



HARNHAM INFANT SCHOOL

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Newsletter 14

Friday 12th January 2024

It has been lovely to have the children back in school with us this week following the teacher training days last week, to see their smiling faces and hear about their holiday adventures too. Furthermore, the children have got stuck back into their learning and are excited and enthused about their new topics and projects in the classrooms.

This week, we have also had an HSA meeting to plan future fundraising events, a Stay and Do Phonics in Reception and a working party meeting with parents about school dinners. This reminds us that the whole school community is working together to make the educational and social experiences of the children the very best it can be.

Menu for week beginning 15th January:

Monday	Plant-based burger in a Bap or Spaghetti Bolognese Dessert: Yoghurt and Fruit
Tuesday	Chicken Goujons with Diced Potatoes or Tomato Pasta Dessert: Chocolate Brownie
Wednesday	Oriental style Chicken with Rice or Pizza with Crinkle Wedges Dessert: Fruit and Jelly
Thursday	Roast Beef or Quorn Pieces, Yorkshire Pudding, Potatoes and Veg Dessert: Lemon Sponge
Friday	Fish Fingers and Chips or Sweet Potato and Lentil Curry with Rice Dessert: Shortbread Biscuit

Celebration Assembly

The first Celebration Assembly of the term will be held next week on Friday 19th January. Invitations to Celebration Assembly are sent out on a Friday for the following week, plus a reminder the day before. Please check your email inbox carefully.

Clubs

The clubs letter for Term 3 was sent out this week and clubs for children in year 1 and year 2 are now available to book on School Gateway. Please remember to only sign your child up for one free club so that as many children as possible are able to access this provision. Thank you for your support with this. We would also like to say a big thank you to the members of staff who are giving up their time outside of their contracted hours to run these clubs for the children's extra-curricular offer and enjoyment.

Applications for School Places

Please remember that the deadline to apply for school places for September 2024 is on **Monday**. This applies to children joining Reception in September as well as our current Year 2s who also need to apply for a junior school place.

Year 2 Residential

A letter was sent home this week to parents of children in year 2 about the forthcoming residential opportunity for them on Friday 2nd February. This event is free but please do give consent for your child to take part if you would like them to using the School Gateway App – Payments section by Friday 19th January.

Parent Partnership

In singing assembly this week, the children have been learning a song. Some of the lyrics are: "We're better together, through every endeavour". This song reminds us that our school works best when we work as a team and this is true for parental partnership with the school too. Therefore, if you have any worries, concerns, questions or even celebrations that you would like to share with us, please do. Keeping these worries, questions and concerns confined to playground chat and What'sApp groups is not always particularly helpful and can sometimes lead to escalation of problems and emotions that may not be needed. Please do come and talk to us.

Year 1 Bedtime Story Event

Year 1 children are invited back to school on Thursday 18th January for bedtime stories. Children may return to school at 6.00pm for bedtime stories and games, wearing their pyjamas and onesies. They can bring a teddy too! This event will last an hour. Please book your child's place using the School Gateway App – clubs section. Thank you!

Smoking / Vaping

A polite reminder please that smoking and vaping is not permitted anywhere on school site, including outside the front of school or between the Infants and Juniors schools. Please respect these rules and wait until you are away from school site before doing so. Thank you for your support with this.

Early Drop Off Club

We have noticed that a number of parents are needing to rush off in the morning to get to work so leaving the site very promptly at 8.45am. Please don't forget that, if you need a little extra time in the morning, there is an option to book your child in to the early drop off club. There is a charge of £1.00 each day but you are able to drop your child at school between 8.15am and 8.25am, if that would be a help. This is bookable using the School Gateway App – clubs.

Parent Support Advisor:

Chris Lister is the Parent Support Advisor for Harnham Infants, and many families benefit from her expertise, support and advice. She can help parents with all sorts of things including difficulties with behaviour, financial matters, family breakdown and bereavement. Chris is also happy for you to get in touch if you're worried or concerned about any school related matters.

You can contact her by email psa@harnham-inf.wilts.sch.uk or by telephone 07595217569



Dates for your diaries:

Here are some important things coming up over the next few weeks:

Whole School	
22.1.24, 23.1.24 and 24.1.24	Open Classrooms to share books and next steps – further information to follow (Please note you only need to attend one of the dates)
6.2.24	Safer Internet Day
23.2.24, 9.05am	Coffee and Chat
Year 1	
18.1.24, 6.00pm	Bedtime Story Event
Year 2	
2.2.24	Year 2 Residential at school

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying; it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unnerve young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

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 lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your 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.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Gaskin (a.k.a. Lunard) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunard Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



In the Community:



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Salisbury (Dennis Marsh House)

Thursdays

Contact: Nicola Small

E: nsmall@miniathletics.com T: 07917 044468



www.miniathletics.com

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