



The Wickford C of E School

Newsletter

Little Teds
Pre-School

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ATTENDANCE
TARGET: 100%

WHOLE SCHOOL
ATTENDANCE FOR THIS
WEEK: 95.8%

CLASS ATTENDANCE:

- Ruby: 100%
- Pearl: 95%
- Sapphire: 99.4%
- Diamond: 98.1%
- Blue Gems: 96%
- Red Gems: 86.5%

PADDINGTONS:

- Ruby:** Sophie H, Bolu, Christian and Jamie
- Pearl:** Iris, Teddy, Matilda and Olivia
- Sapphire:** Eston, Laydeen, Gabriela and Ariella
- Diamond:** Stanley, Lyana and George
- Blue Gems:** Ella-Louise, Anya, Daniel and Camden
- Red Gems:** Michael, Aaron, Lana and Darcey

GOLDEN TABLE:

- Ruby: Ryan
- Pearl: Isabelle
- Sapphire: Toby
- Diamond: Presley
- Blue Gems: Camden
- Red Gems: Matilda

Dear Parent/Carer,

Such a great week at school, amazing lunchtime experiences in the dining hall. Gardening Club have been busy planting and decorating the centre pieces and the colourful table runners help to make the hall look special.

MATHS OPEN MORNING 57 parents were able to attend on Monday, we hope you found it useful. Please feel free to pop in to speak with your child's teacher if you were unable to attend, they will happily show you what has been taught this week.

TWITTER Please follow us to capture some lovely memories of school life. @WickfordCofESch

DEVELOPING THE SCHOOL We had some wonderful news last week. We were glad to win £800 of National Lottery funding! The money will help to fund projects that we have planned throughout the year that bring the community together. Look out for information about projects that include children, parents and the local community working and celebrating together.



PLAY LEADERS Thank you to Jeremiah, Olivia, Paige, Harry, Sophie M and Jamie for their wonderful work as Play Leader this year. We give thanks to this group.

HOLIDAY CLUB This will be running during half term: bookings now being taken.

30th January 2020



Kids at HEARTS holiday club
Monday 17th February 2020
to
Friday 21st February 2020
Wickford church of England school
Mount Road, Wickford S511 8JE

FOOTWEAR Please ensure your child has plimsolls for PE, many children during clubs this week had PE bags with just T shirts and shorts in. Thank you.

Outdoor Learning This week Red Gems went to the park and made birds nests out of natural things they found around them.

TECH TOP TIP There have been a few conversations this week between teachers and parents regarding apps and what are age appropriate. Please see the attached guidance regarding the Minecraft app and note that it is for children aged 10 years and above. Please check to make sure the games/apps are appropriate for your child's age.

LITTLE TEDS We have space in Little Teds afternoons sessions for children aged 3-4. If you know anyone who may be interested please ask them to call the school office for more information.

TALK TIME This week Miss Bristow met with: Erin, Georgie, Sophie C, Murewa, Ella, Christian (All year 2) to talk about the HEARTS Promise folders and the experience of 'Always More':

What does 'Always More' mean?

Ella- it is important to keep trying and practising because practise makes perfect. Ella explained when she first started hula hoop club she could not do it but now she can.

Murewa- more listening and more work. We can always make our work better. Murewa explained it is important to get better at stuff.

Christian- always more help that you can give to people. Christian explained a lovely story about when he helped someone who fell over.

The children discussed that parents, teachers, family members, friends and Jesus helps us to get better.

Georgie and Erin explained it means no giving up and keep on trying.

At the HEARTS Academy Trust, we place high importance on academic progress and attainment. However, a full primary education is made up of a variety of life enhancing experiences. It is our aim to make your child's education inspiring and memorable, equipping them for their future.

With this in mind, we were excited to launch the HEARTS' Promise. These experiences will be linked to the curriculum topic or the time of year, but on occasions, they are simply life experiences which can be rich and fulfilling. Part of our HEARTS promise includes visits and trips to theatres and places of worship.

Why do we have a HEARTS promise? Why do you think these things are important to do?

Erin thinks we have a HEARTS promise folder to keep our memories of the school.

Georgie explained they are important because you might love them and then can do them again when you are older. It might inspire us to be better. To remember the HEARTS values. Every child should get to do the activities and keep a pack so when they are older they can remember what they did when they were little.

Ella said about how her parents are going to remind her about all the fun things she did (like being in the newspaper) when she is 21!

Murewa explained that it is important to find time to have fun. All of the children agreed that it was important that we get to do all of the life enhancing experiences.

