



Eccleston St Mary's C of E Primary School

Newsletter 33 | 6th June 2025

SCHOOL NEWS

Our Motto:
Believe & Achieve

Our Mission Statement:
Through Jesus we love, learn and grow

Prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank you for the sunshine and the rain that helps the farmers' crops grow and ensures a plentiful Harvest.

It was disappointing that the weather meant we couldn't do Sports Day today but we know that rain is a wonderful thing and reinvigorates the beautiful world you have created for us.

Thank you so much for all the wonders of nature.

Amen

Year 2

Year 2 had a great time at the Brilliant Book Awards party!

Over the past few months, the children have read a series of books and voted for the winner with lots of other schools across Lancashire.

This week they got the chance to meet the winning author, Rob Biddulph, and ask him lots of questions about why he likes being an author and all about his illustrations.



WINNING HOUSE THIS WEEK

Douglas

Please click to find out more about our school

[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)

'I came to give life - life in all its fullness.'

John 10:10



CERTIFICATES



Bronze certificates are awarded for gaining 50 house points.

BRONZE

Year 5 Annabelle Lillia Saffron Sebastian Isla Finlay
Archie Saoirse Ella Eliza Tilly Macauley

Year 4 Robert

Silver certificates are awarded for gaining 100 house points.

SILVER

Year 3 Myla Isla-Jai George

Fantastic Book Awards - Runner Up Prize

We are delighted to announce that the FBA club has achieved remarkable success in the recent Fantastic Book Awards (FBA) competition, securing a runner up prize for an outstanding book trailer. This achievement reflects not only the dedication of our students but also their creativity and enthusiasm for reading.

The project was led independently by three talented Year 6 boys, Alex, Rohan, and Freddie, who demonstrated exemplary commitment by dedicating their lunchtimes and playtimes to the production of their video, featuring a book from the FBA reading list.



As part of their prize, our school will receive a bundle of books along with other book-themed goodies, which will undoubtedly enrich our library and inspire further reading among students. We commend Alex, Rohan, and Freddie for their hard work and are incredibly proud to celebrate this achievement with them.

Well done, boys!

You can watch their fantastic trailer here: <https://my.nicheacademy.com/lancashireschoollibraryservice/course/84564/lesson/213628>

Year 1 and Year 2 Trip to Martin Mere

On Wednesday, Year 1 and Year 2 visited Martin Mere for their School Trip.

They took part in pond dipping and a mini-beast hunt, enjoying finding and identifying lots of fascinating creatures.

They also loved playing on the play area, spotting lots of interesting birds and, of course, the flamingos! Lots of children's highlight was watching the otter playing in the pool.

Year 1 and Year 2 loved their day out and displayed excellent behaviour, making St Mary's proud.



Little Explorers

Nursery were very excited this week by the arrival of some baby caterpillars in their classroom. They have been watching them grow throughout the week and are looking forward to seeing what happens to them next.

They have also enjoyed reading the story of The Very Hungry Caterpillar, drawing caterpillars and painting butterflies.



Important Library Notice for Parents

Dear Parents,

We are incredibly lucky to have a fantastic school library packed with a wonderful selection of inspiring books for our children to read. To help us keep the library well-stocked and enjoyable for everyone, please return any outstanding library books as soon as you can.

Reminder slips for overdue books will be sent home over the next few weeks, so keep an eye out in your child's book bag.



Win £1,000 for your school's library

Nominate your school to [#rebuildthelibrary](#) and you could win a £100 National Book Token for yourself!

Our annual schools prize gives five schools across the UK and Ireland the chance to win **£1,000 in National Book Tokens** so they can fill their library shelves with new books. Each winning school will also receive **£300 in cash** to make improvements to their library space, making it fun and welcoming for all.

Follow the link below for more information and how to enter.

<https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/schools-prize>



Upcoming Dates

Monday 9th June	9.00-10.30am	Nursery visit to Library
Tuesday 10th June	9.00am	YR Class Worship (Please join us)
Wednesday 11th June	All Day	Sports Day (re-arranged)
	9.45 am	Junior Sports
	1.45pm	Infant Sports
Thursday 12th June	4.00-6.00pm	Cluster Netball (St Mary's playground)
Monday 16th June	All Day	Choir at Lancashire Sings
Tuesday 17th June	1.15pm	Y6 Road Safety Talk
Wednesday 18th June	All Day	Y6 Robinwood Residential
Thursday 19th June	All Day	Y2 Titanic Day
Thursday 19th June	9.00am	Y2 SODA
Thursday 19th June	All Day	Y6 Robinwood Residential
Friday 20th June	All Day	Y6 Robinwood Residential

Letters Home

Choir Lancashire Sings—Letter and Permission Slip

Sports and Social Clubs

Monday	Guitar Lessons KS2	Lunchtime
Tuesday	Multi Sports All Years	3.20-4.20pm
Tuesday	Choir	3.20-4.15pm
Wednesday	Spanish Club-All Years	8.00-8.45am
Thursday	Girls' Football	3.20-4.20pm
Friday	Fencing Club KS2	8.00-8.45am
Friday	Brass Club	3.20-4.15pm

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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, which 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

Clyde 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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