



# St Chad's Catholic Primary School

## Weekly Newsletter

16th May 2025

**Dear Parents,**

This week has been all about our Year 6 pupils and their SATs. I would like to commend all the children for their exceptional effort, not just over the past few days, but throughout the lead-up to these important tests. It has been a demanding week, with six papers in total, but the children approached each one with resilience, perseverance, and maturity. We are incredibly proud of them.

With SATs now behind them, Year 6 can look forward to the exciting events ahead — their end-of-year production and the much-anticipated PGL residential. The residential trip will take place from Friday 23rd May to Monday 26th May, and it is always a highlight for our Year 6 pupils. We wish them a safe and enjoyable adventure next Friday.

This weekend, teams from St Chad's will be representing the school at the Croydon Catholic Schools football and netball tournament. On Wednesday, a team of our swimmers will be competing in the swimming gala. Best of luck to all our competitors — we are cheering you on!

A heartfelt thank you goes to Mrs Mooney, Mrs Mitchener and the Yr6 team, for their dedication and tireless support of Year 6 during SATs preparation and in planning the school journey. Thank you also to the whole staff team for giving up their time to attend the residential, especially as it falls over a weekend and the bank holiday. We are truly fortunate to have such a committed and caring team at St Chad's.

Wishing you all a sunny and restful weekend.

In Christ  
Mrs T Lawlor



## Congratulations

**Well done, Year 6!**

The children were absolutely brilliant this week. They remained calm, focused, and approached each SATs paper with confidence and determination. It was clear they were well prepared, having thoroughly covered the curriculum and completed comprehensive revision. They truly took the whole experience in their stride, and we are incredibly proud of their hard work, maturity, and resilience.

A huge thank you to all the staff who helped administer the tests so smoothly, and a special thank you to Year 5 for generously giving up their classrooms to provide the quiet space Year 6 needed.

We look forward to receiving the results in July, but regardless of the outcome, the children should be very proud of themselves.



# Nursery News

The children have been learning to recognise different feelings and emotions and how to deal with them. All the children know the best way is to use their words to tell a friend or grown up. We read the colour monster book, then played with the characters showing how the character felt. We enjoyed singing along to the feelings song.



# Wishing Crystal Palace all the best



Today, representatives from each class had the exciting opportunity to visit Selhurst Park to wish Crystal Palace Football Club the very best ahead of the FA Cup Final tomorrow.

The children were full of enthusiasm and hope for a historic win. While there, they recorded heartfelt messages of support and best wishes for the team. It was a wonderful experience that brought the school community together in support of our local club – come on, Palace!



# Crowning of Mary



**Crowning of Mary – Tuesday 20th May at 2:00pm**

This year's Crowning of Mary liturgy will take place on Tuesday, 20th May at 2:00pm.

If possible, we kindly ask that each child brings in a flower or two to place on or around the statue of Our Lady, as a symbol of our love and devotion to her.

Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend this special celebration.

## Attendance

05/05/2025 - 09/05/2025		
Registration Group	Attendance %	Punctuality (lates) %
St Mary Nur	98.2	0
St Peter Rec	96.9	0.5
St Ann Rec	100	0
St Elizabeth Y1	100	3.3
St Luke	95.7	1.6
St Martha Y2	99.6	1.8
St John Bosco	97.8	0.5
St Carlos	100	1.1
St Martin	98.2	0.9
St Catherine	99.1	2.3
St Andrew Y5	94.3	2.3
St James Y5	94.1	0
St Therese Y6	100	0.6
St Brigid Y6	98.8	0
Totals	98.1	1.1

Regular attendance at school is vital so that children can progress in their learning and friendships. If your child is unwell, please leave a message on the answer phone or email the office by **8am**. The office staff check registers and must follow up on any unexplained absences by 9.15am, so your cooperation with this is appreciated.

Routine medical and dental appointments should be scheduled for outside school time. Holidays in school time cannot be authorised.

**Well done to the 4 classes with 100% - St Anne, St Elizabeth, St Carlos and St Therese.**

Fantastic a attendance last week with 98.1 across the school!



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

#### GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by wasting hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

#### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gamelike loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

### PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase, which is typically around £16. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### 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 levels follow. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

#### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for children to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given its address and password. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – ban anyone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

#### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone will make contact with a stranger online. Talking to children about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan for dealing with any hostile or difficult people. It's important that a 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.

#### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

#### PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to learn up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

### Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.

St Elizabeth	Naella, Esme
St Luke	Ife, Denzel
St Martha	Britney, AJ
St Carlos	Choyce, Ayomide
St John Bosco	Wyshown, Favour
St Catherine	Carter J, Moyin
St Martin	Carla, Akonobea
St James	Bentley, Michaela
St Andrew	Ameerah, Liesel
St Therese	All of Yr6 for their SATs
St Brigid	

<b>Gospel Value</b>	
St Elizabeth	Shilo, Anjali-Rose, Olamaria
St Luke	Frank, Ife, Melody
St Martha	Wonderful, Micah, Governor
St Carlos	Onyx, Arabella, Aleksis
St John Bosco	Jazelle, Leonard, Emmanuel A
St Catherine	Jermaine, Brielle, Kyle
St Martin	Christian, Georgia, Manny
St James	Jacob, Anastasia, Maelle
St Andrew	Aista, Ebere, Jemiah
St Therese	Shayden, David, Nicolle
St Brigid	Sandie, Asantia, JR