



Hazelbank Road, Catford, London, SE6 1TG

Headteacher: Manda George

Telephone: 0208 697 2762

Email: admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk

16th May 2025

Dear parents and carers,

I want to start this week's newsletter by saying thank you to our wonderful year 6 children who completed their end of key stage SATs this week. Thank you for your focus and concentration. Thank you for your resilience and determination. Thank you for being the best that you can be. You have made me a very proud headteacher this week and I look forward to seeing you continue to blossom and grow in your last weeks at Torridon before you head off to secondary school.

It was lovely to see so many of you at our family film night this week. I am not sure who had more fun – the children or the grown ups! Our next family film night is on Tuesday and we will be screening 'Dog Man'! We hope you will be able to join us for popcorn and film fun.

We have had some very warm days this week. Please make sure your children remember to bring their water bottles every day and wear sunscreen and a sun hat if the temperatures continue to be high. As always, please make sure all items are labelled with children's names so they don't end up in the lost property box.

Friday next week will be a non-uniform day. We are inviting children to wear their own clothes for a small donation to our PTA funds.

Whatever you are planning to do this weekend, I hope you have a fantastic time.

Best wishes

Manda George

Headteacher



Rights Respecting School



In this week's Rights Respecting Assemblies, we explored Article 24 and Mental Health Awareness Week. Looking after our minds is just as important as keeping our bodies healthy! We reflected on how mental health is a vital part of our lives and shared tools and strategies that we could use in order to ensure that we are able to regulate ourselves and be of a positive mindset wherever possible. Every child has the right to be healthy, inside and out!

Letter from the Mayor of London

Dear Parent/Carer,

Delivering universal free school meals (UFSM) in London's primary schools has been one of my proudest achievements. I am delighted that all primary school children in state-funded schools will continue to receive free school meals for as long as I am Mayor.

Over the last two academic years, I have seen first-hand the transformative impact of this important intervention, ensuring that no child goes hungry and giving all children the best possible chance to succeed.

At a time when the cost of living is still so high, I hope this program has offered some financial relief to your family – potentially saving parents and carers over £500 per year per child. It is hugely encouraging to see research show that UFSM in London are also improving nutrition, behaviour, concentration, energy levels and parent-school relationships.

Even though your child will continue receiving free school meals automatically, it remains vitally important to register for the Government's free school meals if you meet the criteria.

This will ensure you receive other benefits you may be entitled to, like food vouchers during the holidays. It could also bring the school an extra £1,480 in funding per child. That is more money for extra-curricular activities, teacher development, and support for children who need it most.

Please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals> or speak to your school for further information on how to register.

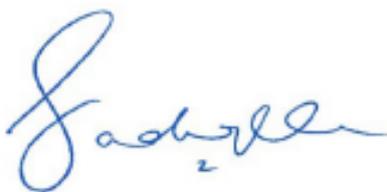
I am immensely proud that we have funded over 70 million free school meals to date, with hundreds of thousands of London's primary school children benefitting every day. I know this is just one part of the help families need to support their families.

I will continue to do all I can to support Londoners of all backgrounds, as we build a fairer, better and healthier London for everyone.

I have been writing to you with updates termly since I announced this programme in 2023. Now that we near the end of the second year of UFSM, there will be fewer updates to provide you with, so I will only write to you if and when there is new information to share.

I also want to thank you, the parents and carers, for the role you play in building the strong and caring communities that help your children to have the best start in life. Working together, we can build a London that is healthier, fairer and more prosperous for everyone.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Sadiq Khan
Mayor of London



Update from our Governors

Last term our Children, Families and Communities committee was keen to hear from parents. Many thanks to those of you that took the time to respond to the Parent's Questionnaire that was sent out by the school. We are now in the process of analysing the results from this and will be looking closely at your feedback and suggestions, which were extremely helpful. What we can see already is that the people that responded were overwhelmingly very positive about the school, particularly in respect of the diversity, inclusion and the sense of community in the school. A few people made helpful suggestions about how communication could be strengthened.

Some governors also came along to the open evenings that were held at the end of last term to chat with parents and carers and hear your views about what the school does well and what could be done even better. Our thanks to those of you who gave us your time at these events. It was so helpful to speak directly with parents and carers and, again, the very strong message we heard was how much you value the inclusivity and diversity of the school. Many of you also told us how much you valued and appreciated the staff at the school, which was lovely to hear.

