

Newsletter



MEADOW PARK
SCHOOL

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

As the warmer, drier weather seems set to stay for a while, we are pleased to be opening up our field for students to use at lunchtimes. We are fortunate to be on an extensive site with fields, woods and open spaces which can be unusual for a city secondary school. The summer term is when these areas are in particular demand and I know the students enjoy being on the field where they can play football or sit with their friends. A letter will be coming out to parents and carers from Mrs Fraser, our Physical and Mental First Aid Lead with some advice on how to keep safe during the warm weather; I hope it provides some helpful information and tips for you and your children.

Today in assembly I set the students a challenge of designing a mascot for their House. We have had several suggestions already from them and I look forward to judging the suggestions with our Heads of House. It would be great to have a mascot race on our Sports Day! This year's Sports Day is on Thursday 17th July. It is the highlight of the year and this year we want to make it even bigger and better - details to follow!

Yesterday Mr Hunt and myself were in London as part of the planning for the visit which is taking place in July this year for some of our

Year 9 students to Shanghai. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students who study Mandarin to spend two weeks in Shanghai as part of the Mandarin Excellence Programme.

This visit is provided by the British Council and University College London which is offered at a significantly reduced cost of £250 per student (free for any student who is Pupil Premium) covering the cost of flights, accommodation, food and experiences for 12 days. This will be the first group of students going from Meadow Park and we are very excited. I know students in Year 7 and 8 are equally excited when it is their turn to have this opportunity.

The Year 11 exams are well and truly underway and I have been pleased with their hard work. Students in Year 11 will go on study leave after their English exam next Friday and I am pleased that we have been able to provide lessons and revision for Year 11 right up until the half term.

I hope the good weather lasts and that you have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes

Mrs Pettman
Headteacher

Nurturing Excellence, Growing Aspiration, Thriving Together



FINHAM PARK
MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Issue: 16 May 2025

Nurturing Excellence – Weekly Reflection

Dmitrijs (Yr 10)

Some of you may have already seen on social media that he is currently missing,
and we are concerned for his safety




Please can you keep an eye out and let Paul Rule know if you have seen him in the past few weeks outside of school.

If you see him In the city somewhere- please call 999 for Police to come and make sure he is okay.

MISSING

Meadow Park Uniform Swap Shop



MEADOW
PARK
SCHOOL

**Outgrown a blazer?
Ripped a shirt?
Need PE Kit?**

Come and choose
FREE pre-loved school
uniform at our Uniform
Swap Shop.

We have lots of outgrown, pre-loved branded school uniform, trousers, coats and much more...

Donations

Families can **donate** their old or unused uniform to the shop.
Washed, good-quality uniform, that you no longer need, can be brought to the swap shop or handed in at Reception.

Free

Our swap shop provides **free** uniform to those who need it. If you do not have anything to swap, you can make a donation for the items you need.

Exchange

Families can **exchange** their old uniform for new **pre-loved** items that fit better. Please bring in any washed, good-quality uniform that you would like to swap.

Open

Our **Uniform Swap Shop** is open on the **last Friday every month during term-time** in the old Visitor Reception, next to the Sixth Form Centre, from **9am to 10am and 3pm to 4pm.**

SAVE money, REDUCE waste, HELP the environment. Ask in school for details.



Class of 2025

Well done on a brilliant start to GCSE exams this week. It has been so nice to speak to students after the exams and hear positive stories about how well they believe it went. Thank you to everyone involved in making sure that students have somewhere quiet to revise at home, for getting students in to school on time and for all the other hard work that goes into making sure our students are confident and, ultimately, successful in the exams.

ALL students need to be in school every day until the end of term (Friday 23rd May). Students will either be in an exam, in their normal lesson where teachers will be preparing them for upcoming papers or in a few instances, extra revision sessions to continue to prepare students for the remaining exams.

After half term, the first exam which involves all Year 11 students is maths at 9am on Wednesday 4th June, followed on Thursday 5th June with history and French and then English Language and geography on Friday 6th June. From Monday 4th June, students will be on study leave, only coming in for exams and any revision sessions that have been organised. The revision sessions will be communicated to you by email.

Please encourage your child to keep revising and building their knowledge and confidence for each exam. We are very proud of their conduct so far.

Mrs Secker
Assistant Headteacher

**FREE
REFRESHMENTS!**



PARENT & CARER CAREERS ROADSHOW

WED 18TH JUNE - 5PM

Join Coventry Careers Hub for our **FREE** Parent and Carer Careers Roadshow to support your young person in Year 10, 11, or 12 in making informed decisions about their future!

