



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

16th May 2025

Latest News

This week our Year Sixes sat their SATs tests. We have all been very impressed by their attitudes towards these assessments and today they have enjoyed a well-deserved relaxed end to their week.

Earlier in the week our Reception children put on their walking shoes and headed out and about around the village. They learnt about landmarks in our local area. Year 3 headed to The Park School to take part in a cricket festival. Mrs Burns and Ms Fitzpatrick were really impressed with children's attitudes and behaviour. Elsewhere in the school, Year 5 children have been learning about reproduction of plants (with lots of planting going on!), Year 1/2 have been exploring fractions (ask them about halves and quarters!) and Year 4 are excited to be finishing their class text, *The Firework Maker's Daughter*, "Don't stop reading, Mr Downing!". Nursery have been immersing themselves in their language led learning around size and weight, "Pudsey was massive!".

Have a great weekend,



Allergens

A reminder that we have several children attending our school with life-threatening allergies. For this reason, we are strictly a **nut-free** and **kiwi-free** school.

Thank you in advance for adhering to these rules and keeping our school community safe.



Natasha's Law



Whilst we absolutely love home-made, baked goods in the staff room, we unfortunately cannot hand these out to the children. This applies to children bringing in any unlabelled, unpackaged birthday sweets, etc. Natasha's Law requires full ingredient and allergen labelling on pre-packaged foods to protect consumers with allergies. Homemade food often lacks this detailed labelling, making it difficult to ensure safety for all students. Therefore, schools avoid accepting homemade food to comply with the law and prevent potential allergic reactions.

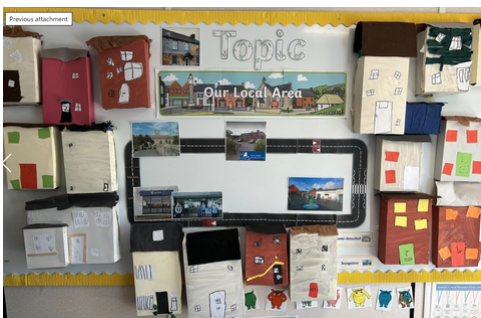
School Development News

This week Suzi Fitzpatrick lead staff training around high quality delivery of the science curriculum. Sticking with our whole school focus of retrieving knowledge, teachers planned recall activities and then spent time planning in opportunities to include high-quality vocabulary. Jonathan Gower (Harbour Schools Partnership Primary Lead) spent time on Thursday morning with Mr Downing and Ms Fitzpatrick, helping them to develop their subject leader action plans.

What's happening in Reception?

Reception have been busy with their Local Area project and we have finished our DT houses. The children have replicated their own homes and have been learning how to assemble and connect different materials using a variety of different methods.

We have been busy creating our new flower beds and the children have loved planting the seeds and flowers, caring for them and watching them grow. We should soon have potatoes and carrots!



More photos on our [blog](#).

A request from Mrs Howick!

Do you have any construction toys and games? Children in breakfast club would really appreciate any donations.



PERSISTENCE



TEAMWORK



CURIOSITY



COMMUNICATION



Award Winners

- Bella-Ivy - Fireflies
- Arthur P.T - Dragonflies
- Layla & Harry - Foxes
- Hugo & Cassius - Otters
- Noah E & Archer - Eagles
- Jacob & Tilly - Kestrels
- Harley & Ezra - Hawks
- Isla & Olivia - Leopards
- Joseph & Alfie - Panthers
- All of Lions
- All of Tigers

You have all been recognised for your fantastic learning behaviours – WELL DONE!

SEN Review meetings

If your child has an Individual Learning Plan then you will have received a letter inviting you to a review meeting with your child's teacher. You will be able to sign up for these meetings using the MCAS app.

Swimming

All swimming sessions are during the afternoons. Please ensure children bring a towel, swimming suit and goggles. Swim caps are advised but not essential.



Summer 1
Year 3

Summer 2
Year 6

Attendance

Well done, Year 3! Extra play on Monday! Our overall attendance is threatening to dip below national average. To give your children the very best chances, academically and socially, please continue to send them in to school each and every day, unless they are too unwell to attend.

