



Cedars Park Primary School School Bulletin

Friday 16th May 2025

Notable Dates

Wed 21st May - Puffin Parent Library Session 2.30—3.10pm

Thurs 22nd May - Swallow Parent Library Session 2.30—3.10pm

Fri 23rd May - Reception Jimmy's Farm

Mon 26th - Fri 30th May - Half Term

Wed 4th June - Y1 Felixstowe Beach Visit

Fri 20th June - Sports Day

Tues 24th June - Year 6 Crucial Crew at The Mix

Wed 25th June - Year 4 WCET Music Festival at The Apex

Thurs 26th June - Year 5 Sharing Assembly

Fri 27th June - Y2 Colchester Zoo

Fri 4th July - Reserve Sports Day

Wed 9th July 6pm - Year 6 School Production 6—7.30pm

Thurs 10th July - Year 6 School Production 9.30—11am

Wed 16th July - Year 6 Leavers Party 4—7pm

Thurs 17th July - Reception Graduation Assembly 2.30pm

Fri 18th July - Year 6 Leavers Assembly 2.30pm

Fri 18th July - End of Term

Lunch Menu w/c 19th May

Monday
Pepperoni Pizza or Margherita Pizza

Tuesday
Bolognese & Pasta or Veggie Bolognese

Wednesday
Roast Gammon or Roast Quorn Fillet

Thursday
Sausages or Vegan Sausages

Friday
Fish Fingers or Southern Fried Veggie Burger

Jacket Potatoes available daily

Well Done Year 6!

Firstly, a massive well done to our Year 6s who sat their assessments this week. All of them did us amazingly proud. Thank you to parents and carers who have played such an important part in supporting the children and no doubt calming some nerves over the last week!



Year 4 MTC Check

The first week back after half term brings round the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check. Please encourage your children to log on at home and continue to practise ahead of the tests.

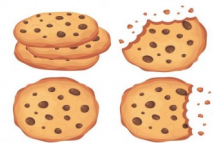
Aside from the test itself, the acquisition of fluent multiplication recall and the associated division facts is a key skill as the children progress through the school.

Having this knowledge at their fingertips helps with many other areas of Maths such as long multiplication, division and fractions.

MULTIPLICATION TABLE	
1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10
11	12
13	14
15	16
17	18
19	20
21	22
23	24
25	26
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69	70
71	72
73	74
75	76
77	78
79	80
81	82
83	84
85	86
87	88
89	90
91	92
93	94
95	96
97	98
99	100

Class Cookies

Well done to Kingfisher Class in Year 4 for having the highest attendance this week.



Walk to School Week—19th May

Week beginning the 19th May brings round Walk to School Week. Throughout the week, each class will tally, each day, which children have walked cycled or scooted to school. At the end of the week, the children in the class with the highest tally will earn extra house points!



No Nuts

We are a nut free school.



Cedars Stars		
Well done to this week's Cedars Stars!		
Reception Isaac J Erin P	Year 1 Victoria O Ruby T	Year 2 Ruby G Daria I
Year 3 Leo M George G	Year 4 Nylah K Logan J	Year 5 Ellis K Joshua M
Year 6 Well done to all Year 6		

Attendance

This week's attendance was as follows:

Reception: 97.77%
Year 1: 94.98%
Year 2: 93.08%
Year 3: 96.14%
Year 4: 99.59%
Year 5: 95.47%
Year 6: 99.34%

Well done to Year 4 for having the highest attendance!



End of Year School Reports

We are excited to announce that end of year school reports, in July, will be sent out electronically. This will bring us in line with the other primary schools in the Trust but will also be much better for the environment too.

The reports will be sent to you securely via email. To ensure that you receive them successfully, please check that your email address is accurate and up to date on Arbor.

More details about the electronic reports will be sent out next half term.



Reports

Pine Non-School Uniform Day - Thursday 22nd of May

Last term, Pine won the inter-house sports competition. During their PE lessons with Mr Nurse, children, across all year groups, competed in a variety of sports including badminton and table tennis to earn points for their house team.

At the end of the week, all of the scores were combined and Pine emerged victorious! As a reward, children in Pine House can wear non-school uniform on Thursday 22nd May.

Thank you to the children for their patience whilst we found a date in the diary for this reward.



Cedars LOVE reading!

Before Easter you should have received a letter regarding our shared library sessions. As a reminder, parents/carers are welcome to come into school at 2:30pm:

- Y3 - Puffin on Wednesday 21st May
- Y3 - Swallow on Thursday 22nd May
- Y4 - Kingfisher class on Wednesday 4th June
- Y4 - Kestrel class on Wednesday 11th June
- Y5 - Nuthatch class on Wednesday 18th June
- Y5 - Cormorant class Thursday 19th June
- Y6 - Jackdaw class on Thursday 5th June
- Y6 - Curlew class on Thursday 12th June



Safety in the Sun!

Now that we are in the Summer term and will hopefully be blessed with more glorious sunshine, to help us keep the children safe in the sun, please ensure that the children come to school with a hat, sun cream and a water bottle.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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. 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.

