



Newsletter Issue 19

30th January 2026



Head Teacher's Award

Iyaaz - Cedar Class



Attendance Award

Sycamore Class - 97%



Upcoming dates for your diary:



Monday 2nd February

Y4, Y5, Y6 Maury Thai Club - 3:30pm-4:30pm

Tuesday 3rd February

Y3-Y6 Drumming Club - 3:30pm-4:30pm
Boys' and Girls' Football teams at Talacre 4:00pm-5:45pm

Wednesday 4th February

NO JAM CLUB; NO Y6 BOOSTER

Thursday 5th February

Y1, Y2, Y3 Boys Football Club – 3:30pm-4:30pm
Reception and Y1 Computer Club – 3:30pm-4:30pm
Performing Arts Club – 3:30pm-4:30pm
Y1 Meet the Teacher 3:40pm - 4:00pm in Sycamore Classroom

Friday 6th February

Yr3 Trip to Natural History Museum
Boys' Football Team – 3:30pm-4:40pm

Uniform

We will have lots of visitors in school next week and would like to show ourselves at our very best.

We are asking you to check that your child's is correct:

- Navy trousers, not black and not leggings or joggers
- No nail varnish
- Only stud earrings
- Yellow, navy, black or white hair bands

Thank you for your support in helping the children to be smart for both learning and events.

Toucan Roar

There are a few spaces left at the Performing Arts Club that runs on Thursdays 3:30pm-4:30pm.

If your child is in KS2 and you would like to book a place for your child, please speak to Tracy in the office.



Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for loving me and always being with me.
When things are hard, help me to endure and remember that Jesus understands how I feel.
Please give me strength to try again and patience when I feel tired or worried.
Help me to trust in You and follow Jesus' example of never giving up.
Amen

Written by Oak Class.

Our Christian Value this half-term is:

Endurance



Learning in Oak Class

It's been a busy half term so far but Oak Class have approached their learning with enthusiasm and resilience. The children have been refining their digital music production skills with Steffi to create a project with advanced features and effects. This involves creating rich textures, in a piece of digital music, enhancing sounds and using automation tools to change the volume. We have really enjoyed listening to each other's music!



We were so proud to watch Oak Class rehearse and showcase their acting talents in their 'Days of the Week' performance with Toucan Roar. The children delivered a fantastic performance, bringing bundles of energy and confidently using a range of tones to bring it to life. Their enthusiasm and expression really shone and they should be so very proud of themselves.



Oak Class participated in a Holocaust Memorial workshop this week, examining Jewish artefacts and developing their understanding of remembrance, empathy and tolerance. They asked thoughtful questions and shared respectful comments throughout the afternoon. This session linked closely to our Christian values of love, kindness and standing up for what is right.



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.





Camden
MUSIC

Try An

Instrument Day

Saturday 21st February 2026

10 am to 3:30 pm

For all pupils in Key Stage 2 aged 7 to 11

**Steel Pans | Clarinet | Flute | Trumpet
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