



Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School

Newsletter No.18

Friday 24th January 2020

Guided by the teachings of the Church we pray, work, celebrate, and care for each other and other people using the gifts we have been given by God the Father, Son and Spirit.

Dates for your diary		
Monday 27th January 2020	2.45pm	Star/Virtues Pupil Awards (parents of selected pupils invited by text)
Tuesday 28th January 2020	9:15am	Y4C parents please attend our Inspire workshop (timetables)
Wednesday 29th January 2020	PM 7-8pm	Y3 will be visiting the library Y6 confirmation at The Mother of God and Guardian Angels Church
Thursday 30th January 2020	1:30pm 2:40-2:55pm	Parishioners afternoon tea – Gap room (church) If you would like to become a EYFS 'Secret Reader', please speak to the EYFS teacher

Invitation to Mass

All are welcome to join us on Wednesday 29th January 2020 at 9:15am for school Mass led by:

Year 6

All families are invited to **Family Mass** on the first Sunday of each month at The Mother of God and Guardian Angels Church



A note from Mrs Milligan

This week, I would like to give a special mention to EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 for preparing a beautiful Mass with clear reading and well thought out bidding prayers. A special thank you also to those who have supported the children in the preparation for this.

In the coming week, our Year 6 candidates will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please pray for all of the children of Guardian Angels, St John the Baptist and the Parish who will receive the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit on Wednesday evening.

We hope that you are enjoying reading the Sunday Gospel in our weekly newsletter.

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Matthew 4:12-17

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he went away to Galilee. He did not stay in Nazareth, but went to live in Capernaum, a town by Lake Galilee, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was done to make what the prophet Isaiah had said come true:

"Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
on the road to the sea, on the other side of the Jordan,
Galilee, land of the Gentiles!
The people who live in darkness will see a great light.
On those who live in the dark land of death
the light will shine."

From that time Jesus began to preach his message: "Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom of heaven is near."



Attendance

Our target for whole school attendance is 97%; please make every effort to ensure that your child comes to school every single day. Some facts about school attendance:

- 90% attendance is like having a day off every two weeks
- Most children should routinely have attendance rates of 97% or more. This is the equivalent of 6 days absence a year. HOWEVER, 100% is achieved by many pupils every year in both primary and secondary schools
- Remember - the only legally accepted reasons for not being in school are illness, holiday approved by school (exceptional circumstances) or a day of religious observance

New School Lunch Menu

Our delicious new lunch menu commences on Monday 27th January 2020. Please do check the school website to see the new choices. Our menu runs on a three-week rotation starting with week 1 on 27/1/2020.

Confirmation: 29th January 2020

Due to health & safety considerations, we must stress that only one row of seating will be available for each family. We actively encourage extended family and friends to celebrate with you at family gatherings, independently of the service. Thank you.

Please pray for the pupils of Guardian Angels and St John the Baptist Parish who are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Wednesday 29th January 2020.

Term Time Holidays

Following an unusually high number of requests for term time leave, please take the following into consideration:

From 1st September 2013, amendments to the [Education \(Pupil Registration\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#) made clear that **Head Teachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.**

Term time holidays continue to cause significant concern and debate. While there are many different views, the direct correlation between attendance and attainment is undeniable. Absence from school interrupts teaching and learning and compromises progress. Therefore, we strongly discourage pupil leave of absence during term time. The expectation is that such leave would only be authorised in the most exceptional circumstances.

Faith and Respect Week Homework

Last Friday you will have received a home-learning project as a pre-learning task for our Faith and Respect week, which takes place between 3rd - 7th February 2020. All pupils who complete the task will receive 10 house points and there will be one prize awarded per class for the winning project. Homework deadline: Monday 3rd February 2020.

We look forward to seeing your creations.

IF YOU'RE AN
EU CITIZEN
LIVING IN THE UK
APPLY TO THE
EU SETTLEMENT
SCHEME ONLINE



Brexit Update

EU citizens and their families can **apply for settled status or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme.**

If the UK leaves, the EU without a deal, you'll need to be living in the UK before it leaves the EU to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme. The deadline for applying will be 31 December 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/applying-for-settled-status>





Article 19 (protection from violence, abuse and neglect)



Safeguarding tip of the week:

Childline is here to help anyone under 19 in the UK with any issue they are going through. Whether it is something big or small. There number is 08001111

STARS OF THE WEEK

Article 29 (goals of education)

There pupils have been 'Aiming High' and displaying this half term's virtues.
We look forward to congratulating:

Group	Star Pupils	Virtues
EYFS	Nadia and Mateo	Jessica
Year 1	Lexie and Rayan	Jessé
Year 2	Zara and Inzwirashé	Holly
Year 3	Logan and Finley	Ellarna
Year 4C	Joshua and Finley	Frankie
Year 4B	Oluwatoni and Luana	Cerys
Year 5	Katie and Lucas	Ellie

Parents of the selected pupils are invited to attend the assembly on Monday 27th January 2020 at 2:45pm

This week we wish a very

'Happy birthday' to:

Joshua (EYFS)
 Lucas (Year 1)
 Darcy and Benjamin (Year 2)
 Shaylah (Year 3)
 Kaden and Ophelie (Year 4B)
 Gerard (Y5)
 Jack (Year 6)

Attendance for last week

Article 28 (right to education)

Well done Year 1

EYFS	95.3%
Year 1	100%
Year 2	99.3%
Year 3	97.7%
Year 4C	95.7%
Year 4B	97.6%
Year 5	94%
Year 6	93%
Overall Total for School	96.6%

Our whole school target is **97%** Please ensure that your child is in school every day possible.

