

# St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant and Junior Schools' Weekly Newsletter

3rd November, 2022

**'Love one another; Always do our best; Take care of ourselves and the world around us'**



## Book Fair!

Thank you to all of our parents who attended our book fair this year. Coming together and choosing a book with your child can really inspire a love of reading. At St Mary's, our aim is for every child to become an avid reader and if you go to the next page, it is easy to see why this is!

Attendance winners!	
Infant School:	Junior School:
Robin and Swan Class 100%	None
Punctuality winners!	
Owl, Robin, Dove and Woodpecker Class 0 lates	6B, Year 3, 5C and 6D 0 lates

## All Souls Day

On Wednesday we welcomed Fr. Clive, who celebrated Mass with us on All Souls Day. Together, we remembered those dear to us who have passed away.





SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS

# READING EVERY DAY...

...**CREATES** lifelong readers.

...**TEACHES** children to find adventure, ideas,  
and answers through books.

...**STRENGTHENS** relationships and creates memories  
as a family activity.

...**OPENS DOORS** through which children can learn  
about themselves.

...**BUILDS** a diverse vocabulary and strengthens  
fluency in reading.

...**ALLOWS** a child's imagination and creativity  
to blossom.

...**GIVES** children the tools needed to become  
successful students.

...**TAKES** the "scary" out of reading in the classroom.

...**HELPS** children make connections to new places,  
people, and concepts.

...**AWAKENS** children to the world around them.

**READ**  
Every Day  
Lead a Better  
**LIFE**

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## Dates for your diary:

- 11th November Remembrance Day
- wb 14th November- Anti-bullying Week
- 14th November- 'Odd Socks Day'- children to come to school in mismatched socks to mark Anti-bullying Week
- 18th November- Children In Need- children to dress up wearing spots and donate £1 to the charity
- Wb 12th December- Christmas Performances- dates to be confirmed next week

## Reminders

- White polo shirts are not part of the school uniform- children must wear either a long or short sleeved white buttoned shirt.
- Ties are compulsory for our Junior children
- Follow us on Twitter! @stmarysrcpriory to see weekly updates from our classes!

## Enrichment Clubs

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Infant School		Reception- Year 2: <b>Dance</b>  Soccerkidz:  Years 1-3 <b>Soccer</b>	Years 1&2: <b>Art</b>   Reception: <b>Drama through Storytelling</b>	Soccerkidz:  Years 1-3: <b>Multi-sports</b>
Junior School	Years 3-6: <b>Games Club (Board Games)</b>  Soccerkidz:  Years 4-6: <b>Soccer</b>	Years 3-6: <b>Netball</b>  Soccerkidz:  Years 1-3: <b>Soccer</b>	Years 3-6: <b>Boxing</b>	Years 3-6: <b>Dance</b>  Soccerkidz:  Years 1-3: <b>Multi-sports</b>





# Stars of the Week



Owl Class	Rashan	Sebastian
Robin Class	Ruth	Leila
Swan Class	Aaron	Emiliano
Woodpecker Class	Georgina	Isabelle
Dove Class	Eldana	Kelly
3N	Blessing	Heaven
3M	Deniz	Emely
4B	Kinga	Chloe
4M	Amen	Julia
5C	Jovian	Lilianna
5J	Elvis	Shekinah
6B	Finley	Yorsalem
6D	Jayden	Agnilson

**Congratulations to our Stars of the week!**  
**These pupils have worked exceptionally**  
**hard to stand out amongst their peers. Well**  
**done everyone!**





## St Thomas More RC Church

9 Henry Road, Manor House, London N4 2LH

E: [manorhouse@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:manorhouse@rcdow.org.uk) T: 020 88029910

Parish Priest: Fr Clive Lee



### REGISTRATION FORM

for

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023

If you wish your child to enrol for the First Holy Communion programme and he/she is in YEAR 3 NOW, please complete the information below and put it in the ENROLMENT FORMS BOX. It is important that you are a regular Mass attendee of St Thomas More and that your child is already baptised a Roman Catholic.

At this stage we need to know the total number of candidates that intend preparing for the Sacrament which would help us plan the sessions. It is therefore very important that you complete all the contact details (**clearly in in block capitals**) and the information requested in this form.

We will then be able to inform you of the REGISTRATION DATE and the dates of the lessons. **The date of the First Holy Communion Mass is SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023.** If you know of a family who expressed an interest in the FHC programme, do give them one of these forms.

NAME .....

Parents' names - Father.....

Mother .....

Home address: .....

.....

..... postcode .....

Home tel no: .....Mobile .....

Email address: .....

DoB ..... Age ..... School .....Class .....

Date of Baptism ..... Church .....

*Lessons are on a Friday evening (after school). Time to be agreed with the group.*

NOTES.....

.....

Certificate of Baptism .... Catechist's signature .....

*GDPR statement: This form and the details collected is only used for First Holy Communion 2021-2022 and will not be used for any other purposes or be sent to/accessed by any other third party. All these forms will be destroyed and only an electronic register of attendance will be retained for the duration of the course.*



# Art competition!



**North Central London**  
Integrated Care Board

## Art competition

West Green GP surgery opened its new building at 590-598 Green Lanes, N8 0RA from Monday 19 September.

