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## Points to Remember No. 5 03.10.25

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### DATES

#### October

**Wed 15th**—Parent/ Guardian Evenings, Classes 1, 2, & 3

**Thurs 16th**—Parent/ Guardian Evenings, Classes 1, 2, & 3

**Mon 27th**—Start of Half-term week

#### November

**Mon 3rd**—School opens for 2nd half of the Autumn Term

#### December

**Wed 10th**—NHS Flu Immunisations - details to follow

**Thu 11th**—Christmas Performance 2pm and 6pm

**Wed 17th**—Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper day

**Fri 19th**—Last day of the Autumn Term

#### January

**Mon 5th**—First day of the Spring Term

Term Dates Available on School Website

2025 –2026 —[Click here](#)

**Please ensure holidays are booked outside of term times because we teach new content every single day.**

#### 2026 Residentials

Y2 & Y3 Tattenhall Residential -Tues 30th June—Wed 1st July

Y4 London Residential - Tues 24th—Wed 25th March

Y6 Min-Y-Don Residential - Mon 6th—Friday 10th July

*Details to follow*

We're looking forward to our upcoming parents and guardian evenings, the first for the 2025-2026 school year. These meetings are a great opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher and ensure they're settling in well.

Here are the key dates for each class:

- **EVERYONE:** October 15th & 16th 2025
- **Reception & Year 6:** March 4th 2026
- **Years 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5:** June 17th & 18th 2026



## University of Chester

### Welcoming Trainee Teachers from the University of Chester

We are delighted to be partnering once again with the University of Chester to host two trainee teachers this year. Over the past few years, our pupils have greatly benefited from the extra support and fresh perspectives that trainee teachers bring. As a school, we are proud to play our part in training the next generation of teachers. Our experienced staff enjoy mentoring new professionals and sharing our strong classroom practice. The trainees will be working with Mrs Downey and Miss Baines, and we look forward to you meeting them in November.

# primary futures

### Primary Futures: Linking Learning to Life

At Whitley Village School, we are committed to helping children understand that the effort they put into their education each day opens doors to exciting opportunities in the world of work. To support this aim, we are using **Primary Futures**, a national programme that connects schools with volunteers from a wide range of professions.

Through Primary Futures, children will hear directly from people working in different careers, helping them see how subjects like maths, science and literacy are used in real jobs. This not only raises aspirations but also helps challenge stereotypes and broaden horizons.

To spark interest and curiosity, our first session will focus on **careers in aviation**.

**We are also still very keen to hear from parents who might like to deliver a talk and share their journey.**

## Podcasting Help

We are having a big push on oracy at Whitley School and are excited to be setting up a Podcasting Area where our children can record their own podcasts and put their speaking and listening skills to great use.

Watch (or listen!) to this space...

## Friends of Whitley School (FoWS) Lottery

The lottery lets us raise much-needed funds for school to help pay for Mathletics, coaches for trips, furniture etc.

It costs just £8 a month for 2 draws per week. If your number pops up, you win £25. If there was no winner the week before you win. If you would like a number and to help support school,

Please contact Hayley Woodward on 07740043151 or [litthayjay@gmail.com](mailto:litthayjay@gmail.com)

### Lottery Winners

We have lots of spare numbers so please consider supporting this initiative.

20/09/2025	22	ROLLOVER	
24/09/2025	25	ROLLOVER	
27/09/2025	59	Mike Ruane	£50
01/10/2025	27	ROLLOVER	

## Reception 2026

### Reception 2026 Applications Now Open!

If your child is due to start school in **September 2026**, applications for Reception places are now open. Please apply via your **local authority**.

If you know anyone living fairly locally who might be interested in joining our wonderful school community, please encourage them to get in touch — we'd love to welcome them for a visit!

Contact us to arrange a 1:1 tour or ask any questions.



## Year 1 Computing: A Fantastic Start!

Year 1 have made a brilliant start to their computing lessons this term and are already showing fantastic progress. They've been learning how to log in independently and are beginning to understand the importance of keeping their passwords safe. The children have also started saving their work and are developing confidence in recognising and using different icons. It's





# 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. Realms 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

Lloyd 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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