Get ready for an evening filled with talks by industry experts/student speakers on:

- Higher Education incl. student finance
- Further Education incl. T-Levels
- Apprenticeships
- PLUS a student and apprentice Q&A panel

By attending, you'll also walk away with a free copy of Coventry Careers Hub's Future You Handbook



Hosted at
**COVENTRY TRANSPORT
MUSEUM!**

SIGN UP TODAY!

Limited spots
available



Culture Week 2025!

From the 6th to the 9th of May, Meadow Park School proudly celebrated Culture Week 2025—a joyful and inspiring event that brought our school community together in honour of the many cultures that shape who we are.

Here are some highlights from the week:

A Taste of the World : A huge thank you to Mrs Black and her team, who treated us to an incredible international menu in the canteen. Students enjoyed dishes from across the globe, including delicious Polish pierogi dumplings!

Culture Day – Thursday 8th May : Our students and staff lit up the school in vibrant traditional dress on Culture Day. The energy and pride were felt across the school and students explored in lessons how other cultures have influenced their subjects.

Year 10 & 11 "Dress to Impress" Show- Our theatre came alive during lunchtime with a stunning showcase of cultural fashion, music, and dance. Year 10 and 11 students wowed the crowd with pride and creativity—an unforgettable celebration of identity and expression.

A Huge Thank You—We extend our deepest gratitude to all students and staff who took part and helped bring Culture Week to life.

Miss Chapman & Mrs Fraser



**AGE 4-17
YEARS**

Sibling and
multiple
bookings
discounts
available

MULTI- SPORTS

MAY HALF TERM CAMP



27TH, 28TH, 29TH MAY
09:00 - 12:00 £12.00
12:30 - 15:30 £12.00
09:00 - 15:30 £20.00

ALL COACHES LTA QUALIFIED, DBS
CHECKED.



ACTIVITIES SCAN TO BOOK

FOOTBALL
BASKETBALL
SQUASH
PADEL
TENNIS
and more!



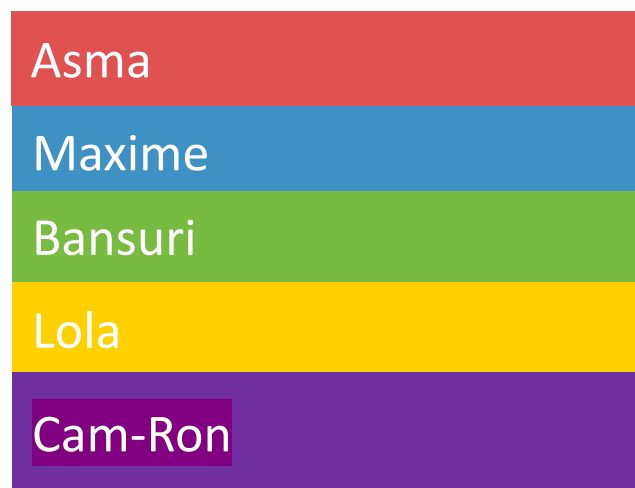
CONTACT COLLEN ON 07717057547 OR
EMAIL INFO@EVERYTHINGTENNIS.CO.UK

HELD AT COVENTRY & NORTH WARWICKSHIRE SPORTS CLUB



Head of House Awards

The Head of House Awards were awarded to:



Sol 2's Charity Chocolate Raffle!

We are raising money for Coventry Cyrenians, who help the homeless in Coventry find shelter and employment.

We will be coming round tutor times next week and the week after to sell tickets, and you can also buy tickets from Miss Chapman in F11. Please have correct change!



Growing Aspirations– Sports Updates

On Wednesday, our Year 8 boys and girls took part in an athletics qualifiers event, competing against 12 other schools from across Coventry. We're proud to say they represented Meadow Park School with outstanding effort, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the day.

A huge congratulation to the Year 8 boys' team, who delivered an incredible performance — winning the 4x100m relay, the 100m sprint, and the 200m sprint!

Special mention goes to Pedro, Patrice, Kaka, and Godfrey for their standout efforts and teamwork on the track. Well done to all who competed — you've made Meadow Park proud!

Last week, the Y7 and Y8 girls took part in a cricket festival against 5 other schools. They played 2 games in their pool and then played a final game to finish 3rd overall in the competition.