Other areas that the Committee are looking at this term will include the development of the school's plans to support the welfare and mental health of pupils, the impact of Opal Play and an on-going focus on pupil attendance to make sure that children are getting the best they possibly can from their education.

All the best,

Sarah Wright

Vice Chair of Governors

Walk to School Week



Next week, from 19th to 23rd May, we will be celebrating 'Walk to School Week'. We encourage you to walk to school with your children if possible. It's a great way to promote a healthy lifestyle and reduce traffic congestion.

Let's make it a fun and healthy experience for everyone!

Relationship and Health Education

As part of the National Curriculum, all children from reception to year 6 will be learning about Relationship and Health Education (RHE) next half term. RHE guides children and young people in lifelong learning about relationship, emotions, and human biology. In our school, these lessons are taught in an age-appropriate way and are underpinned by our school ethos and values.

We are holding a parent information afternoon at 2:45pm on Tuesday 3rd June at 2:45pm where you can view the resources we will be using and ask any questions.



CARDBOARD CITY

Thank you to all those who brought in boxes for our CARDBOARD CITY this week. The children have been very inventive with them in their play!

Please can we clarify that we need **BIG boxes that have NOT been flattened**. The children are using their imagination to create cars, spaceships, robots, castles.

We do not need SMALL boxes or any packaging materials.

If you have any boxes please drop them off to our cardboard city zone in the main playground at the start or end of the day.



Well Done Kruz!



We are so proud of Kruz for signing with Chelsea Football Club!

We look forward to hearing all about your successes on the pitch!

Nursery Plant Sale



Plant sale

NURSERY FUNDRAISER

Thursday 22nd May 2025

We will be selling tomato and basil plants to fundraise for our end of year tea party next term.

The plant sale will be in the playground at 3.15pm.
It will be £1 per plant.

Thank you for your support.



Football Tournament



Massive congratulations to Year 2 who won their first ever football tournament! Well done for showing support to one another and being amazing team players.

You have done Torridon proud!



Reception – Caterpillars



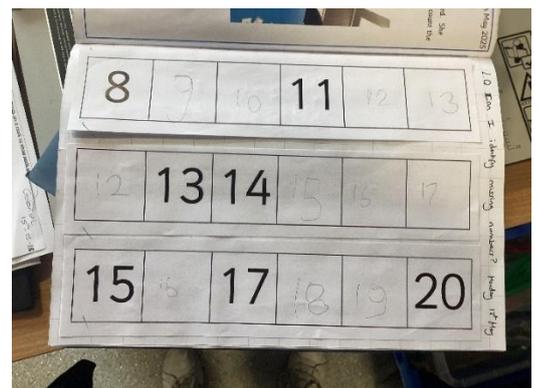
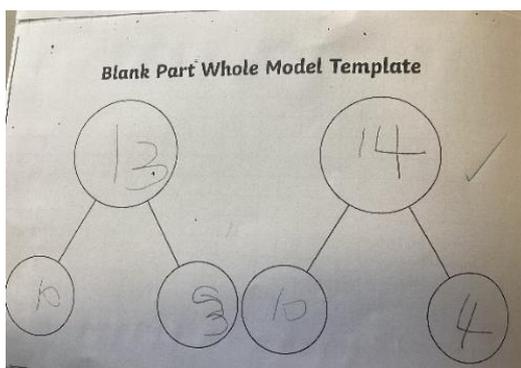
In EYFS, each class received some baby caterpillars in the first week of this term. In reception we have been observing very closely and have been keeping a diary of the changes we notice. We are looking forward to seeing what happens next!



Resource Base – Maths



This week we have been focusing our maths learning on missing number and being able to partition numbers up to 20. We have been using number lines, cubes and games to explore different combinations. We are very impressed with their developing number knowledge and the enthusiasm they've show in tackling new challenges.



