & Sam**—you did a fantastic job! A big thank you as well to the families who came along to support. Your encouragement means a great deal.

The Power of Small Schools: Big Benefits for Children and Communities

Research consistently shows that small schools offer a wide range of benefits—not just for children, but also for teachers and the communities they serve. From improved academic outcomes to stronger relationships and increased student engagement, small schools can create environments where everyone thrives.

Small schools often provide a learning experience that is more personal, responsive, and community-oriented than their larger counterparts. Here are some of the key advantages:

- 1. Improved Student Achievement** - Children in small schools tend to perform better academically. Smaller class sizes allow for more personalized instruction and greater attention to individual needs.
- 2. Stronger Sense of Belonging** - In a small school setting, children are more likely to feel known, valued, and supported. This sense of community is particularly impactful for vulnerable children who may otherwise feel overlooked.
- 3. Individualized Attention** - With fewer children per class, teachers can tailor their instruction and provide more targeted support, leading to improved learning outcomes.
- 4. Closer Relationships** - Small schools often nurture strong connections between teachers, children, parents, and the local community. These close relationships are key to fostering a positive and supportive educational environment.
- 5. Flexibility and Agility** -Smaller schools can adapt quickly to changing needs and circumstances, making them more responsive to children and families alike.
- 6. Empowered Student Voice** - In small schools, children often have more opportunities to take on leadership roles and contribute to school decisions—enhancing their sense of ownership and engagement.
- 7. Greater Participation in Activities** -With fewer children, there is less competition for spots in sports teams, clubs, and other extracurriculars. As a result, participation rates tend to be higher, contributing to children' personal and academic development.
- 8. Safer Learning Environments** -Small schools are frequently perceived as safer places to learn, fostering an atmosphere where children feel secure and supported.
- 9. Inclusive, Mixed-Ability Classrooms** - Children are more likely to be grouped in mixed-ability settings, helping to avoid low expectations and promoting a more inclusive approach to teaching and learning.

In Summary, we offer a unique and powerful model of education—one where children are seen, heard, and supported every step of the way.

Free Family Event at Grafham Water Centre – Promoting Open Water Safety

Families and school staff across Cambridgeshire are invited to a **free event** at Grafham Water Centre focused on helping young people and their families stay safe around open water during half term on Friday 30th May

In light of recent tragic incidents involving young people and water safety, this event aims to raise awareness and provide practical knowledge in a fun and engaging way. Join us for an exciting day of **free water and land-based activities**, a **BBQ**, and special guest **Gemma Hunt**, presenter of CBeebies' *Swashbuckle*.

This is a great opportunity for families to enjoy a day out while learning vital water safety skills. **We encourage you to spread the word and attend!** [Book your activity here.](#)

A Quick Parking Reminder

Just a little nudge to please park considerately around school—every bit helps! If you can, try parking in *The Lane* and walking through the walkway. It's a short stroll and really helps keep things safer and less hectic for everyone. Thanks so much for your support!

End Homelessness: 2 Miles at a Time

Over the past 2 weeks, Year 6 pupil Stephen has been walking 2 miles a day to raise money for the Charity CentrePoint. Centrepoint raises money for homeless children from ages 16 – early adulthood. Every four minutes another young person faces homelessness. [Please support Stephen](#), if you can in raising his goal of £2000 sponsorship.

Stephen says "*Ever since I was little I have wanted to end homelessness. I may only be 11 years old but I know its unfair that some people have so much and others don't have a safe place to sleep. I'm inviting you to join me in supporting Centrepoint: I'm going to walk 2 miles every day and hope you can support me as I go. My challenge is to keep going until I raise £2000.*"

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Please check [our website calendar](#) for upcoming events and important dates
From the Team at Hauxton Primary School – we wish you well!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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. 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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