It is important to have playtime as well as learning time because having fun is what it is really all about.

Erin thinks world book day should be part of the HEARTS promise as it is important that everyone reads books!

What has been your favourite HEARTS promise activity so far?

Christian said every single one but he really enjoyed a sleepover. He explained how he had seen the other year 2s doing it and they said it was fun and so he really wanted to do it.

Sophie C- said she felt braver now she has done the sleepover. Her favourite part was watching the movie. Ella said she loved the sleepover too. We then spoke about how much she loved finding Easter eggs around school and hopes to do one again soon.

Murewa said he loved stillness day. He enjoyed finding time to be quiet and still. Sometimes life is really busy and it's good to find time to relax.

Christian then said it was relaxing when we had our 'well-being day' and we should do that again next year. It should be part of our HEARTS promise.

Georgie loves reading to Casper and looking after him. It's really important that we look after the animals in Gods world.

Erin loved both trips to the Pantomime because she wants to be on stage dancing one day!

Which one are you most looking forward to and why?

Sophie C is looking forward to Thriftwood. She is looking forward to trying something new and giving her all and never giving up.

Ella cannot wait till the next swimming pool day. She would like the pool to be warmer than last time.

Christian cannot wait to visit the zoo. He loves animals and looking at animals he has not seen before. He wants to see all the things that God created and we can learn how to care for them.

Murewa is excited for Thriftwood too. He then said we should all be able to have time to play a game at school and learn to share and play nicely.

Erin and Georgie both want to go to the zoo because it's good to see the baby rhino. Mrs Adams also told us about new animals at the zoo and we cannot wait to see them.

NSPCC This week in years 1 & 2 we have been using the NSPCC resources to teach the children the PANTS rule. Please see the following information from their website.

The NSPCC's work in schools will help encourage conversations about staying safe - and they have a number of child-friendly materials to help you carry on the conversation afterwards. That includes 'Talk PANTS', a simple way for parents to help keep children safe. The guide uses the rules of PANTS to teach children that their body belongs to them and them alone. You can find out more and download the free resources at nspcc.org.uk/pants

If you'd like to know more about the NSPCC's work, or take a look at the wide range of information and advice which is available for parents and carers, please visit their website nspcc.org.uk/parents

MOMENT OF LOVELINESS

This week we have thought about the words from the Bible 'Love one another as I have loved you'. We have talked about difference in our world, considering the variety of flowers in a garden, the different talents we all have that make our school so rich and varied... but like M&Ms, we are all different but yet all the same on the inside!

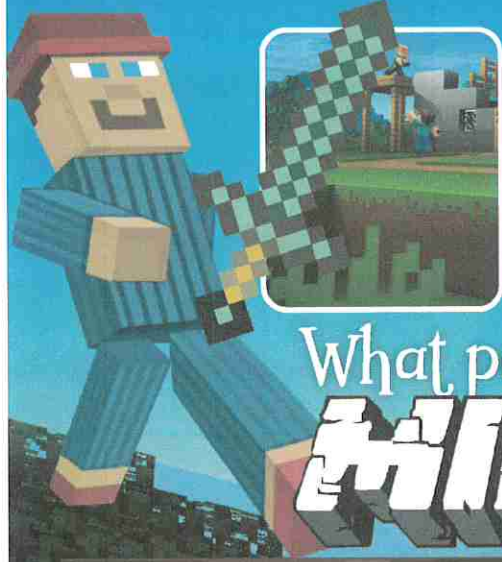
HIRE THE HALL

Need to organise a children's party? Need some space to run an event? If so, please note that the school hall is available for hire. Prices start at £85 for a three hour slot, but we can arrange bookings for shorter or longer periods to suit your needs. Just call into the office if you are interested.

SHARING NEXT WEEK Friday 7th February will be sharing assembly for year 2.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Johnson and the CofE team.



Minecraft is played by millions of children around the world, who use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks in a digital, pixelated landscape. It is classed as a 'sandbox game,' which means players have the freedom to build their own creations with 'blocks' they collect and also have the opportunity to explore other people's creations with their characters. Players can choose from thousands of different 'servers' to join, which are created by other players, making every experience of Minecraft unique.

Minecraft has approximately **74m** users each month

AGE RESTRICTION **10+**

What parents need to know about **MINECRAFT**



GROOMING

As the majority of users who play Minecraft are children, this makes it an 'appealing' gateway for groomers. It has been reported that some users have created worlds in Minecraft to lure young people into a conversation to ask for explicit photos. There have even been more serious cases in which children have been persuaded to meet these people in real life.