Year 1 – RE

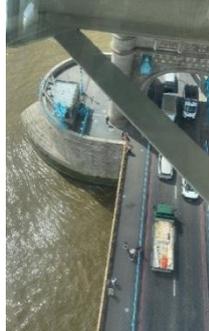
This term in RE, Year 1 have been learning about Buddhism and the Buddha's *Eightfold Path* — a special guide that helps people live kindly, peacefully, and mindfully. We thought about what it means to be calm and focused, and imagined our own peaceful places where we might practise mindfulness, just like Buddhists do.



The children described what their peaceful place might look, sound, and feel like — from quiet forests to sunny beaches — and then created beautiful drawings of their own calm, happy spaces. It's been a thoughtful and creative journey!

Year 2 – Tower Bridge

This week, Year 2 took an exciting trip to Tower Bridge where they bravely walked across the glass floor and looked down to the River Thames and the bridge below. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, we got to see the bridge open right in front of us—what perfect timing! The children were full of excitement and couldn't wait to get back to school to continue their learning all about our wonderful city and the Great Fire of London. A huge thank you to all of our wonderful parent helpers who made the day even more special!



Year 3 – Science

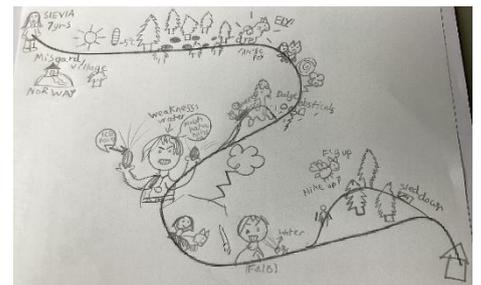
In year 3 we learnt all about pollination and why it is a vital part of a flowering plant's life cycle. We learnt about different pollinators and how they can be encouraged into our gardens by wildflowers. We then made wildflower seed balls and planted them in different places in our school grounds to attract pollinators.



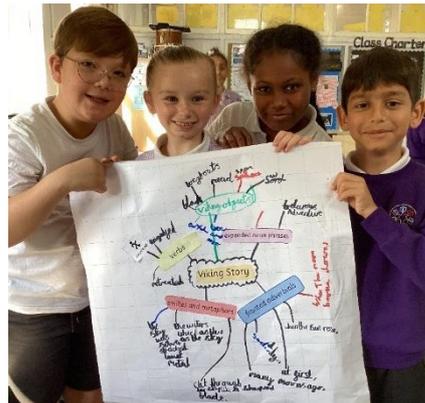
Year 4 – Viking Narratives

We have been really enjoying planning our very own Viking narratives inspired by Odd and the Frost Giants. We have enjoyed lots of activities including:

- hot-seating as the character of Odd,
- working together to create huge mind maps of rich and varied vocabulary
- identifying and explaining why we need to start a new paragraph
- using our creativity to draw our story plans



Today, we started writing our narratives and we will finish and edit them next week. Just in time for our Viking Day on Thursday.



Year 5 – Computing



This week in Year 5 computing lessons, the children have been exploring the exciting world of microbits! They have been learning how to use the microbit's inputs to create interactive projects. One of the activities involved programming the microbit to display different pictures when various buttons are pressed. This not only helped them understand the basics of coding but also allowed them to see immediate results of their work, which was both fun and rewarding.

Additionally, the students delved into using the accelerometer sensor input on the microbit. They programmed it to sense when the device is shaken, turning it into a step counter. This project was particularly engaging as it combined physical activity with computing, showing the children how technology can be integrated into everyday life. The enthusiasm and creativity they have shown this week has been wonderful to see!



Year 6 – SATs

Year 6 children have displayed a great level of resilience and excellence throughout their national examinations this week. They have not only shown that they are committed to their learning, but that they are also willing to go the extra mile to put in the hard work towards achieving their goals. They showed up early every morning to have breakfast and do some revision before going in to sit the standardised tests; persevering through it all. We are really proud that they have captured the core values that Torridon has embedded in them.



Forest School – Summer Camp

We are very excited to announce that Kelley, our qualified Forest School Leader plans to run a 2-week summer camp in our woodland this summer! Places will be limited to 30 and can be booked daily or weekly. Places are available for children, Reception-Year 6.

Camp will run from Monday 4th August- Friday 15th August 2025 - 10am-3pm.

Our daily rate will be £40 per child (£30 for those eligible for Pupil Premium funding). Childcare vouchers are accepted.