This half term's Virtues are: **Compassionate and Loving**

Compassionate:

We are compassionate when we feel sympathy and concern for other people who are in difficulty; whether they are near to us or far away.



Loving:

We are loving when we show our sympathy and concern for other people by our actions and by our words.

God of hope, share your light with all your children, as we try to help others who are in need. Amen.



Have a lovely weekend

Mrs H Milligan

Mr A Spindlow

Head Teacher

Deputy Head Teacher





There's a very good chance you've heard of Minecraft. The block building phenomenon is, arguably, the most beloved video game of all time which has managed to maintain its popularity since its first release back in 2011. Nine years later, it still has a huge userbase of 112 million people playing the game every month. Accessible to those 7+, Minecraft can be a gateway into a world of learning and exploration which encourages players to use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks. While Minecraft is considered relatively safe generally speaking, there are some safety precautions parents may want to consider before allowing their children loose on the game.



What parents need to know about MINECRAFT



OPEN TO HACKING

Hackers can be a real problem in any online game, including Minecraft. Some individuals can access other people's games to disrupt their play time, or even worse, access private details about players such as their names, email addresses, dates of birth and so on. It would be incredibly rare and unfortunate to encounter a player like this, but it does happen and must be taken as a serious risk.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Most players aged 7 and over will be able to play the game comfortably and, whilst creating an account does ask you to input your date of birth for confirmation, there's no way to check if the information is correct nor to check someone's real identity. This could mean that children younger than 7 could access the game. However, what is more concerning is that adults pretending to be children could theoretically be using false information to access the game and be interacting with your child.



RISK OF GRIEFING

Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil someone's gameplay and can essentially amount to a form of cyberbullying. In open servers, or even private ones among friends, it can be difficult to keep track of who's saying what, and an innocent comment in one person's eyes could be seen as bullying by somebody else. Stealing supplies, destroying things that take hours to build and harassing innocent players can all be commonplace if care isn't taken.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Minecraft can be an incredibly exciting game but it can also be very addictive. Too much time on the game could impact on your child's behaviour, causing them to become irritable or angry when being asked to stop playing. This might suggest it might be time to enforce some time away from the game. Addictive behaviour can be compounded at a young age and encouraging gaming in moderation is always recommended.

'SCARY' CHARACTERS FOR YOUNGER GAMERS

For the most part, Minecraft is not a scary game. Despite this, there are certain characters in the game that younger children in particular may find frightening. Creepers, zombies and various other 'baddies' can be commonplace in some parts of the game and young minds may find it difficult to disassociate them from real life once they switch off the game.



Safety Tips For Parents



BLOCK STRANGERS AND UNWANTED CONTACT

Despite the fact that private messages can no longer be sent in the game, strangers may still attempt to interact with your child. From the pause menu, players can block chat and friend requests from others in the game. This causes any profanities, email addresses and phone numbers to become automatically blocked, meaning it's harder for people you don't know to potentially contact your child.



LEARN FROM YOUTUBERS / TWITCH STREAMERS

There are a lot of Minecraft focused YouTubers and Twitch Streamers that offer a huge variety of fun, engaging content. Many of them focus on making videos specifically for younger audiences, which don't include bad language or anything scary. If you're unsure about the game, check out some of the biggest streamers and more importantly, ask who your children like. This will help you to understand what the game is about and also make sure that your children are watching age-appropriate content online.



PLAY IN CREATIVE OR PEACEFUL MODES

Playing the game on Creative or Peaceful mode ensures that the experience is strictly safe. Peaceful mode allows children to explore with friends without having the survival element of normal Minecraft, while Creative mode allows imaginations to run wild with unlimited resources, encouraging creation of vast, personalised worlds. There really are no limits as to what can be accomplished and getting involved yourself can make it a great way to bond with your child and give you a long-term project to complete with them.



MONITOR GAME TIME

Being able to play on a wide variety of platforms can be beneficial however it can also make it more difficult to put the game down. Play time should be monitored and it's always a good idea to talk to your child if you feel they are spending too much time on the game or showing signs of addictive behaviour.



CREATE A PRIVATE SERVER

The best way to avoid unwanted strangers or griefers in a server is to simply create your own. Private servers do exactly what they say on the tin by offering a safe, secure place for children to play and create with their friends, free from outside interference. They (and you) control who is allowed in the server and what kind of things they can do in it, making it the closest thing Minecraft offers to parental controls.

LEARN TO PLAY YOURSELF

Minecraft is an incredibly easy game to pick up and play. Furthermore, it doesn't require an expensive console or computer, with versions available for smartphones and tablets. Learning to play yourself and playing alongside your child is the best way to understand the game and will help to put your mind at ease in respect of what your child is viewing and who they may be interacting with.



CREATE SERVER WHITELISTS

Username you know to be safe, like your child's friends or relatives, can have their accounts whitelisted as safe. Essentially, this means that server moderators can create a community made up of people they know to be friendly and children will only be playing alongside people both they and you know, reducing any risk of contact with strangers or experiencing griefing.



Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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