W/B: 12/05/2025

1	88.8%
2	94.4%
3	96.2%
4	95.0%
5	93.8%
6	94.0%
R	84.9%
Overall	92.8%

Year 3 Cricket

What a great time our Year 3 children had at today's cricket sessions run by local young sports leaders. Fantastic respect, resilience and positivity throughout – well done Eagles and Kestrels!



PTFA

Next event:

Wednesday May 21st – Spring Bingo, eyes down 6.30pm. A mixture of cash and other prizes. See attached poster. Further information to follow, on pre-booking your bingo books, books will also be available on the night.

**IF ANYONE CAN DONATE A PRIZE,
THAT WOULD BE BRILLIANT**

Save the date:

Sunday June 29th – Summer Fair, more information to follow. If anyone can volunteer to help at the Summer Fair for any amount of time, please message the PTFA Facebook page.

Date	Event
Wed 21st May	Reception Learning Showcase - Parents and carers invited into school
Wed 21st May	Spring Bingo - eyes down 6pm
Fri 23rd May	Last Day of Summer Term 1
Mon 2nd June (2 weeks)	Year 4 Multiplication timetable check
Mon 2nd June	First day of Summer Term 2
Thu 5th June	Year 4 Learning Showcase Parents and carers invited into school. <i>Please wait at the playground gate. 2 adults per child please.</i>
Mon 9th - Fri 13th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening Checks
Wed 11th - Fri 13th June	Year 6 Residential
Wed 18th - 20th June	Year 5 Residential
Thu 26th June	Y3 Kestrels Learning Showcase 2.30pm. Parents and carers invited into school. <i>Please wait at the playground gate.</i>
Fri 27th June	Y3 Eagles Learning Showcase 2.30pm Parents and carers invited into school. <i>Please wait at the playground gate</i>
Sun 29th June	Summer Fair - More information to follow
Mon 14th July	INSET Day - Non pupil day
Tue 15th July	Y1/2 Hedghogs Learning Showcase 2.30pm Parents and carers invited into school. <i>Please wait at the normal drop off gate</i>
Wed 16th July	Y1/2 Otters Learning Showcase 2.30pm Parents and carers invited into school. <i>Please wait at the normal drop off door</i>
Thu 17th July	Y1/2 Foxes Learning Showcase 2.30pm Parents and carers invited into school. <i>Please wait at the normal drop off gate</i>
Wed 23rd July	Last Day of Summer Term
Wed 11th June	Y5 Learning Showcase 2.30pm Parents and carers invited into school. <i>Please wait at the playground gate</i>

JOIN US FOR THE PTFA

BINGO NIGHT
WEDNESDAY 21ST MAY
Venue: School Hall
EYES DOWN AT 6.30PM
DOORS OPEN AT 6PM
£10 A BOOK, PRIZES TO BE WON
REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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, which is typically around £15. 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

FOOTBALL AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Keep active, have fun, make friends,
learn skills, play matches.

Sportswear, water bottle, trainers
or moulded football boots needed.

Shinpads recommended

MONDAY'S - Years 3 - 6

3.25 - 4.25PM

28 April - 14 July

9 weeks

£54 / £6 per session



BOOK YOUR SPACE ONLINE ONLINE

<https://romar-sports.classforkids.io/info/1253>



Dance Attack

Dance and Acrobatic sessions

Musical Theatre, Street Dance,
Freestyle, Jazz, Lyrical,
Contemporary, Acrobatics, Baby
ballet

Tuesday evening

5-5.45pm Acrobatic Dance (4-11)

Thursday evening

4-4.45 pm Little Movers Dance Mix (age 3-6)

4.45-5.30pm Junior Dance Mix (age 7-11)

**5.30-6.15pm Junior fusion Session
(ability based)**

0750 771 3438

racheldance@live.co.uk

**Studio: The Beechfield Centre, Beechfield Road,
Fremington, Barnstaple, EX31 3DD**



Acrobatics at Dance Attack

TUESDAY EVENING

5-5.45PM

**THE BEECHFIELD CENTRE
BEECHFIELD ROAD
FREMINGTON EX31 3DD**

PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE 4-11

£5 PER SESSION



More information

0750 771 3438

racheldance@live.co.uk



SUMMER RUGBY TASTER SESSIONS

CALLING ALL GIRLS YEARS 3-6!