Children should bring a packed lunch.

Children will spend their day outside in our woodland embracing nature. Each day there will be free play, den building, tree climbing, team games, stories and songs, craft activities, tool work, campfire snacks.

If you are interested in securing a place for your child please express your interest admin@torridonprimary.lewisham.sch.uk



Log Delivery

Hither Green station is currently being regenerated and some of the neighbouring trees needed to be cut down to accommodate the improvements to the station.



Torridon Primary have joined forces with the project over the last few months to ensure the logs were reused within the community and on Thursday we had a very exciting delivery. The children were delighted to witness the delivery!



The logs will be used around our school site as we continue to develop OPAL PLAY and our CREATIVE CORNER. Kelley is busy creating design ideas and Tom and Darryl are ready with the chainsaw! Look out for developments around our playground over the next few weeks!

Dates for Your Diary

Monday 19 th May	Walk to school week. 9am Woodwind performance for parents and carers
Tuesday 20 th May	Year 5 boys' cricket tournament Family Film Night
Wednesday 21 st May	Reception Bug Man visit Year 6 PGL Trip – Departure 11:50am
Thursday 22 nd May	Year 5 girls' cricket tournament Nursery Plant Sale
Friday 23 rd May	PTA fundraiser – non uniform day Year 6 PGL Trip – Arrival 3:30pm
Monday 26th – Friday 30th May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Sunday 8 th June	Family Fun Run (Forster Park)
Tuesday 10 th June	Year 5 and year 6 hockey tournament
Friday 20th June	INSET Day PTA Trip to Legoland
Wednesday 25 th June	OPAL playdate 3.15 – 4.15pm
Tuesday 1 st July	Year 6 secondary transition day
Sunday 6 th July	PTA - Summer Fair
Week beginning Monday 7 th July	Whole School Assessment Week
Tuesday 8 th July	Summer Music Concert Year 6 Royal Opera House Project (DATE CHANGE)
Friday 11 th July	Nursery Teddy bear's picnic
Monday 14 th July	Nursery and Reception Sports Day
Tuesday 15 th July	Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day
Wednesday 16 th July	5.00pm Year 6 performance
Thursday 17 th July	9.00am Year 6 performance
Friday 18 th July	Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 Sports Day
Tuesday 22nd July	Last Day of Summer Term (2pm finish)



Torridon Primary School Fun Run 2025

Torridon's Fun Run is back for 2025

Join us on Sunday 8th June, Forster Park for our one mile walk or run open to all pupils.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jQM7bn8h9DixO4k0EZ5MsjOXWKq5W9EY/view?usp=sharing>

Register Now - All pupils must registered in advance to take part and receive a T-shirt

We Need Volunteers - We would love parent and carer helpers on the day to cheer, guide, and support along the route.

Donations Welcome - Sponsorship and donations are welcome towards the PTA and our future events - thank you for your support!



Weekly Attendance

Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance		Class	Attendance	
1M	93%		3A	99%		5C	96%	
1N	97%		3G	98%		5L	90%	
1W	98%		3S	95%		5V	98%	
2S	97%		4K	92%		6A	99%	
2SW	93%		4L	96%		6L	95%	
2E	95%		4S	92%		6R	98%	

Well done to the winning classes nearly reaching to 100%!

Smartphone Free Childhood

There is an emerging body of research showing the negative impact that smartphones can have on our children. As you are aware, we no longer permit children to bring smartphones to Torridon as we want to support their physical and emotional wellbeing.

If you are interested and would like to find out more, follow this link:

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.co.uk/>.

There is also the option to sign a pledge committing to not giving your child a smartphone until at least the end of Y9.



FAMILY FUN DAY

BIG FISH LITTLE FISH X CAMP BESTIVAL FAMILY RAVE LEWISHAM 'PYJAMA PARTY'

The Fox and Firkin
Lewisham High St
Sunday 18th May
2-4pm

DJ: Suddi Raval (Hardcore Uproar)

Reliably excellent' - Guardian

'Magical... credible music' - Time Out

Best Family Music - Festival Kidz

6 x winner Best Family Event, National Family Arts Festival Awards

For families with 0-8 year olds: dance, craft laugh and be daft!

Adults £12, Children £9, pre-walkers free.

