



**DUNALLEY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
Learning and achieving together



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23rd May - Newsletter

## Staffing news

We will be saying farewell to some staff over the next few weeks:

**Mrs Lander** leaves us at the end of this term, her last day at school will be Friday May 23rd.

We are delighted for Sammi as she has secured a fabulous new job at a secondary school, as an Assistant Senco, we know she'll be great at this new role and will continue to champion children and support them with their learning.

**Mrs Ashton** leaves us on Friday 6th June, Sam has been a valued and well loved member of staff at Dunalley for 24 years, during which time she has supported countless families.

Sam is embarking on a wonderful new venture, I'm sure she will tell you all about it as you wish her best wishes on Friday 6th June, we hope Sam will be on the school field at the end of the day to say her farewells.

**Mrs Carpenter** leaves us on Wednesday June 11th, Sue who has been our Nursery & Pre-school manager since September 2021 is leaving us to embark on a new and exciting role heading up a private nursery, we wish her all the success for her future work as well her adventures in her camper!

**Mrs Van der Velde** recently left us, we would like to wish her the very best for her future endeavours too.

I'm sure families will join us in heartfelt thanks for the hard work, commitment and loyalty all of four members of staff have given to Dunalley over the years.

## Nursery and pre-school - News

Nursery and pre-school enjoyed their last Forest School today. We did some Hapa Zome (leaf/flower bashing) to create some wonderful pictures.

The children enjoyed swinging, digging, climbing, hanging and exploring. We found lots of ladybird larvae on the willow tunnel too.

Sue has enjoyed leading the Forest School sessions and hopes that the children continue to develop their love of nature.

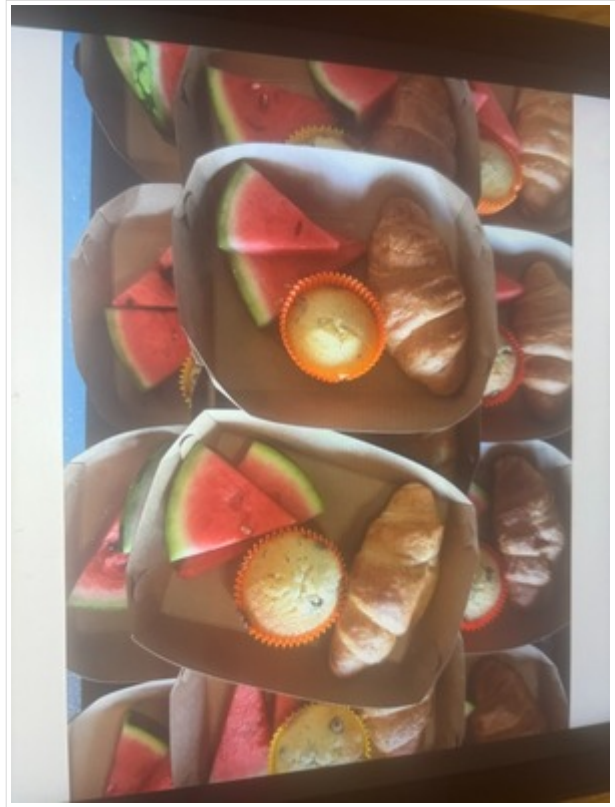


## Reception - Visitors

Reception have been lucky to have lots of visitors this week!

Our visitors have come in to talk about their jobs as people who help us. We started the week with Alfie's Mum who works as a vet nurse. She told us all about her job and showed us photos of the animals she cares for. We then ended with a guess the animal x-ray quiz!

Thank you to all our visitors.



## Year 6 - SATs are ALL done!

Congratulations to all year 6, who worked super hard last week completing their statutory assessments.

Each morning, they started their days with a fabulous breakfast. Thank you to the staff for giving up their time to organise this and parents who kindly donated lots of extra treats to provide a lovely selection of breakfast food. With a few extra playtimes, the week went smoothly.

We are super proud of you all.



## Y6NJ - Thank you to the PTFA

Year 6NJ who were the worthy winners of the PTFA Penny Wars competition enjoyed a fabulous breakfast this morning, prepared by the PTFA.

The children and Y6NJ staff sat outside in the sunshine and enjoyed an individually boxed selection of pastries and fresh fruit.

We are very fortunate to have such a hands on PTFA! Thank you.

## Year 5 - Visit to the University

On Tuesday morning, Year 5 were invited to the University of Gloucestershire for some maths problem solving activities. Children were split into groups and were asked to work together to solve problems involving areas of maths we have learnt this year. These included problems on area, fractions, multiplication and explaining how and why different methods or operations were needed to solve each problem. We had some lovely feedback from the student teachers following our visit to say what a fantastic year group it was!



## Year 4 - Bread Making

On Wednesday, Y4 had lots of fun making bread from scratch!

They worked together in groups to make the dough and then created their own separate bread rolls to share with their families at the end of the day. The bread tasted great and smelled amazing! A successful baking day for Y4!