PLEASE JOIN US IN FREE
INTRODUCTION TO RUGBY SESSIONS

CONTACT

SARAH-JANE - 07972728000

FOR MORE DETAILS

team
work

fun

CONFIDENCE

exercise

INCLUSION

LOCATION - BIDEFORD RUGBY CLUB

JUNE 3RD @ 6-7PM

JUNE 10TH @ 6-7PM

JUNE 17TH @ 6-7PM


JUNE 24TH @ 6-7PM






1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Option 1	Margherita Pizza with Potato Wedges (v)	Chicken Curry with Rice	Roast Turkey with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Sausage Pinwheel, Herby Diced Potatoes & Baked Beans	Fish Fingers & Chips
Hot Option 2	Sweet Potato and Lentil Curry with Steamed Rice (v)	Cheese and Tomato Pasta Bake & Crusty Bread (v)	Lentil Roast with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Plant-based Sausage Pinwheel, Herby Diced Potatoes & Baked Beans (v)	Golden Veggie Goujons & Chips (v)
Jacket Potato	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo
Served with	Sweetcorn	Mixed Vegetables	Carrots and Green Beans	Mixed Salad	Peas or Baked Beans
And for Pudding	Pip Organic Ice Lolly	Brownie	Flapjack	Fruit Jelly	Shortbread Biscuit
Packed Lunch + pudding of the day	Tuna Baguette	Ham Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Ham Baguette	Cheese Baguette

Week One: 21 Apr | 12 May | 9 Jun | 30 Jun | 21 Jul | 15 Sept | 6 Oct



2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Option 1	Mac n Cheese & Crusty Bread (v)	Sweet & Sour Chicken with Steamed Rice	Honey Roast Gammon with Mash & Gravy	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Pasta	Chicken Bites & Chips
Hot Option 2	Sweet and Sour Plant Balls with Steamed Rice (v)	Cheese and Tomato Pasta Bake (v) & Crusty Bread	Vegemince Cottage Pie & Gravy (v)	Plant-based Sausages in Tomato Sauce with Pasta (v)	Vegetarian Enchilada & Chips (v)
Jacket Potato	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo
Served with	Mixed Vegetables	Sweetcorn	Peas and Carrots	Mixed Salad	Peas or Baked Beans
And for Pudding	Pip Organic Ice Lolly	Oaty Cookie	Toffee Cream Shortcake	Jam Sponge & Coconut	Chocolate Shortbread
Packed Lunch + pudding of the day	Tuna Baguette	Ham Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Ham Baguette	Cheese Baguette

Week Two: 28 Apr | 19 May | 16 Jun | 7 Jul | 1 Sept | 22 Sept | 13 Oct



3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Option 1	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Swirl with Potato Wedges (v)	Lasagne & Garlic Bread	Sausages Yorkshire Pudding Mashed Potato & Gravy	Breaded Chicken, Lettuce and Mayo Wrap with Steamed Rice	Fish Fingers & Chips
Hot Option 2	Vegemince Bolognese with Pasta (v)	Loaded Bean Bake & Garlic Bread (v)	Plant-based Sausages Yorkshire Pudding Mashed Potato & Gravy (v)	Tomato and Courgette Frittata with Potato Wedges (v)	Cheesy Pinwheel & Chips (v)
Jacket Potato	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo	Cheese, Beans or Tuna Mayo
Served with	Peas and Sweetcorn	Mixed Salad	Cabbage and Carrots	Crunchy Salad Sticks	Peas or Baked Beans
And for Pudding	Vanilla Ice Cream	Blueberry Cupcake	Carrot Cake	Chocolate Oatcake	Vanilla Crunch Bar
Packed Lunch + pudding of the day	Tuna Baguette	Ham Baguette	Cheese Baguette	Ham Baguette	Cheese Baguette

Week Three: 5 May | 2 Jun | 23 Jun | 14 Jul | 8 Sept | 29 Sept | 20 Oct

*Available Daily:
Fresh Salad, Bread & Drinking Water + Fresh Fruit or Yoghurt as Pudding Alternatives