

# Freeman's Endowed Church of England Junior Academy Newsletter

'Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.' 1 John 3:18

## Bikeability

Some children have been completing their Bikeability award this week. They have been learning about how to stay safe whilst cycling on the road. They learnt how to maintain their bike following the ABC Rule, which stands for, air, brakes and chain. Well done to you all!!



## Summer Fair

Thank you to everyone who brought in a Tombola prize for the summer fair!

### Pre-loved soft toys, toys and books

For our **pre-loved soft toy stall** we are asking for donations of **soft toys** - please send them into school from **Wednesday 6th July**, along with any other used toys or books that your child no longer uses.



### Cake Stall

Any donations of cakes for our **Cake Stall** will be gratefully received!! Please send in any donations on the morning of **Wednesday 13th July**.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you all on **Wednesday 13th July** and again, **thankyou** for all of your support!

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Our **Values Champions** this week are:



Year 4: Jay

Year 5: Bella

Year 6: Millie

Well done to all of our Values Champions!



**Stars of the Week:**

Year 3: **Donaldson Class:** Frank

Year 4: **Kerr Class:** Amaan **Zephaniah Class:** Bella

Year 5: **Rowling Class:** Isabella **Horowitz Class:** Charlotte

Year 6: **Pullman Class:** Jay **Morpurgo Class:** Zoe

Well done to all of our Stars of the Week for showing outstanding behaviour and excellent effort in their work.

### **Presentation Awards**

Year 3: **Donaldson Class:** Kalezjah

Year 4: **Kerr Class:** Ruth **Zephaniah Class:** Layton

Year 5: **Rowling Class:** Katie **Horowitz Class:** Inaya

Year 6: **Pulman Class:** Scarlett **Morpurgo Class:** Madison

### **Dojo Champions of the Week**



Our Class of the Week with the highest number of Dojo points is Morpurgo Class!  
Our House of the Week with the highest number of Dojo points is the Steelbacks House!

### **Out of School Awards**

R&D Dance troupe

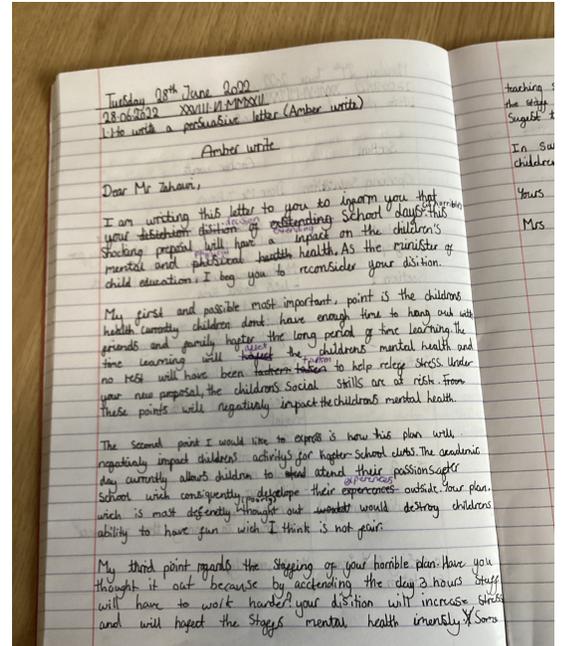
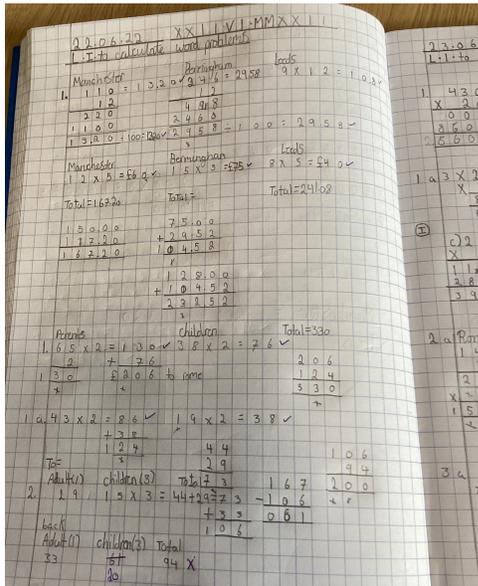
Zane - manager's player of the year for football

*Well done to you for your hard work out of school.*

## Great work - Year 6!

In English this week, the children have been writing persuasive letters to Mr Zahawi, the Secretary of State for Education, informing him of their dismay regarding his proposal to extend the school day! Here are a few excellent examples:

In maths this week, Year 6 have been calculating word problems linked to ratio & proportion, the four operations and percentages.



On Wednesday, the children in Year 6 had a day learning all about the Mayans, which links to their current humanities topic. Children learnt about Mayan culture, their gods, how they farmed and their calendar. They performed lots of drama activities and worked really well together.

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## **After School Incidents**

Recently we have been made aware of several incidents that have happened after school involving Year 5 and 6 children who are walking home on their own or with friends. If your child walks home on their own, please could you speak to them about your expectations for their behaviour outside of school, as it is difficult for school staff to investigate and deal with incidents that happen outside of the school grounds. We make it clear to children that their behaviour outside of school should be as positive as it is inside of school but recently we have been disappointed to hear reports of some children swearing, fighting and showing a lack of respect for the local community. Please ensure your child knows your expectations, how to keep themselves safe and what to do if they have any concerns.

## **Wellbeing**

The Anna Freud Centre has produced a summer leaflet and resources to help primary aged children with their mental health over the summer holidays. Just as we look after our physical health, it's important to look after our mental health.

Self-care is all about what you can do to help yourself feel better or to keep yourself feeling good. It's a way that we can look after our own mental health and wellbeing. It can help your body and mind to relax, drift away, or be more energised.

This self-care plan walks primary-aged children through a series of steps, helping them create a simple self-care plan that works for them. It helps children identify activities that they can use to support their mental health.

Some of the suggested self-care activities include:

- music and dance
- mindfulness
- art

The resource was co-written by Anna Freud Centre experts and young people, who shared ideas on self-care strategies that work for them. Please use the following link to access the information. [https://www.annafreud.org/media/16070/scs\\_primaryposter.pdf](https://www.annafreud.org/media/16070/scs_primaryposter.pdf)

## **Parent Questionnaire**

We really do value your opinions. We are asking parents to fill in this questionnaire, which can be found using the following link: <https://s.surveypal.com/24yirqnt>

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## **Queens Portraits**

To celebrate the Jubilee the children drew and painted portraits of the Queen. These will be framed and will be available for you to purchase on the playground. They will cost £2 each. Please keep an eye out for a text informing you which day your child's will be on sale next week. Any that are not sold on the allocated day will be available to purchase at the summer fair.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING  
**7+**

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 lots 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 Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) 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 Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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