

St Martin's Newsletter






SUMMER TERM 2024/2025

Friday 5th July

Attendance

Another week with above 90% attendance with **92%**. Lets aim for 96% next week 😊. A huge **well done to year 6** who had **ZERO** lates this week. Remember anyone arriving at school after 8:50 am will be marked late. Lets be an attendance HERO!

			
	Attendance	Lateness	Class Dojo
Nursery	80.18%	5	
Reception	96.3%	2	10.6
Year 1	88.97%	1	10.4
Year 2	95.6%	3	10.3
Year 3	87.06%	10	6.1
Year 4	93.81%	3	6.6
Year 5	91.96%	7	14.5
Year 6	99.67%	0	3.9

Year 5 win the bonus break for most average dojos this week.

St Martin's Stars

Well done to all our certificate winners this week!

			
	Shining Star	Purple Tie	Our Values
Nursery	Frankie B	Ava B	
Reception	Paxton L	Everleigh J	Shea H
Year 1	Isla S	Ellenor MK	Ava-Grace C
Year 2	Ava M	Patrick G	Adara C
Year 3	Parker M	Rosalie C	Maisie F
Year 4	Tyler R	Cathryn J	Amelia F
Year 5	Athena B	Ella H	Hollie P
Year 6	WHOLE CLASS	Luke B	Winnie S

Staying in touch

Feel free to grab a member of staff on the gate in the morning or email admin@st-martins.halton.sch.uk / ring the office 01928711207.

Message from Mrs Ming

This week the Y6 children completed their National curriculum tests. We are immensely proud at their strength of character and determination. They have really shone this week and will enjoy a reward afternoon today.

A BIG **Thank You** to Miss Higham, Mrs Hayes and Mrs Wilson and all the staff that have helped prepare the children and supported them this week.

Thank you also to Joaquin and his dad for helping me with the new layout for our newsletter, I hope you like it 😊.

A reminder that we finish for Half term next Friday at normal time. We return to school on Monday 9th June.

Parent Noticeboard

Coffee afternoon school nurse drop in – Wed 21st May.

Y3 Assembly – Friday 23rd May

For up to date event information please check out the School Spider app or website.

Preschool places

We have almost filled all the places for September so please complete a registration form and hand it in as soon as possible. Once full, new applications will go on a waiting list.

Half term begins Friday 23rd May

Catholic Life and Reflection

The Wednesday Word is a resource for parents to use when discussing the [weekly Gospel's](#) with their families.

We would also like to share this prayer for our new Pope
Leo XIV

Heavenly Father,

You have raised Your servant, Pope Leo XIV, to the Chair of Saint Peter. Pour out Your abundant blessings upon him. Through him, guide Your pilgrim Church along the path to Heaven. Amen.

School Nurse

On **Wednesday** we will be holding a coffee afternoon at **2.30pm** with our new school Nurse - Nancy Peters. This will be a chance for you to get to know her and speak to her about any concerns you have. Please come along.

Clubs Next week

Monday – Miss Rowe's Dance Y6.

Tuesday – Mrs Ming's Comic Club KS2.

Tuesday – Miss Higham's Fitness club Y6.

Thursday – Miss Harrison's Just Dance Y2 and Y3.

Thursday – Mr Cullen's Multisports YR and Y1.

Thursday – Mrs Moseley's Netball club Y4 and Y5.

Friday – Mr Scott's Choir KS2.

All clubs finish at 4.15pm.

This guide [explores Minecraft](#) – a gaming favourite for children and adults alike. It highlights the potential risks, including online strangers, in-game bullying and unintended spending.

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

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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