



# Newsletter

## Safety First



Oldham schools have been warned via our 'School Safe' communication system to be extra vigilant when admitting visitors to school, following an incident at a local school. At Friezland, even when we know you, we always ask parents and carers to wait outside the building to drop-off/collect children and will always escort you into the building if you are attending a meeting. Contractors are also booked in, in advance. Please don't think us rude if we don't recognise you and ask you to wait until we can verify your identity- we want to keep everyone safe and be able to account for everyone on our school grounds. As always, please let us know in advance if someone different will be collecting your child and share your two-word passcode with them. Thank you for your understanding.

## Guitar / Ukulele / Keyboard Presentations



Well done to everyone who performed in this week's musical presentations. We were all really impressed with the progress you have made this year! Information will be sent home regarding next year's tuition and summer term taster sessions, for applicable age groups- look out for the e-mails.

## The King's Coronation Picnic Lunch

We enjoyed some royal activities on Friday, with a picnic lunch which most children were able to enjoy outside, before we had to 'run for cover' as the heavens opened - a very British picnic experience. Enjoy the extra Bank Holiday weekend!

## Outdoor Learning Day

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May, we will hold our annual outdoor learning day. On this day the children should come to school in their PE kits as the day will be very practical. If the weather is poor, we will re-schedule to maximise the enjoyment of the day. We are asking for a donation of £2 per pupil (via Eduspot), to support the purchasing of food and resources needed on the day. Thank you to those who have already donated- much appreciated.



**Sport Race Afternoon** Weather permitting, the children will take part in Sports Day on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May. During the morning, the children will take part in a range of activities and events and during the afternoon, you are invited to come and spectate for our races (bring a camping chair or blanket to sit on)! **The children should come to school in their Friezland PE kit and trainers.**

**Class 1 & 2 Races: 1 - 2pm**

**Class 3 & 4 Races: 2 - 3pm**

**Fathers' Day Breakfasts** This year we're inviting Dads or special guardians to a breakfast treat (21<sup>st</sup> OR 28<sup>th</sup> June, 8:45-9:45 am) which will coincide with Fathers' Day on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> June. If you wish to attend, you MUST pre-book in advance via the following [LINK](#) and pay for the breakfast via your Eduspot account. Your place is only confirmed once both are done. To ensure a place for those who want one, we are limiting the breakfast to one adult per family NOT child, on one of the dates only. Any excess bookings will be refunded. Your child(ren) will join you and will be treated to toast.



## Dates for the Diary

### May

8<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday- School Closed (**MON**)

9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Year 6 SATS

18<sup>th</sup> Y6 Kingwood Meeting (virtual), 5pm (*link to follow*)

19<sup>th</sup> Outdoor Learning Day

23<sup>rd</sup> Y5 Kingswood Meeting for 2024 (virtual), 5pm, (*link to follow*)

25<sup>th</sup> Sport Race Afternoon

25<sup>th</sup> End of Summer Term 1 (**THUS**)

### June

5<sup>th</sup> Start of Summer Term 2 (**MON**)

14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Y6 Kingswood

15<sup>th</sup> Guitar Awards (selected children only)

20<sup>th</sup> Class 3 Halle' Visit

21<sup>st</sup> Fathers' Day Breakfast 8:45-9:45am (pre-book ONLY)

28<sup>th</sup> Fathers' Day Breakfast 8:45-9:45am (pre-book ONLY)

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING  
**7+**

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

### GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying. It intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

### SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

### 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 lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your 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.

## Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



# OLDHAM ATHLETIC SOCCER SCHOOL

**Tuesday 30th May - Friday 2nd June**

Royton & Crompton E-Act Academy, Blackshaw Lane, Oldham, OL2 6NT.

Ages 6-12

£72 for 4 days

9am-3pm



Scan the QR code to  
book your place.

For further information:  
Emily.Ashworth@oact.org.uk



## Soccer School Feedback!



*My son absolutely loves coming to soccer school. He is always so excited in the morning to go and loves telling me what he's been doing when he comes home. I love the updates that we get telling us what the children have been up to during the week. I also think it is excellent value for money. I love that he gets to meet some of his favourite players also. I highly recommend!*

*My son absolutely loves soccer school even though he isn't the most skilled footballer, he loves the fact he can enjoy doing something he loves without being told he isn't good enough! He feels part of something without having to be the best at it!*

*My son has loved this soccer school. It's his favourite one out of all that's he's been too. It's great value for money. Meeting some of the players has been a highlight for him as well as the daily penalty shootouts. We will be definitely be booking on in the future. Thanks to all the coaches!*

*My child is very anxious going to new places but was made very welcome from the start. His confidence grew throughout the week and he was so happy that he started to score goals towards the end of the week. He even got star of the day which was such a big thing for him. I can't thank you enough for this opportunity and we will definitely be looking to sign up again.*