



# Barty Bugle

MESSAGE FROM THE TEAM

22ND MAY 2026

Dear St Bartholomew's community,

We have now reached the halfway point of the summer term, and the academic year is going by so fast. It really does feel like it will be Christmas before we know it! Thank you for your generous donations for the Summer Fair, your contributions are greatly appreciated.

In **Little Acorn Class**, our focus story has been The Perfect Fit, which has linked beautifully to our work on shapes. The children have been busy identifying shapes around the classroom and using them to create their own pictures. They have also enjoyed exploring shape cutters in playdough as well as practising drawing and painting different shapes. Nursery 2 have continued to impress us with their fabulous phonics skills, and we are very proud of their progress. Alongside this, the children have been improving their fine motor skills through a range of threading activities on the busy finger table. A real highlight was our visit from Eden and Faith from Cobble Café, who brought along some very cute ducklings, which the children absolutely loved.

In **Acorn Class**, it has also been a very busy and productive time. In maths, the children have been learning about doubling and halving, as well as exploring near doubles to strengthen their understanding. In English, they have been focusing on sentence structure and have been writing more exciting sentences using adjectives and verbs. During PSHE, we have been discussing change, thinking about how it can make us feel and how we can manage big changes in a positive way. In science, we learnt about rain gauges and set one up outside to measure how much rainfall we had this week, which the children found very engaging. We were also delighted to have a visit from some adorable ducklings; the children showed such gentle and calm behaviour when meeting them.

In **Oak Class** it has been a great week of learning, the children have started learning about Fractions in Maths, focusing on their understanding of a whole and the parts that make up a whole. In Guided Reading, we have come to the end of the BFG and in writing the children have been extending their use of dialogue in a narrative by including actions of the characters as they speak.

Oak class have thoroughly enjoyed getting creative this week as they have designed and created their animals, for which they have added a mechanism that allows the head/ tongue to move.

We hope you all have a fantastic half-term break and enjoy the sunshine that has been forecast. We look forward to welcoming everyone back refreshed and ready for the rest of the term on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

Team Barty

**ATTENDANCE**

National Target: 95%  
School Attendance: 98.87%

## NOTICES

### Non-Uniform Days

The next non-uniform day will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June in exchange for tombola prizes for our upcoming summer fair. Please can we ask that sensible shoes continue to be worn for non-uniform days.

### Raffle Prizes

Our PTA have been in touch with companies to enquire if they would be willing to donate a raffle prize for our summer fair. If you know someone who would be willing to donate a raffle prize - please ask them to get in touch.

### Forest School Change

There will be a change to the day of Forest school week commencing 6<sup>th</sup> July - Forest School will take place on the Tuesday (7<sup>th</sup> July).

This will be the final session of the academic year. There will be **no Forest School in the final week of term.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

These are the dates that we have planned in at the moment - please keep an eye out each week for new dates and any changes. Items in **bold** have been added since the last news letter.



- 25<sup>th</sup> May to 29<sup>th</sup> May - Half term break
- 1<sup>st</sup> June - Inset day (school closed to children)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June - School re-opens to pupils
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June - Y4/5 pupils to Inspire event at Lichfield Cathedral
- 5<sup>th</sup> June - Non-uniform day in exchange for tombola prizes
- **W/C 9<sup>th</sup> June - Phonics Screening week**
- 14<sup>th</sup> June - Summer Fair & Longnor Open
- 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> June - Oak Class residential
- **2<sup>nd</sup> July - Sports Day**
- **13<sup>th</sup> July - Music Concert for pupils in school**
- 17<sup>th</sup> July - School finishes for summer holidays

# SAFEGUARDING

#WakeUpWednesday from The National College aims to equip every trusted adult with the knowledge and skills they need to keep up with the latest information, implement best practice and heighten their awareness of issues around three core topics; online safety, mental health & wellbeing; and climate change & sustainability.

**This week's topic is focused on Minecraft**

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit [nationalcollege.com](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

#### GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

#### ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

#### SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

#### IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

#### ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

### USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

### DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

### SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Cosmas spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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# WEEKLY AWARDS

WELL DONE TO THIS WEEK'S AWARD WINNERS!



# MENU



## Spring / Summer 2025-26



	WEEK ONE	WEEK TWO	WEEK THREE
<b>MONDAY</b>	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Chocolate & Vanilla Swirl Cookie (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Vanilla Snap (Ve)	Margherita Pizza with Jacket Wedges (V) Veg of the Day Lemon Biscuit (Ve)
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Classic Mac & Cheese (V) Veg of the Day Cinnamon Apple Cake (V)	Italian Sausage Pasta Bake Veg of the Day Flapjack (Ve)	Sausage with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Choco Krispie Bite (Ve)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)	Roast of the Day with Roasties & Gravy Veg of the Day Fruity Jelly (Ve)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Homestyle Sausage Roll with Mash & Gravy Veg of the Day Banana-Topped Strawberry Mousse (V)	Chicken Stir-Fry Rice Veg of the Day Banana-Topped Strawberry Mousse (V)	Penne with Beef Bolognese Veg of the Day Banana-Topped Strawberry Mousse (V)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Chocolate Brownie (Ve)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Chocolate Brownie (Ve)	Fish Fingers or Salmon Fish Fingers with Chips Veg of the Day Chocolate Brownie (Ve)
	23/2/26, 16/3/26, 6/4/26, 27/4/26, 18/5/26, 8/6/26, 29/6/26	2/3/26, 23/3/26, 13/4/26, 4/5/26, 25/5/26, 15/6/26, 6/7/26	9/3/26, 30/3/26, 20/4/26, 11/5/26, 1/6/26, 22/6/26, 13/7/26

Choice of Filled Jacket Potatoes and Sandwiches (including V/Ve options)

are also available daily along with freshly baked bread, salad, fresh fruit, jelly (Ve), yoghurts (V) and fresh drinking water.

Next week we will be on week three of the menu