Instagram @BFLFevents Tiktok @bigfishlittlefishevents

One family will win free entry to Camp Bestival!

Tickets/info bigfishlittlefishevents.com



scan here!



**Big Fish
Little Fish**
2-4 HOUR PARTY PEOPLE

St Dunstans Art Competition

ART COMPETITION

Year 5 students are invited to participate in our Art Competition for a chance to have your artwork displayed at the St Dunstan's Arts Festival! Winners and runners-up will also be invited to the private view on opening night!

Theme:
Under the Big Top!

Step right up and create an artwork inspired by the magic of the circus—whether it's acrobats, clowns, animals, or the vibrant big top. Let your creativity bring the circus to life!

Submission Details

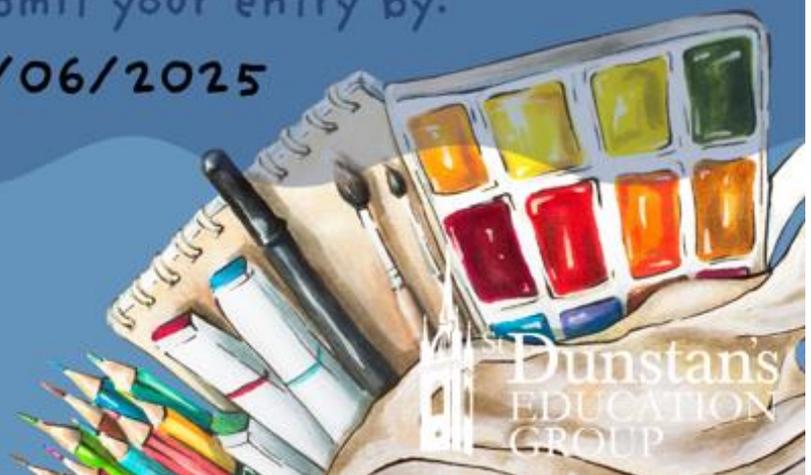
You parent/guardian must email a clear photograph of your work to artsfestivalcompetition@stdunstans.org.uk along with your name, school, age and the materials you have used. *You must be able to drop your artwork at St Dunstan's in order to have your work exhibited.

Please submit your entry by:

02/06/2025



St Dunstan's
College



Dunstan's
EDUCATION
GROUP

Free KS2 learning Resources



TOWNLEY
EST 1937
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



FREE support for Pupil Premium Key Stage 2 pupils

Free access to Atom Home (normally £575.90 per year) for all Key Stage 2 Pupil Premium eligible children.



The purpose of this initiative

Townley Grammar School has partnered with Atom Learning to provide all children who are eligible for Pupil Premium with free online learning and 11+ familiarisation.

Our goals are to both widen access to Townley Grammar School and support all children in the area around us, whether or not they are considering a selective school, with Key Stage 2 mastery and preparation for Key Stage 3. We do this through providing free access to Atom Home.

This responsive online learning platform is proven to successfully support attainment through tailored support that builds confidence, strengthens knowledge, and prepares children for transition.

Benefits for your pupils

We understand the challenges faced by schools in ensuring that all children, especially those experiencing disadvantage, have access to the best possible educational resources. The Atom Learning initiative is designed to provide that much-needed support, at no cost to your school or families.

→ **Tailored Learning** | Atom Home adapts to each child's learning level, ensuring they receive the right support for their individual needs.

→ **Key Stage 2 Focus** | The platform covers all essential content in English, Maths, and Science, supporting your efforts to raise attainment. It also covers verbal and non-verbal reasoning.

→ **Comprehensive Resources** | Pupils will have access to an extensive library of teacher-created practice questions, learning challenges, and resources to support their mastery of the curriculum.

→ **11+ Test Preparation** | Pupils preparing for 11+ tests will have access to test familiarisation across all subjects, including practice questions and practice papers.

How can your Pupil Premium students access Atom?

Please ask your families to fill in the short form on this page: <http://www.atomlearning.com/pupil-premium/townleygrammar>

They will be given free access to Atom Home when their Pupil Premium status has been verified.

About Atom Learning

Atom Learning is an online learning and 11+ exam preparation company. It has a range of products for families and schools to support with learning, exam preparation, teaching and assessment.