Local primary school children are asked to submit a picture that would be framed and put in the reception of the health centre. Many patients waiting in the reception area will be nervous, so the picture should be "something to make you smile". Pictures should be presented on A2 paper so they can be seen.

Entries should be with the West Green surgery on Green Lanes by the closing date of 5pm on 2nd December. Schools wishing to contact the practice about delivery should approach [zeeshan.raja1@nhs.net](mailto:zeeshan.raja1@nhs.net).

The entries will be judged by Cllr Zena Brabazon, Cabinet lead member for Children, Schools and Families; by Dr Nazmul Akunjee, a GP Partner at the Practice and by a local artist to be confirmed. Winning pupils will be informed before Christmas.



# Link to our Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/StMarysRCPriory>



## What's been happening at St Mary's this week?

Make sure you check out our school's Twitter account to keep up to date with what our pupils are getting up to!

St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant & Junior S... @StMarysRCP... · 22h ...  
The Delightful Doves have been making delicious herbal remedies inspired by the hero Mary Seacole. Here we can see 2 of our wonderful children preparing to film one of their very own recipes!



St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant & Junior Sc... @StMarysRCP... · 2h ...  
5J are musicians! The children are pleased to be focusing on music theory this half term. In today's lesson they learned the major and minor scale on the keyboard.



St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant & Junior Sc... @StMarysRCP... · 7h ...  
6B show off just some of the lovely books and stationery which can be bought in our book fair this week. Come along and enjoy! Suitable for ages 2 to 12.





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# AMIGO

Amigo is a social platform which purports to connect strangers from around the world – and, with built-in translation software, it reduces the expected language barriers. Focusing heavily on one-to-one chat, video calls and live streams, Amigo encourages its users to build up online relationships and unlock exclusive features such as private video and audio calls: essentially, the more that people chat, the more functions become available to them. This is an app designed with mature users very much in mind and is therefore definitely not recommended for children.

AGE RATING

18

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ONE-TO-ONE COMMUNICATION

While online chats and livestreaming are a great way to communicate with people that children can trust (such as friends and family), Amigo encourages users to connect with complete strangers and develop a friendship through private chats, calls and videos. This will be a clear red flag for most parents, due to the possibility of a child encountering inappropriate content or an online predator.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTACT

Within minutes of signing up for our trial of Amigo (and without using a profile photo), users of the opposite sex were messaging with suggestive statements such as "You're just my type" and "Let's have fun". While the app's stated intent is to help people build friendships, some users obviously seek to take those relationships in a more mature and amorous direction.

### MEMBERSHIP COSTS

Like many apps that are free to download, Amigo's business model is centred on in-app purchases. Users are encouraged to pay for VIP membership – enabling them to send more messages each day and boosting their profile's visibility. People can also buy coins (again, for real money) which allow them to send virtual gifts and further increase the number of messages they can send daily.

### LACK OF AGE VERIFICATION

Amigo makes no secret of the fact that it's for people aged 18 or above. There's no age verification, however, so a young person could simply sign up under a false date of birth. The app's algorithm claims to match users of similar ages (making them more compatible), but either the algorithm isn't very reliable, or most users have entered a fake age which doesn't correspond with their profile pic.

### REWARDS FOR REPEATED USE

Amigo gifts virtual coins to users if they reply to messages within 10 seconds, while there are also daily rewards for posting comments, sharing a video, getting likes or simply opening the app. It also encourages increasing 'Intimacy Levels' with other users to unlock extra features: once someone's online 'friendship' reaches Intimacy Level 3, they can hold one-to-one video calls with each other.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### MONITOR DOWNLOADS

As well as frequent catch-ups with your child about what they've enjoyed doing online, you could consider taking the additional step of physically checking their phone every so often to see which apps they've installed. The safest option could be to enable 'ask to buy' (Apple) or 'purchase approvals' (Android) on their device, meaning your authorisation is needed to download any apps.

### RESPECT AGE RESTRICTIONS

Apps have age restrictions for a reason, and Amigo is very definitely a mature content platform. Given that many of Amigo's users apparently use a bogus date of birth, you might want to remind your child about the implications of setting up a fake profile – such as being exposed to messages and videos that make them feel uncomfortable or feeling pressured into chatting with strangers.

### BLOCK, REPORT, DISCUSS

Many children already know that connecting with strangers online is dangerous, but it never hurts to refresh their memory. Whatever communication apps your child uses, make sure they're fully aware that if anything online makes them feel uncomfortable, scared or upset, then they can block the user responsible, report the content, take a screenshot as evidence and come to tell you straight away.

### ACTIVE LISTENING

If your child does approach you with a concern, make time to stop what you're doing and actively listen. Let them talk without interrupting or showing any judgement, then discuss their options and the possible solutions: this empowers them and reassures them that you're there to be supportive. If the issue is one that has put your child at risk, however, you may wish to contact the police.

## Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



**National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety



# 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 unsettle 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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# School uniform



## PE uniform



Details of our school uniform can be found on our website under 'parents', or by clicking the link below.

<https://www.stmaryspriory.co.uk/school-uniform/>

