

Blackwater Newsletter

Friday 14th May 2021

ISSUE 17

Dear Parents and children,

Another week has flown by with so much to enjoy in the Blackwater Community. The smiling faces of children (and staff!) remind me I have the best job in the world! This was especially true when this week in particular, I have had many children come into my office for special 'gold' stickers for brilliant work. I also listened to Wheal Harmony re-tell their story of the Kracken - amazing! The children are really switched onto learning.

I would like to invite you to complete the 'Big Ask' survey with your child. This is a national survey from the Children's Commissioner for England. At its heart is 'The Big Ask' - the largest ever consultation held with children. She wants the survey to 'tackle some of the generational problems that have held back too many children for decades.' She says she wants to inspire positive changes for children. The Big Ask survey is for all children and young people aged 4-17 years in England. This is an opportunity for your child to have their say on things that matter to them. The survey runs until the 28th May, for more details about the Big Ask are available here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/>

Along side this, we hope you have noticed our recent drive to show the children how important their voice is. With the school council up and running again and being proactive, the Eco Club making plans and changes to the school and now we have Financial ambassadors too, creating their own business in the Tuck Shop Cabin from June.

Next week, we have managed to secure staff from County come and work with Wheal Luna on the 'People's Assembly' resulting in 1 minute videos made for the leaders of the G7. Amazing! We want the children to feel empowered and have a voice in this ever changing world of ours. Blackwater children do have a voice!

We continue to talk to the children about their emotions and how to regulate themselves when they feel anxious or stressed. All of our hard work in the start of Autumn has paid off with continued talk of the 'Colour Monster' (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6wEp-M4tg>) and other tools we have in the classroom. We really do pride ourselves on how we supported the children over the lockdowns and also the transitions back to school. Please let us know if there is anything additional you need as a family to be supported right now, we are here to help you.

Have a wonderful weekend in between the showers,

Stay safe and well, *Mrs Evison*

Attendance

Summer term

Week 4

Whole School: 97%

Wheal Friendly: 97%

Wheal Harmony: 98%

Wheal Busy: 96%

Wheal Luna: 94%

*Well done Harmony for
winning the attendance
Monkey this week!*



(Any COVID related attendance is not counted)



Dates for the Diary

- ⇒ 20th May - Money day!
- ⇒ 24th - 28th May - Wheal Luna camp
- ⇒ 28th May - break up for half term
- ⇒ 7th - 9th June - INSET DAYS

- ⇒ 16th - 19th June - Busy camp
- ⇒ 17th June - HARMONY Showcase day!
- ⇒ 22nd June - Chance to Shine Cricket

Please help one of our pupils

Louis S is taking part in a fundraising challenge with Max and his mother, called Macmillan 300. They are pledging to ride 300 miles for Macmillan Cancer Charity.

Please read their story here and donate generously:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/macmillan300>



Tuck Shop Cabin



We are pleased to announce that our Tuck Shop Cabin will be finally open for business after half term to KS2 children.

The financial team have been meeting again to discuss what sort of snacks they would like to offer, and also how to sell them.

We have MONEY DAY next Thursday so we look forward to having a firm plan from the children then to be ready for action!

Pick up and drop off

Can I remind parents NOT to park or hover on the zigzag lines outside the school.

With so many children moving around the vicinity, it is really dangerous.

Thank you for being patient with our parking situation but please can everyone stick to the guidelines.





**citizens
advice**

0344 411 1444

**ON YOUR SIDE
NO MATTER WHAT**

0800 58 58 58 THECALMZONE.NET/WEBCHAT

SPM-MIDNIGHT | FREE | CONFIDENTIAL | ANONYMOUS

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LIVING MISERABLY CALM



If you have any concerns or worries, you can always speak / email us at Blackwater. We are here for all the families in Blackwater.



COVID-19 isolation may cause tensions to rise and domestic abuse to increase. Help is available.

Who can help me?

We can

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

NHS

Cornwall Partnership
NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust has its own Out of Hours telephone support provided by Support Matters Cornwall. This service operates from 5pm to 9am on weekdays and 24 hours a day at weekends and bank holidays. The service is open to all patients (aged 16+) under the care of the Trust's mental health services. Support can be delivered over the telephone, via text, email or web chat. Call free on 0800 001 4330.

This is an unusual time and we are conscious that some people and families will be finding it difficult. We have included some helpline numbers on this page in case anyone finds them useful.

0300 123 3393

mind
for better mental health

"It's alright to ask for help"

SAMARITANS

116 123

ChildLine
0800 1111

family action | **Family Line**
0808 802 6666

HM Government

AT HOME SHOULDN'T MEAN AT RISK

#YOUARENOTALONE

FIND SUPPORT AT: gov.uk/domestic-abuse

NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELPLINE
0808 2000 247
24/7 CONFIDENTIAL FREEPHONE





There's a very good chance you've heard of Minecraft. The block building phenomenon is, arguably, the most beloved video game of all time which has managed to maintain its popularity since its first release back in 2011. Nine years later, it still has a huge userbase of 112 million people playing the game every month. Accessible to those 7+, Minecraft can be a gateway into a world of learning and exploration which encourages players to use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks. While Minecraft is considered relatively safe generally speaking, there are some safety precautions parents may want to consider before allowing their children loose on the game.



What parents need to know about MINECRAFT



OPEN TO HACKING

Hackers can be a real problem in any online game, including Minecraft. Some individuals can access other people's games to disrupt their play time, or even worse, access private details about players such as their names, email addresses, dates of birth and so on. It would be incredibly rare and unfortunate to encounter a player like this, but it does happen and must be taken as a serious risk.