We also had 2 students represent a barbarian's team on the day with students from a range of different schools. The two students in this team finished 2nd overall in the competition.

There was some great cricket being played and excellent sportsmanship. Well done girls.

Special mention to Ella and Grace for joining another team on the day.

Mr Kandola and the PE Department

Year 11 Prom

Payment is due by Friday 9th May to ensure you have a ticket, payable via ParentPay.

Please see Mrs Symon if you need more information.



REMINDERS



Enrichment Clubs – Half Term 5 and 6 (Up to Summer)

	Break	Lunch	After School
Monday	Basketball Sports Hall 	Chess Club Library Book Club F17 All Year Rounders Field (LTA) 	Cricket Field (GSK) Athletics (Week 1 track event, Week 2 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1600m, 3200m, 6400m, 12800m, 25600m, 51200m, 102400m, 204800m, 409600m, 819200m, 1638400m, 3276800m, 6553600m, 13107200m, 26214400m, 52428800m, 104857600m, 209715200m, 419430400m, 838860800m, 1677721600m, 3355443200m, 6710886400m, 13421772800m, 26843545600m, 53687091200m, 107374182400m, 214748364800m, 429496729600m, 858993459200m, 1717986918400m, 3435973836800m, 6871947673600m, 13743895347200m, 27487790694400m, 54975581388800m, 109951162777600m, 219902325555200m, 439804651110400m, 879609302220800m, 1759218604441600m, 3518437208883200m, 7036874417766400m, 14073748835532800m, 28147497671065600m, 56294995342131200m, 112589990684262400m, 225179981368524800m, 450359962737049600m, 900719925474099200m, 1801439850948198400m, 3602879701896396800m, 7205759403792793600m, 14411518807585587200m, 28823037615171174400m, 57646075230342348800m, 115292150460684697600m, 230584300921369395200m, 461168601842738790400m, 922337203685477580800m, 1844674407370955161600m, 3689348814741910323200m, 7378697629483820646400m, 14757395258967641292800m, 29514790517935282585600m, 59029581035870565171200m, 118059162071741130342400m, 236118324143482260684800m, 472236648286964521369600m, 944473296573929042739200m, 1888946593147858085478400m, 3777893186295716170956800m, 7555786372591432341913600m, 15111572745182864683827200m, 30223145490365729367654400m, 60446290980731458735308800m, 120892581961462917470617600m, 241785163922925834941235200m, 483570327845851669882470400m, 967140655691703339764940800m, 1934281311383406679529881600m, 3868562622766813359059763200m, 7737125245533626718119526400m, 15474250491067253436239052800m, 30948500982134506872478105600m, 61897001964269013744956211200m, 123794003928538027489912422400m, 247588007857076054979824844800m, 495176015714152109959649689600m, 990352031428304219919299379200m, 1980704062856608439838598758400m, 3961408125713216879677197516800m, 7922816251426433759354395033600m, 15845632502852867518708790067200m, 31691265005705735037417580134400m, 63382530011411470074835160268800m, 126765060022822940149670320537600m, 253530120045645880299340641075200m, 507060240091291760598681282150400m, 1014120480182583521197362564300800m, 2028240960365167042394725128601600m, 4056481920730334084789450257203200m, 8112963841460668169578900514406400m, 16225927682921336339157801028812800m, 32451855365842672678315602057625600m, 64903710731685345356631204115251200m, 129807421463370690713262408230502400m, 259614842926741381426524816461004800m, 519229685853482762853049632922009600m, 1038459371706965525706099265844019200m, 2076918743413931051412198531688038400m, 4153837486827862102824397063376076800m, 8307674973655724205648794126752153600m, 16615349947311448411297588253504307200m, 33230699894622896822595176507008614400m, 66461399789245793645190353014017228800m, 132922799578491587290380706028034457600m, 265845599156983174580761412056068915200m, 531691198313966349161522824112137830400m, 1063382396627932698323045648224275660800m, 2126764793255865396646091296448551321600m, 4253529586511730793292182592897102643200m, 8507059173023461586584365185794205286400m, 17014118346046923173168730371588410572800m, 34028236692093846346337460743176821145600m, 68056473384187692692674921486353642291200m, 136112946768375385385349842972707284582400m, 272225893536750770770699685945414569164800m, 544451787073501541541399371890829138329600m, 1088903574147003083082798743781658276659200m, 