



# Marsh Gibbon CE Primary School Newsletter

How can I say "I can't" when the Bible says: 'I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.'  
Philippians 4:13

Dear All

I hope you had an enjoyable mid-term break and found time for some fun and relaxation!

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Parents Information Evening on Wednesday and hope that they found it useful. During the evening, I discussed what has been achieved so far, what we plan to do in the future and the importance of having a growth mindset.

If you would like to see the presentation, it can be found under the 'Parent' tab of our website.

During part of the evening, I highlighted the work we are doing on the wider curriculum. This includes making sure it is coherently planned and organised in such a way that coverage and progression of skills in all subjects are met and that learning is carefully sequenced. This is to ensure that new knowledge and skills build on what has been taught and understood before. To this end, Subject Leaders are creating learning overviews showing what your child will be learning and when, as well as progression documents highlighting how skills and knowledge are developed. These can be found under the 'Curriculum and Classes' tab on our website. Our intention is to continually add information and resources to this part of our website to enable you to further understand what your child is learning and to help you further support them at home.

A letter has gone out on ParentMail regarding the setting up of a Parent Council. I hope this consultative group of parents will help shape some of the decisions we make to further enhance our provision at school. If you would like to be part of this group, please complete the reply slip on ParentMail/Forms.



Our 'Stars of the Week'  
Well done to you all!

## Year 2 Badminton Festival

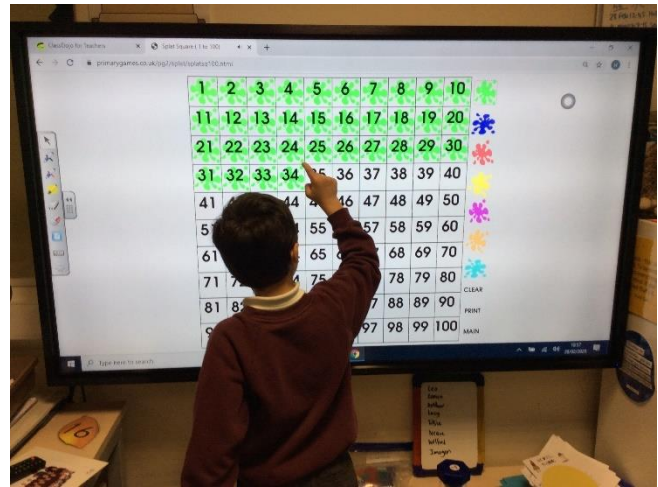
On Wednesday, six children from Dragon Class enjoyed a well organised afternoon at the Racket Pack Smash Festival held at Waddesdon School. Alfie, Arthur, Jemima, Eaton, Ben, Olivia and Willow all proudly represented Marsh Gibbon School with a positive and supportive team spirit attitude. They competed in 10 different activities to gain points which were totalled at the end to give each school an overall score. Some activities were individual, focusing one particular skill, and other challenges involved working in teams where they had to combine their skills of balance, throwing, catching, back-hand serving and returning skills - not an easy task for 6 and 7 year olds! We are all very proud of the children's effort and enthusiasm throughout the festival and they thoroughly deserve their badminton specialist medals. Well done to you all!





### Gold Certificate

Well done to Isabella for achieving her gold Mathletics certificate.



### Alpha Panels

As part of our plan to update IT infrastructure, we had three Alpha panels installed in Butterfly, Owl and Dragon Class. These replace the old Smartboards. A huge thank you to the PTA for supporting us with this venture!

### Online Safety Newsletter

An 'Online Safety Newsletter' will now be part of our newsletter. This will cover a range of information regarding how you can help keep your child safe online, as well as information on wellbeing. I hope you find them useful!

### PTA Disco

When you receive this, the PTA disco should be in full swing! We hope your child enjoys it and a huge thank you to DJ Flibble plus thanks to Lisa James for pulling this together with great support from the helper team of parents.

### Sunday at 4

Sunday 1 March 4pm-5.30pm at Grendon Village Hall

**Sunday at 4** is for children of primary school age. We meet for fun, games, Bible stories, craft activities, prayer and refreshments. At our first meeting of 2020 we'll be hearing about a special visit to a man who had many sons. St. David's Day will be the theme for our activities. Newcomers are always welcome to come along and see what we get up to! It helps our planning if you can let us know if your children hope to attend.

The next meeting is on Sunday 29 March at Marsh Gibbon Village Hall.

Revd Angela Mann 01296 771100 [angela.mann858@gmail.com](mailto:angela.mann858@gmail.com)

### Upcoming Events

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – Key Stage 2 Music Concert

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

Yours sincerely

Paul Alford  
Headteacher

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Update	Key Stage 2 Music Concert 1:15pm arrival for 1:30pm start
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March		World Book Day
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	New	Parents' Evening: 4pm – 7 pm
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	New	Parents' Evening: 3:30pm – 6:30pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	New	Milkshake and Muffins in support of Year 6 Residential: 10:15am Children to bring in a £1 if they wish More information to follow
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	New	Rabbit & Hedgehog Class Production – Dress Rehearsal More information to follow
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	New	Hedgehog Trip to Pizza Express More information to follow
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	New	Butterfly Class & Owl Class trip to Whipsnade Zoo More information to follow
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	New	Rabbit & Hedgehog Class Production – Performance More information to follow
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April		Easter Church Service – 2:00pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April		Spring Term ends
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April		Summer Term begins
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> April		Class, Leavers & Whole School Photos
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May		Bank Holiday
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	New	Year 5 Royal Latin Science Day More information to follow
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May		School breaks up for half term
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June		School re-opens after half term
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 6 PGL Residential
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July		Year 6 Transition Day
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July		Year 6 Transition Day
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	New	PTA Pig Roast
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July		End of Year Celebration Church Service – 2:00pm
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July		Summer Term ends

Please check the website calendar regularly as all dates can be found here.

<https://www.marshgibbon.bucks.sch.uk/calendar.html>



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.



## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Most players aged 7 and over will be able to play the game worldwide and, whilst creating an account does ask you to input your date of birth for verification, 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.



## RISK OF GRIEFING

Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining someone's creation or purposely doing something to spoil someone's enjoyment and can eventually amount to a form of cyber bullying. In some cases, or even publicly over someone's head, it can be difficult to know what's being said, and an innocent comment in one person's chat could be seen as bullying by somebody else. Destroying someone's creations that take hours to build and harvesting innocent players can all be considered griefing if care isn't taken.



## ADDICTIVE NATURE

Minecraft can be an incredibly exciting game but it can also be very addictive. The more 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 remove 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, skeletons and various other 'monsters' can be encountered in some parts of the game and young minds may find it difficult to distinguish 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 game itself, players can block chat and friend requests are off-limits in the game. This causes any potential, email addresses and phone numbers to become exceptionally difficult, raising its barrier for people you don't want 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, educate your children too. This will help you to understand what the game is about and also reassure you that your children are watching age-appropriate content online.



### PLAY IN CREATIVE OR PEACEFUL MODES

Playing the game on Creative or Peaceful modes means 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 them 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 is to create your own Private server. Private servers are 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 various 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 thinking and who they may be interacting with.



### CREATE SERVER WHITELISTS

Whenever you know to be safe, like your child's friends or relatives, can have their accounts whitelisted on safe. Essentially, this means that server administrators 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 Fisher has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and producer. He is the current gaming editor of one of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UKGAMING.COM and GAMINGMAGAZINE. During gaming time he's young up with his children, he has a passion for understanding how games can teach us but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