RISK OF GRIEFING

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 someone's gameplay and can essentially amount to a form of cyberbullying. In open servers, or even private ones among friends, it can be difficult to keep track of who's saying what, and an innocent comment in one person's eyes could be seen as bullying by somebody else. Stealing supplies, destroying things that take hours to build and harassing innocent players can all be commonplace if care isn't taken.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Most players aged 7 and over will be able to play the game comfortably and, whilst creating an account does ask you to input your date of birth for confirmation, there's no way to check if the information is correct nor to check someone's real identity. This could mean that children younger than 7 could access the game. However, what is more concerning is that adults pretending to be children could theoretically be using false information to access the game and be interacting with your child.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Minecraft can be an incredibly exciting game but it can also be very addictive. Too much time on the game could impact on your child's behaviour, causing them to become irritable or angry when being asked to stop playing. This might suggest it might be time to enforce some time away from the game. Addictive behaviour can be compounded at a young age and encouraging gaming in moderation is always recommended.

'SCARY' CHARACTERS FOR YOUNGER GAMERS

For the most part, Minecraft is not a scary game. Despite this, there are certain characters in the game that younger children in particular may find frightening. Creepers, zombies and various other 'baddies' can be commonplace in some parts of the game and young minds may find it difficult to disassociate them from real life once they switch off the game.



Safety Tips for Parents

BLOCK STRANGERS AND UNWANTED CONTACT

Despite the fact that private messages can no longer be sent in the game, strangers may still attempt to interact with your child. From the pause menu, players can block chat and friend requests from others in the game. This causes any profanities, email addresses and phone numbers to become automatically blocked, meaning it's harder for people you don't know to potentially contact your child.

LEARN FROM YOUTUBERS / TWITCH STREAMERS

There are a lot of Minecraft focused YouTubers and Twitch Streamers that offer a huge variety of fun, engaging content. Many of them focus on making videos specifically for younger audiences, which don't include bad language or anything scary. If you're unsure about the game, check out some of the biggest streamers and more importantly, ask who your children like. This will help you to understand what the game is about and also make sure that your children are watching age-appropriate content online.

PLAY IN CREATIVE OR PEACEFUL MODES

Playing the game on Creative or Peaceful mode ensures that the experience is strictly safe. Peaceful mode allows children to explore with friends without having the survival element of normal Minecraft, while Creative mode allows imaginations to run wild with unlimited resources, encouraging creation of vast, personalised worlds. There really are no limits as to what can be accomplished and getting involved yourself can make it a great way to bond with your child and give you a long-term project to complete with them.

MONITOR GAME TIME

Being able to play on a wide variety of platforms can be beneficial however it can also make it more difficult to put the game down. Play time should be monitored and it's always a good idea to talk to your child if you feel they are spending too much time on the game or showing signs of addictive behaviour.

CREATE A PRIVATE SERVER

The best way to avoid unwanted strangers or griefers in a server is to simply create your own. Private servers do exactly what they say on the tin by offering a safe, secure place for children to play and create with their friends, free from outside interference. They (and you) control who is allowed in the server and what kind of things they can do in it, making it the closest thing Minecraft offers to parental controls.

LEARN TO PLAY YOURSELF

Minecraft is an incredibly easy game to pick up and play. Furthermore, it doesn't require an expensive console or computer, with versions available for smartphones and tablets. Learning to play yourself and playing alongside your child is the best way to understand the game and will help to put your mind at ease in respect of what your child is viewing and who they may be interacting with.

CREATE SERVER WHITELISTS

Username you know to be safe, like your child's friends or relatives, can have their accounts whitelisted as safe. Essentially, this means that server moderators can create a community made up of people they know to be friendly and children will only be playing alongside people both they and you know, reducing any risk of contact with strangers or experiencing griefing.

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



Well done to these children for showing excellent behaviour and learning attitudes. We are proud of you!

You will wear our new star badges for the week and then have a hot chocolate with Mrs. Evison on Monday!



Friday
7th May

Learners of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Kane O

Wheal Harmony: Perran A

Wheal Busy: Archie S

Wheal Luna: Ben K

Citizens of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Elliot B

Wheal Harmony: Amelia G

Wheal Busy: Luca S

Wheal Luna: Karl O

Above and Beyond

Jenny C

Friday
14th May

Learners of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Tegen I-P

Wheal Harmony: Orla J

Wheal Busy: Ethan D

Wheal Luna: Liam F

Citizens of the Week

Wheal Friendly: Griff T-J

Wheal Harmony: Lizzie G

Wheal Busy: Ned D

Wheal Luna: Llogen M

Above and Beyond

Jenny C

KIND HANDS

These children's names will be displayed on our kindness tree in the foyer. Well done!

Esme, Kodi, Jan, Enzo, Lola, Sophia, Toby C

Letters home

St Agnes Sunflower festival

Free School Meals information

Uniform update

Woodland valley information

Well done to these children who have passed another 99 CLUB!

Tegen - Hippo Club

Ella - Hippo Club

Jenny - Tiger Club

Addy - 22 Club

Thea T - 44 Club

Kayden E - 55 Club

Pippa D - 99 Club

Layla S - 99 Club

Louis S - 66 Club

Paige H - 55 Club

Molly R - 99 Club

William D - 77 Club

Holly L - 55 Club

Sophie S: 77 Club

Joe R - 66 Club

Jan R- 33 Club

Tommy J - 22 Club

There are no limits to what you can accomplish, except the limits you place on your own thinking.

Brian Tracy