Atom Home is their home learning and exam preparation platform for Key Stage 2 pupils. With practice questions, video tutorials and learning resources created by experienced teachers, Atom provides targeted support to help all learners thrive. It identifies areas where each pupil needs support and adjusts the difficulty of tasks accordingly to provide a personalised learning experience.

STARS OF THE WEEK

STARS OF THE WEEK		
Class	Name	Reason
Nursery	Whole Class	For being amazing during our trip to the butterfly house. We are so proud of you all! 😊
Blue Class	Robert	For being such a helpful team player and for being so engaged in his learning. Well done Robert 😊
Red Class	Lizeta	for always having a positive attitude to her learning and being a fab member of red class! Well done 😊
Yellow Class	Jesse	For always working hard and being very helpful. Well done!
1M	Amaris	For trying incredibly hard in our maths lessons and for becoming more independent. Keep up the great work Amaris! 😊
1N	Ambrosio	For doing such a great job at learning his spellings and making such a big effort to spell tricky words correctly in his writing. Keep up the great work! 😊
1W	Jade	Because she has tried really hard this week to listen to feedback and advice from adults. She tried to remind herself mistakes are 'okay' and by doing so she improved her learning. Keep it up Jade!
2E	Holly	For being an outstanding member of 2E. She is incredibly helpful to all staff and peers. She is kind and hardworking in all she does. Keep being fantastic Holly! Well done 😊
2S	Timotheus	For his helpfulness and kindness towards others! You are such a considerate member of the class and are always thinking of others. Well done Timotheus! 😊
2SW	Melita	For her kindness and the support that she gives her classmates. It is so lovely to see you willing to lend a helping hand. Well done Melita, keep it up! 😊
3A	Dexter and Marley	For being fantastic eco leaders, and helping 3A to learn all about what we should be recycling. Well done 😊
3G	Josiah	For always trying his best and focusing on improving the presentation of his written work 😊
3S	Meena	For making a positive start to our class. Well done for being a star! 😊
4K	Mason	For his enthusiasm and use of expression when reading aloud. Mason has also shown excellent focus this week when following the core text. Keep it up!
4L	Zahra	For her dedication to her learning in lessons and always showing effort to improve! Well done 😊
4S	Moursine	For being an incredible times tables legend by completing all of his diplomas on the timestables website. You show amazing dedication to learning Moursine 😊
5C	Bea	She has been participating in all lessons and has shown excellent behaviour for learning
5L	Lenny	For his improvements in maths. You have been trying really hard with your arithmetic skills and are making progress. Well done!
5V	Kenny	For regulating his behaviour effectively in a challenging situation. Well done Kenny 😊
6A	Whole Class	For their resilience during theirs this week and their commitment to SATs preparation during all revision lessons. You should all be proud of yourselves.
6L	Whole Class	For your perseverance and dedication throughout SATs week. I am so proud of you all and you should feel very proud of yourselves! Well done!
6R	Whole Class	For your resilience and determination during SATs week. You have shown dedication throughout this term, and you gave your very best all week. Well done.
RB Blue	Lotanna	For making sure that the resource base tadpoles are well looked after and have all their basic needs met. Thank you!!
RB Green	Royalty	For her amazing attitude to her maths learning and for beginning to express her needs to an adult. Well done Royalty.

May Half Term Camps

May Half Term Girls Football Camp



**Burgess Park
SE5 0JD**

**Tues 27th - Thurs 29th May
10am - 3pm**

Ages 6-14

£25 per day

Register online

www.southlondongirlsfootballacademy.co.uk



MAY 2025

**HALF TERM
HOLIDAY
CAMP**

**LEWISHAM
LIONS
CENTRE**

**TUESDAY - FRIDAY
10:00AM - 15:00PM**

**£12 PER DAY OR £40
WHEN BOOKING ALL
DAYS**

**FOR MORE DETAILS
EMAIL:**

EPOOLE@MILLWALLCOMMUNITY.ORG.UK



**MAY HALF-TERM CAMPS
AT MUNCHKIN SPORTS**

BOOK NOW!
MUNCHKINSPO RTS.COM

CAMPS
Munchkin Sports

Online Safety

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, which is typically around £9. 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 5 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College