2177807148294006166165597487563316553318400m, 4355614296588012332331194975126633106636800m, 8711228593176024664662389950253266213273600m, 17422457186352049329324779900506532426547200m, 34844914372704098658649559801013064853094400m, 69689828745408197317299119602026129706188800m, 139379657490816394634598239204052259412377600m, 278759314981632789269196478408104518824755200m, 557518629963265578538392956816209037649510400m, 1115037259926531157076785913632418075299020800m, 2230074519853062314153571827264836150598041600m, 4460149039706124628307143654529672301196083200m, 8920298079412249256614287309059344602392166400m, 17840596158824498513228574618118689204784332800m, 35681192317648997026457149236237378409568665600m, 71362384635297994052914298472474756819137331200m, 142724769270595988105828596944949513638274662400m, 285449538541191976211657193889899027276549324800m, 570899077082383952423314387779798054553098649600m, 1141798154164767904846628775559596109106197299200m, 2283596308329535809693257551119192218212394598400m, 4567192616659071619386515102238384436424789196800m, 9134385233318143238773030204476768872849578393600m, 18268770466636286477546060408953537745699156787200m, 36537540933272572955092120817907075491398313574400m, 73075081866545145910184241635814150982796627148800m, 146150163733090291820368483271628301965593254297600m, 292300327466180583640736966543256603931186508595200m, 584600654932361167281473933086513207862373017190400m, 1169201309864722334562947866173026415724746034380800m, 2338402619729444669125895732346052831449492068761600m, 4676805239458889338251791464692105662898984137523200m, 9353610478917778676503582929384211325797968275046400m, 18707220957835557353007165858768422651595936550092800m, 37414441915671114706014331717536845303191873100185600m, 74828883831342229412028663435073690606383746200371200m, 149657767662684458824057326870147381212767492400742400m, 299315535325368917648114653740294762425534984801484800m, 598631070650737835296229307480589524851069969602969600m, 1197262141301475670592458614961179049702139939205939200m, 2394524282602951341184917229922358099404279878411878400m, 4789048565205902682369834459844716198808559756823756800m, 9578097130411805364739668919689432397617119513647513600m, 19156194260823610729479337839378864795234239027295027200m, 38312388521647221458958675678757729590468478054590054400m, 76624777043294442917917351357515459180936956109180108800m, 153249554086588885835834702715030918361873912218360217600m, 306499108173177771671669405430061836723747824436720435200m, 612998216346355543343338810860123673447495648873440870400m, 1225996432692711086686677621720247346894991297746881740800m, 2451992865385422173373355243440494693789982595493763481600m, 4903985730770844346746710486880989387579965190987526963200m, 9807971461541688693493420973761978775159930381975053926400m, 19615942923083377386986841947523957550319860763950107852800m, 39231885846166754773973683895047915100639721527900215705600m, 78463771692333509547947367790095830201279443055800431411200m, 156927543384667019095894735580191660402558886111600862822400m, 313855086769334038191789471160383320805117772223201725644800m, 627710173538668076383578942320766641610235544446403451289600m, 1255420347077336152767157884641533283220471088892806902579200m, 2510840694154672305534315769283066566440942177785613805158400m, 5021681388309344611068631538566133132881884355571227610316800m, 10043362776618689222137263077132266265763768711142455220633600m, 20086725553237378444274526154264532531527537422284910441267200m, 40173451106474756888549052308529065063055074844569820882534400m, 80346902212949513777098104617058130126110149689139641765068800m, 160693804425899027554196209234116260252220299378279283530137600m, 321387608851798055108392418468232520504440598756558567060275200m, 642775217703596110216784836936465041008881197513117134120550400m, 1285550435407192220433569673872930082017762395026234268241100800m, 2571100870814384440867139347745860164035524790052468536482201600m, 5142201741628768881734278695491720328071049580104937072964403200m, 10284403483257537763468557390983440656142099160209874145928806400m, 20568806966515075526937114781966881312284198320419748291857612800m, 41137613933030151053874229563933762624568396640839496583715225600m, 