

## Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Dear Parents,

Our Black and White day has been such a hit today and it has culminated in a few sporting and football related activities this afternoon! We had so much fun and a huge thank you to Miss Barnes for organising! (Photos to follow next week)

Thank you to everyone who has attended their Parents' Consultation Meetings this week, we will be in touch if you haven't yet had your meeting.

Good luck to the children taking part in the tag rugby festival tonight!



Tag Rugby

Many of you may know already but Mr Harrison is leaving us at Easter. Mr Harrison has been with us for a year now and has become an integral part of our Whitley Chapel family.

Good luck Mr. Harrison - We will miss you but please keep in touch 😊

This also means, of course that Miss Tweddell will be returning to Early Years and we look forward to seeing her after the holidays.

To all Mummies,  
Please don't forget to look inside this week's edition of the Hexham Courant, there could be a message for you!



### **Club Bookings**

To help us effectively manage attendance and resources for our after-school clubs, it is essential that we have an official list of attendees so that we can confirm participation and ensure that the children present are expected to stay at school. For clubs such as cookery, we also need to ensure that we purchase enough ingredients for the number of children taking part.

Please can we ask that a booking is made through the online portal for all children wishing to join an afterschool club by the *Sunday before the club takes place.*

We had a wonderful time at Cogito books and Library this week and the children all got to choose a book with their voucher!



Our new theologically rooted Christian Vision which we will be launching with the children next week ...

## Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April

Year 1 - 2.45 pm Reading and Phonics Screening Meeting  
with Miss Barnes – More information to follow.

Easter Service at St Helen's

All parents welcome!

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April @ 2.30pm



Paste Egg competition ...

Please can your child bring in a hard boiled egg into school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April and they can decorate it for our paste egg competition!

Prizes for the winners!



Have a lovely weekend everyone!  
See you all on Monday 😊

Mrs Hayward

## Our Vision

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Rooted in God's love, our vision is to welcome all to our community. We are a school where friendship blossoms, everyone thrives and individuality is celebrated. Through faith, every child has the opportunity to flourish.

'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart.' Colossians 3:23-24

Friendship, Community, Faith



### Dates for the Diary

**Friday April 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30am** - Tag Rugby Event for Year 2/3/4 children

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April** - Year 1 - 2.45 pm Reading and Phonics Screening Meeting with Miss Barnes

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April** - Boiled eggs into school for our Paste egg competition on Monday

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm** - Easter Service at St. Helens



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT



Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended sandbox game of building, exploration, and survival has become a global phenomenon. It's a game that has captivated millions of players, from children to adults. Minecraft is a game that has become a global phenomenon. It's a game that has captivated millions of players, from children to adults. Minecraft is a game that has become a global phenomenon. It's a game that has captivated millions of players, from children to adults.

## 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 lot 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

Clara 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.

