

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

13th October, 2022

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



Welcome Liturgy

On Monday, we invited our new parents to join us for a liturgy with Fr Clive. The liturgy was led in song and prayer by Year 3, who were joined by their Reception 'buddies'. Thank you for joining us for such a wonderful celebration. We warmly welcome you all to our St Mary's Community!



Attendance winners!

Infant School:

Junior School:

Robin Class
98.81%

4B & 4M
96.25%

Punctuality winners!

Robin and Dove Class
0 lates

5C
0 lates



Booking: via Arbor

When: Next Tuesday and Wednesday (18th & 19th Oct)

Time: 3.40-6pm

Where: Infant Hall (Years 1-3)
Junior Hall (Years 4-6)

Who: Parents and Teachers of Years 1-6

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Dates for your diary:

- 18th and 19th October- Parent Teacher Consultations 3.40-6pm in the Infant (Y1-3) and Junior Hall (Y4-6)
- 20th October- Harvest Festival- led by Year 6 - Year 6 parents invited to attend at 9.15am in the Junior Hall
- 24th- 28th October- School closed for October half term break
- 31st October- School closed for staff INSET
- 31st October- Deadline for secondary school applications

Reminders

- Parent Teacher Consultations- 18th and 19th October 3.40-6pm. Please book via your Arbor account.
- School closed for half term break and for staff INSET- see dates above
- Follow us on Twitter! @stmarysrcpriory to see weekly updates from our classes!
- Please check your child has the correct uniform. We will be sending home letters with children who are not wearing the correct uniform next week.

Enrichment Clubs

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



Stars of the Week



Owl Class	Gabriela	Charlotte
Robin Class	Pola	Massimo
Swan Class	Veeraaj	Ava-Marie
Woodpecker Class	Kevin	Sophia
Dove Class	Jagoda	Grace
3N	Sophia C	Mikal
3M	Dawood	Iris
4B	Sinead	Caleb
4M	Nana	Isabella
5C	Emily	Martin
5J	Tuwayne	Jaskaran
6B	Feben	Jose
6D	Frankie	Yobel

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



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 ... @StMarysRC... · Oct 11 ...
It is Black History Month and 6B have been reading and discussing the issues raised in David Olusoga's 'Black and British'. Today, we have focussed on the slave trade and the abolitionists of the late Georgian period.



St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant & Junior ... @StMarysRC... · Oct 11 ...
4B have been learning about Pope Francis' Letter To The World (Laudato Si'). Look at some of the amazing posters we created at home. We have reflected on the Pope's idea to LIVE WISELY, THINK DEEPLY and LOVE GENEROUSLY. #PopeFrancis #ReligiousEducation #LaudatoSi



St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant & Junior ... @StMarysRC... · Oct 11 ...
It's Black History Month. You might notice that there are two pictures of Ella Fitzgerald. The children in 6B will be studying her life next week. (And not just because she is one of Mr Brett's favourite singers!)



St Mary's Priory Catholic Infant & Junior ... @StMarysRC... · Oct 10 ...
The karate kid in 3M!
She achieved a bronze medal and a 4th place medal in a competition on the weekend.



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/>

