

## Newsletter - THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2022

I would like to say a huge thank you for all the support you gave your children on sports day. We all had a fantastic afternoon and we were so proud of how well the children supported each other and showed wonderful team spirit!! We can't wait to see the nursery children in action on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July for more sporting fun!!

Don't forget we are off tomorrow (Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July) so enjoy a slightly longer weekend.

**Have a great weekend!**

**Mrs Allen, Headteacher**

### Attendance

Well done to Miss Clarke 's class for winning the attendance bear this week with 98.3% attendance. Well done you super stars!!!!

### ATTENDANCE FROM 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

Overall attendance 92.9% Target 97%

KC 93.9% LE 93.0% AJS 93.2% SC 91.7%

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Although every child receives Universal Free School Meals up to Year 2 you can still apply for income based Free School Meals. Please go to Sunderland City Council Parent Portal website to apply. May we also advise any parents of Year 2 children to apply for FSM online now for September 2022 when your child goes to Junior School

### 2 Year Old Nursery

Our 2 year old room will be opening in September. All 2 year old's are welcome - whether you pay for a place or if your child is entitled to 15 free hours. You can choose which sessions you would like your child to attend (this does not have to be all mornings or all afternoons you can choose what best suits you as long as there is space). If you would like your child to join our fabulous new provision please contact the school office!!!

### Dates for your Diary 2021-2022

**Fri 1 July 2022- Queens Platinum Jubilee Day (in lieu) - School closed**

**Wed 6 July 2022 - Nursery Sports Day (NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)**

**Fri 15 July 2022 - Reports to Parents**

**Wed 20 July 2022 - Year 2 Leavers Assembly & Performance-details to follow**

**Fri 22 July 2022 - School closes for summer holiday**

**After School Care**  
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022**  
**'Meet the Reptiles' Night**  
**If your child would like to attend please contact the school office to book in. It will be an amazing night!!!!**



### **Website**

You can find all letters which are sent home via email and school events on our website. We also try to upload them on ClassDojo

### **Pre-loved Uniform**

We have a selection of pre-loved uniform in our school reception area. It is freshly washed and bagged. So please feel free to have a look if there is anything you need for a small contribution.

If you have any good quality uniform you would like to donate please hand in to the school office.

### **ClassDojo**

It's fantastic to see so many parents getting involved again!! Please keep checking for updates in the class story and please send photos of what your child is getting up to at home, we love to see them having fun!! If you see a post please feel free to comment and like it on the class posts, it really means a lot to staff!!

### **Uniform**

Please can all parents/carers ensure that **ALL** items of their child's uniform have their child's name marked somewhere as we are not responsible for any lost items

### **General Information for all Parents/Carers**

**Earrings-** **No** earrings or clear space savers are to be worn by pupils for Health & Safety

**Batteries Recycling-** We are also still collecting any used batteries in partnership with Groundworks in our pursuit to win another recycling prize for our school.

**School Uniform and Book Bags -** just a reminder that you can order online all logoed uniform from Total Sport NE, Hendon Road, Sunderland, SR1 2JD.

**We no longer sell any uniform or book bags from the school office.**

### **Safeguarding**

If you have any safeguarding concerns please do not hesitate to contact school and speak to either Mrs Allen, Miss Lumsden or Mrs Blakeman

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# 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 unnerve 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.



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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# ESPORTS

British Esports describes 'esports' as "competitive gaming, human-v-human, usually with a spectator element to it". In recent years, the esports industry has grown significantly – and is expected to reach an overall worth of \$1.2 billion, with around 30 million monthly viewers, by the end of 2022. This rapid evolution has presented even more opportunities ... but, of course, opportunities usually come with a risk. Here, we've highlighted some of the potential hazards within the esports arena and suggested ways to help young people stay safe so they can make the most of this exciting space.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions are in-game purchases that unlock new features or give players special abilities, characters or content. These can cost anything from 99p to £99 (and sometimes more!). The topic of microtransactions in gaming is heavily scrutinised – with cosmetics, pay-to-win features and loot boxes all being a source of contention for gamers and governing bodies in recent years.

### MENTAL HEALTH

Studies show that esports competitors face the same level of mental health issues as athletes from traditional sports, along with some specific additional demands. Like mainstream professional sport, esports is an incredibly tough industry – requiring countless hours of practice. Competing at the highest level can lead to pressures such as handling setbacks, stressful situations and facing criticism.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT & BEHAVIOUR

Only 22% of gamers globally are aged between 10 and 20 – meaning the majority are adults, who might not always act or talk in a way that's appropriate for children. Like traditional sport, esports has many athletes and 'personalities' to look up to. However, it's important that your child stays aware of how influenced they are by the people they follow, and whether the athlete is age appropriate.

### TROLLS & TOXICITY

An internet troll is someone who tries to offend people and cause trouble by posting derogatory comments. Toxicity, as in the real world, refers to negative behaviours like harassment, verbal abuse and inappropriate conduct, which all impact on wellbeing. Trolls and toxicity are an issue within esports, perhaps due to its pressurised, extremely competitive and high-stakes nature.

### POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION

The revenue in esports is potentially vast. Organisations often look to professionals and content creators to help grow their brand, in exchange for the organisation's backing, a salary, and marketing and sponsorship benefits. However, the industry is still in its infancy – and so is its regulation. In some countries, esports isn't regulated at all, so things can get sticky if players don't know what they're doing or who they're working with.

### PHYSICAL EFFECTS

The common perception of esports involves a sedentary lifestyle, an unhealthy diet and very little physical activity – which has obvious health implications. It's certainly true that players sit at their desk for hours, looking into bright screens and not getting regular exercise. Some professional esports players have nutritionists, personal trainers and dieticians specifically to protect their health.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENCOURAGE BALANCE

Dedicating oneself intensely to any activity – including esports – can be harmful, both mentally and physically. Make sure your child's gaming routine is balanced with exercise, regular breaks, healthy food and plenty of water. If your child spends long hours gaming, using a chair with the proper supports and taking the time to practise good posture will help protect their lower back, neck and wrists.

### UNDERSTAND GAMING

Chat to your child about the games they play; ask to watch or even take part to get an idea of how appropriate they are. This will give you an awareness of the phrases esports players and content creators use, helping you understand young gamers' slang. If you find some of the games unsuitable, talk to your child about why. You can also explore age-specific settings on apps like YouTube and Twitch.

### GET EXPERT HELP

If your child does start on the road to becoming a professional, get in touch with an esports-specific agency who are experienced in industry terminology and loopholes. Do due diligence on any team or organisation offering your child a contract: a key point is how long your child would be contracted to them – the esports industry changes quickly, so there might be better and more secure offers out there.

### BLOCK TOXIC USERS

Monitoring in-game chats, or disabling them altogether (either through the console or in the game itself), is a comprehensive way to avoid negative experiences and reduce the risk of toxic messaging. Your child also has options to block messages from particular players and only interact with their friends; this can also help to prevent them from encountering the blocked users in future games.

### Meet Our Expert

Nathan David is an experienced gamer, teacher and athlete. He is Course Leader for the BTEC Esports programme at Salisbury Sixth Form College. Nathan has more than 10 years' experience working in schools and colleges, and holds a Masters degree in Sport Psychology.