## Introducing Hope

Thank you to everyone that submitted a name.

Our Cub Lion has been named - Hope

The following will be added to the plaque which will be displayed with our lion cub.

Our school has designed Hope with individual ideas amalgamated together by a talented, artistic parent creating a colourful depiction of our amazing community. Our Lion symbolises hope in a world that is ever-changing and the support our community provides to help us to thrive, grow and face life's challenges.

## Year 4 - Viking Myths

Last week, Y4 shared their original Viking myths around the campfire in forest school like real Vikings!

They all worked very hard creating their own version of our class text 'Arthur and the Golden Rope.' It was fantastic to hear their creative, innovative stories around the fire. Well done Y4!



## The History People - Year 4 Visitors

The History People were in school for a day with Year 4 last week, to immerse themselves in the lives of the Anglo-Saxons and had a superb experience.

They learnt about candle-making, metal work, leather work as well as becoming archaeologists for the afternoon!

Special thanks to all parents who helped the day run smoothly.



## Earlies - News

We thought you may enjoy seeing some of creations the children have made in their Earlies session this week.

Hope will be decorated by some of our pupils on Monday.

## FREE Opportunity for girls - Cheltenham Town

Cheltenham Town Community Trust are offering a FREE taster session of our Girls Only Football Programme on Wednesday 21st May 2025, 5.15 - 6.15pm.

These fun and friendly weekly sessions are open to girls aged 7–14 years, of all abilities – whether they are new to football or looking to build on their skills, everyone is welcome.

**Details:**

- When: Every Wednesday during term time
- Time: 5.15pm – 6.15pm
- Where: Bournside School Sports Centre (outdoor astro turf)
- Who: Girls aged 7–14
- Cost: Free taster session on Wednesday 21st May and £3.50 per week thereafter

We do ask that participants book in advance so we have their details ahead of the session. The link can be found here: <https://officialsoccerschools.co.uk/cheltenhamtownfc/girls-only-evening-centre-6.html>

If you are able to share this opportunity with your students and families through your school newsletter, noticeboard, Whatsapp group or social media it would be greatly appreciated.

If you need any further information please let us know.

Cheltenham Town Community Trust Team



# GIRLS ONLY EVENING CENTRE

**Join us for our fun and friendly girls only football training sessions, held on the outdoor astro turf. These sessions are open to all abilities – whether you are new to football or looking to sharpen your skills, everyone is welcome.**

<p> <b>Every Wednesday (Term time only)</b></p> <p> <b>Session Timings 5.15pm – 6.15pm</b></p> <p> <b>Bournside School Sports Centre Warden Hill Road, Cheltenham, GL51 3EF</b></p>	<p> <b>Age Range 7 – 14 years</b></p> <p> <b>Cost per session £3.50</b></p> <p> <b>Free taster session on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025</b></p>
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**BOOK NOW** 

Cheltenham Town Community Trust Charity No. 1180210

Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation are offering a free opportunity for 8- to 11-year-olds to access a free holiday camp during the May half term.

They are hoping to target young people who may face financial barriers, by providing a free Dynamos Cricket holiday camp.

Please see below the information:

- Date- Wednesday, 28<sup>th</sup> May.
- Timings- 10am till 4pm.
- Venue- YMCA Cheltenham (indoor sport hall), GL50 1TP

Process to book- The booking link is here- <https://ecb.clubspark.uk/Book/a23de708-4330-4568-9088-58caf84a9705?venue=GFCentralCheltenham>

Voucher code- B9LYZ

This code will take the price from £50 to zero! ?

On signup, you will also receive a free New Balance Dynamos Cricket T shirt that will be delivered to your house.



**CHANCE TO SHINE**  
Spreading the power of cricket

**FREE DYNAMOS CRICKET PROGRAMME**  
FOR 8-11 YEAR OLDS

**Cheltenham YMCA Sports Centre**  
GL51 8NY  
Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May  
10:00am-16:00pm

**Contact:**  
[kieran.slade@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org](mailto:kieran.slade@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org)



**Sign up here!**  
Free voucher code B9LYZ  
Usually £50!

**You will receive:**  
Free personalised T shirt!

Minecraft - Advice for families

A FREE opportunity from Glos Cricket Foundation

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 7

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.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of digital LEGO, certain game modes include creatures accompanied by some sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to disliking in-game combat and other moments – although the content 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 that intentionally ruins someone else's experience by smacking hours of their work and making something else out of it. Many public servers report griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft is based 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, you may want to consider setting up a schedule for when they can play. Minecraft is a resource-gathering and building exploration game, so it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

### PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible to 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-time purchase, which is typically around £15. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms, leading to an entirely optional subscription service that often users from their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unnecessary or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE

Selecting Creative or Peaceful mode allows children to play safely when learning to control a character. It's important not 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. Hosting a server prevents strangers from joining it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control what'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

Joyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 10 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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And finally ..

Have a fabulous half-term break and we will see you back at school on Monday 2nd June.

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