82275227866060302107748459127867525249136793281678993167430451200m, 164550455732120604215496918255735050498273586563357986334860902400m, 329100911464241208430993836511470100996547173126715972669721804800m, 658201822928482416861987673022940201993094346253431945339443609600m, 1316403645856964833723975346045880403986188692506863890678887219200m, 2632807291713929667447950692091760807972377385013727781357774438400m, 5265614583427859334895901384183521615944754770027455562715548876800m, 10531229166855718669791802768367043231889509540054911125431097753600m, 21062458333711437339583605536734086463779019080109822250862195507200m, 42124916667422874679167211073468172927558038160219644501724391014400m, 84249833334845749358334422146936345855116076320439289003448782028800m, 168499666669691498716668844293872691710232152640878578006897564057600m, 336999333339382997433337688587745383420464305281757156013795128115200m, 673998666678765994866675377175490766840928610563514312027590256230400m, 1347997333357531989733350754350981533681857221127028624055180512460800m, 2695994666715063979466701508701963067363714442254057248110361024921600m, 5391989333430127958933403017403926134727428884508114496220722049843200m, 10783978666860255917866806034807852269454857769016228992441444099686400m, 21567957333720511835733612069615704538909715538032457984882888199372800m, 43135914667441023671467224139231409077819431076064915969765776398745600m, 86271829334882047342934448278462818155638862152129831939531552797491200m, 172543658669764094685868896556925636311277724304259663879063105594982400m, 345087317339528189371737793113851272622555448608519327758126211189964800m, 690174634679056378743475586227702545245110897217038655516252422379929600m, 1380349269358112757486951172455405090490221794434077311032504844759859200m, 2760698538716225514973902344910810180980443588868154622065009689519718400m, 5521397077432451029947804689821620361960887177736309244130019379039436800m, 11042794154864902059895609379643240723921774355472618488260038758078873600m, 22085588309729804119791218759286481447843548710945236976520077516157747200m, 44171176619459608239582437518572962895687097421890473953040155032315494400m, 88342353238919216479164875037145925791374194843780947906080310064630988800m, 176684706477838432958329750074291851582748389687561895812160620129261977600m, 353369412955676865916659500148583703165496779375123791624321240258523955200m, 706738825911353731833319000297167406330993558750247583248642480517047910400m, 1413477651822707463666638000594334812661987117500495166497284961034095820800m, 2826955303645414927333276001188669625323974235000990332994569922068191641600m, 5653910607290829854666552002377339250647948470001980665989139844136383283200m, 11307821214581659709333104004754678501295896940003961331978279688272766566400m, 22615642429163319418666208009509357002591793880007922663956559376545533132800m, 45231284858326638837332416019018714005183587760015845327913118753091066265600m, 90462569716653277674664832038037428010367175520031690655826237506182132531200m, 180925139433306555349329664076074856020734351040063381311652475012364265062400m, 361850278866613110698659328152149712041468702080126762623304950024728530124800m, 723700557733226221397318656304299424082937404160253525246609900049457060249600m, 1447401115466452442794637312608598848165874808320507050493219800098914120499200m, 2894802230932904885589274625217197696331749616641014100986439600197828240998400m, 5789604461865809771178549250434395392663499233282028201972879200395656481996800m, 11579208923731619542357098500868790785326998466564056403945758400791112963993600m, 23158417847463239084714197001737581570653996933128112807891516801582225927987200m, 46316835694926478169428394003475163141307993866256225615783033603164451855974400m, 92633671389852956338856788006950326282615987732512451231566067206328903711948800m, 185267342779705912677713576013900652565231975465024902463132134412657807423897600m, 370534685559411825355427152027801305130463950930049804926264268825315614847795200m, 741069371118823650710854304055602610260927901860099609852528537650631229695590400m, 1482138742237647301421708608111205220521855803720199219705057075301262459391180800m, 296427748447529460