CYBERBULLYING & GRIEFING

In multiplayer mode there is a live chat feature which allows players to talk to other players through text. This chat functionality includes basic filtering to block out external links and offensive language being shared, but varies between each server. Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil gameplay for another. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating for players.

COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS

Minecraft incorporates thousands of servers to choose from which are a single world or place created by the public and allow users to play the game online or via a local area network with others. No two servers are the same and each has its own individual plug-ins which are controlled by the creator. This means that some servers will allow communication with strangers.

VIRUSES & MALWARE FROM MODS

There are several websites that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay in a number of ways. Most of the mods will be safe to use, but as they have been created by the public, they will often contain viruses that can infect your child's device and potentially try and find personal information about you or your child.

AGE RESTRICTION & 'FANTASY VIOLENCE'

According to the 'Entertaining Software Rating Board' (ESRB), Minecraft is suitable for users aged 10+. Due to its 'Fantasy Violence,' the ESRB states that this rating has been given as 'players can engage in violent acts such as setting animals on fire and harming them with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment.'

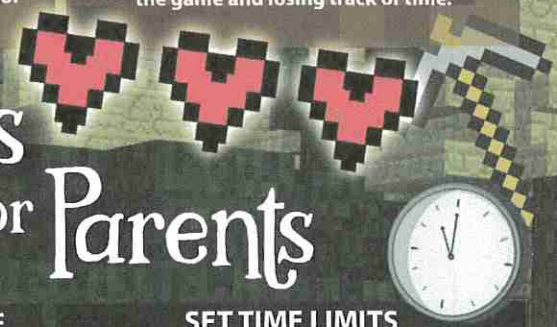
CHILDREN MAY BECOME ADDICTED

As with other games, Minecraft is a game where players can keep returning with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing, becoming absorbed in the game and losing track of time.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents



DISABLE OR MODERATE CHAT

To avoid potentially inappropriate comments in a live chat, you can follow these steps to turn live chat off: 1. Select 'Options' 2. Toggle the Chat button to 'Hidden' or 'Commands Only'. Bear in mind that the chat feature is also where your child can enter commands during the game, so this may restrict their game play.

MONITOR YOUTUBE TUTORIALS

Many Minecraft users turn to 'YouTube' for video tips on improving their game play and discovering new techniques. Although many videos are age-appropriate, some include sexual references and bad language. We suggest watching Minecraft tutorial videos together with your child. If your child is under the age of 13, we suggest installing 'YouTube Kids' which provides a safer platform for children to safely find the content they want.



SCAN 'MODS' FOR MALWARE

Minecraft 'mods' add content to games to give extra options to interact and change the way the game looks and feels. However, although 'mods' can bring fun for a child, it's important to consider that downloading and installing 'mods' could potentially infect their device with a virus or malware. In 2017, security company Symantec stated that between 600,000 and 2.5 million Minecraft players had installed dodgy apps, which hijacked player's devices and used them to power an advertising botnet. Install a malware scanner on every device that your child plays Minecraft on and make sure it's regularly kept up-to-date.

PLAY IN 'CREATIVE' OR 'PEACEFUL' MODE

Even though the age limit is 10+, Minecraft can be quite overwhelming at times, especially for younger players or SEND children. We suggest restricting your child to play in 'creative mode' or 'peaceful mode' which takes away the survival element and removes the 'scarier' monster/zombie characters.

SET TIME LIMITS

With 'Gaming Disorder' becoming an official health condition, we suggest setting a reasonable time limit when playing Minecraft. Parents can use parental controls on devices to limit the time a child plays games. It is worth having a conversation with your child to understand which 'mode' they are playing the game. This may help you decide on the amount of time you would like them to play. For example, a mini game will have an 'end,' but this will depend on how long the game creator has made the game last. In 'survival mode,' the game has no end as there is no goal to be achieved other than the child's own e.g. after they have built something.

CHOOSE SERVERS CAREFULLY

To protect your child from engaging in conversation with strangers, advise them to only enter servers with people they know and trust. Your child can also create their own multiplayer server and share this with their friends, which is safer and more controlled than joining a stranger's server.

Sources:
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THIS IS AN INDEPENDENT ONLINE SAFETY GUIDE AND IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MINECRAFT PRODUCT. THIS GUIDE HAS NOT BEEN APPROVED BY NOR IS IT ASSOCIATED WITH MOJANG