New Parent App and School Communication

Please sign up to our new parent portal MyChildAtSchool (MCAS).



DON'T FORGET to enable push notifications for the MyChildAtSchool app on your phone so you can see all emails and letters the school sends you.

All schools in the Trust are using Bromcom and MCAS so for Meadow Park School, it means MCAS replaces School Synergy.

MCAS is now live, so as soon as you sign up you will be able to see your child's information. As School Synergy is linked to our old MIS it is no longer updating, therefore in order to view your child's timetable, see their attendance and behaviour points you will need to sign up to MCAS.

You have access to all the same information as you had in School Synergy. MCAS allows us to securely share your child's/children's achievement points, attendance, school reports, letters and school diary whenever you wish. The portal also provides general useful information about the school such as flash announcements. This will be our **primary means of communication** with you, from now on. Please make sure you enable notifications for MCAS as this is the way we will send you emails and letters.

To login to the MCAS Parent Portal, we have enabled you to 'self-sign on'. All you will need for this is your email address that the school has on record for you. Enter the school postcode CV34BD (without a space) or use our identifier 15028. Search for Meadow Park School.

School Communication

All communication from school is now via Bromcom and if you sign up to the parent portal MCAS then you will receive notifications from the school via the app. You can view all letters and emails, past and present, in MCAS. If you don't have the app then you will receive a normal email. Please add '15028@bromcomcloud.com' to your address book in order to prevent messages being blocked by your spam/junk filters.

How to Self-Sign Up for Parents

Parents and carers can access the MCAS Parent Login screen in two ways:

1. From within your web browser type **www.mychildatschool.com**
2. Download the free **MyChildAtSchool** parent app from either the Apple App Store or Google Play.

When you use the parent portal for the first time you will need to Sign-Up. Full instructions have been emailed home or they can be found on our website.

If you require any assistance logging in for the first time, please contact the School Office by emailing admin@meadowparkschool.com or telephone 02476 302580.

Uniform



Green school blazer



Grey school sweater



Tie



School shoes guidance

Plain black with no logos
No high heels, 'sliders', boots, sling back or open-toed shoes
Black leather or leather effect

TRAINERS AND CANVAS SHOES (VANS/CONVERSE) ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE



Summer Term 2025

Term Starts	Monday 28th April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 5th May
Half Term	Saturday 24th May – June 1st June
Last Day of Term	Friday 18th July
Summer Holiday Starts	Saturday 19th July

Chicken Jockey!...wait a minute...Minecraft!



It's no wonder now that a movie exists alongside the global phenomenon that is Minecraft – it's even more popular now Jack Black and a song about it! Children can build whatever they want to...but some dangers remain with encountering strangers during gameplay or even receiving online bullying or abuse. Please take a look at the attached guide to give tips on what to consider managing and ways to ensure your child remains safe whilst enjoying the game.

Group Chats!

Is your child part of any group chats? - This could be on social media, i.e. WhatsApp or within games such as Fortnite. If so, it is important that you are aware of the potential risks, which include:

- **Inappropriate content** – there is often a lack of moderation within chat facilities so users could be exposed to content/language that is not suitable for their age.
- **Bullying** – there are many instances where inappropriate/hurtful comments are shared within groups, this could take the form of name calling or body shaming.
- **Strangers** – your child could be added to groups with people they do not know or even with someone that they have previously blocked.
- **Bullying** can also be in the form of excluding others from the group. These issues often overspill into 'real life'.
- **Sharing personal information** – remind your child to be aware of the information they share with others including images and location

How can I help make group chats safer?

- 1) Check the recommended age rating and adhere to them. If we all did this, peer pressure would be reduced.
- 2) Set up age-appropriate parental controls and set screen time limits.
- 3) Show your child how to use any reporting and blocking tools.
- 4) Have regular conversations with your child about the risks outlined above and about what they are doing online.
- 5) Talk about who they are chatting with, encourage them to think carefully about the messages they send and how they might be perceived by others. Talk about positivity and not saying anything hurtful. Ask them to think about whether they would say what they are messaging, face to face.
- 6) Devices should be used in family rooms so you can monitor what they are doing and who they are interacting with.
- 7) Finally, make sure to model good digital behaviour yourself, as children often learn by observing the adults around them.

A Group Chat Resource can be found here:



Stay Safe!

Paul Rule
Child Protection Officer & Senior Pastoral Support Manager

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creative elements and by extension, violence. There can be a lot of fighting for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other scenarios—although the combat is quite basic and there are no real depictions of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take a pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another player's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying—it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by causing harm to their work and belongings in the game. Many public servers report griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creative elements 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 into Minecraft's gameplay of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have adverse effects on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's only a matter of time before all sorts of chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, which can encourage 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 on a wide range of devices, but to play the game, you need to purchase it. 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 servers 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

Before letting children or teenagers make a leap into Minecraft, it's important to consider the different game modes. It's also a great way for parents to get used to playing the game with them, since the difficulty level is low. 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. Having a server presents stronger controls, and if you've been given the address and password, a private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and—if necessary—ban anyone who misbehaves there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Having 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 always tell you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early success can be attributed to the fact that 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 careful 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

Used to working in IT, James is the Editor of the Daily Mail, and has worked in games media for more than 10 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



The National College



MEADOW PARK SCHOOL

THRIVING TOGETHER