

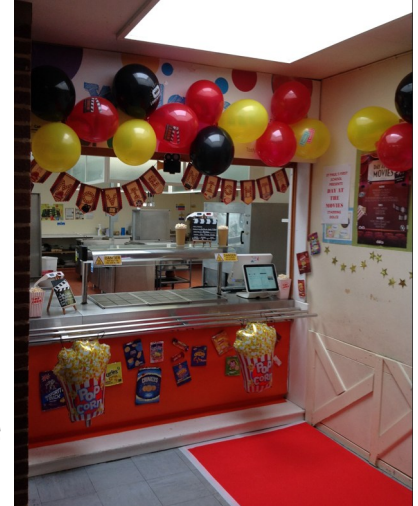


SCHOOL NEWS

"Love your neighbour as yourself." - Luke 10:27



This week, Mrs Guest, our cook and some of our Breakfast Club children have helped transform the food hatch into a Movie Night themed display for our Movie Themed lunchtime. Mrs Guest had even ensured that there was a red carpet! The children were also treated to music from some famous films too as they enjoyed their movie style lunch. We have entered a competition with a potential prize of £100 for the school, and we are hopeful about our chances of success. Our fingers are firmly crossed!



Today marked the culmination of our learning about harvest, both locally and globally, with celebrations at school and St. Paul's Church. Our pupils in Reception and Year 1 delivered a super performance this morning. The Year 1 children demonstrated remarkable confidence in reading their lines, while our Reception children showcased delightful harvest-themed paintings. I was amazed at how many songs the children had learned in such a short period of time too.

This afternoon, Years 2, 3, and 4 continued our harvest celebrations at the church, sharing the important message of being thankful with families and our church community. The children performed beautifully, singing songs that expressed gratitude and highlighted the important message of avoiding food waste.



Our heartfelt thanks are extended to our families for their incredibly generous food donations. These will be collected by the Good Shepherd Charity on Monday. Once again, we are humbled by the extraordinary generosity of our school community.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Richards

Dear God,
Thank you for reminding us of the importance of each person in our lives. Help us to show respect and love to everyone around us, just as the shepherd cared for his sheep. May we always remember to celebrate each other and lift one another up. Guide us to be kind and helpful, so that no one feels lost. Amen.



ST PAUL'S VISION AND VALUES

Community Aspire Respect

Endurance

Which part of the vision do you think links to our values?

At St Paul's, **our welcoming Christian community**, accepts and enables all to flourish to **achieve their God-given potential**. We develop **independent and resilient learners**, who lovingly **respect each other with care and kindness**. All are invited to make a difference in the world in which they live following in the footsteps and teachings of Jesus Christ.

EVENTS AND NOTICES

Open Morning

We will be holding our annual Open Morning on Saturday 11th October from 10:00am to 12:00pm. This is aimed at prospective parents who are interested in securing a place at St. Paul's for either Nursery or Reception.



St Paul's First School Open Morning

Saturday 11th October 2025
10:00am - 12:00pm

For parents who are interested in applying for Nursery or Reception places for September 2026

Before and after-school club information and application packs for Nursery/Reception will also be available to collect on the day

Please come along to find out what our lovely school has to offer

Contact us on 01902 291124
or office@st-pauls-coven.staffs.sch.uk for more information

World Mental Health Day

Next Friday is World Mental Health Day. Children are invited to come to school in sports clothes on this day.

Reception Early Writing Workshop

Parents and carers of children in Reception are invited into school on Wednesday 22nd October to learn about how they can support their child's fine motor and early writing development.



This will be an interactive session with Mrs Walsh and Mrs Clemson leading a lesson with the children and their parents/carers.

Please do come along to find out how your child learns and how you can support at home too.

Year 4 Parents Meeting—Laches Wood 2026

We are excited to announce that St. Paul's will be returning to Laches Wood in March 2026. All of Year 4 have the opportunity to attend this residential experience and in order to provide parents with as much information as possible about the visit, a member of Laches Wood will be visiting on Monday 13th October for a parent information session held at 2:50pm. A letter with further details has been emailed out to all Year 4 parents alongside

Polar Express Day

On Tuesday 16th December we will be having a Polar Express Day which will be an off timetable day with a wide range of activities all linked around the theme of the Polar Express. We would like to invite children to come to school on this day in their pyjamas. Further information about this will be shared nearer the date but we wanted to ensure that parents had notice well in advance of the date.

Cross Country Event

Miss Evans is taking a group of Year 3 and 4 pupils to a Cross country event at Marshbrook First School on Monday 20th October. A letter about this will be sent home on Monday 22nd September. If your child would like to take part in this then please return the consent as soon as possible.

For those children who do wish to attend, there will be two training sessions after school on:

Tuesday 7th October 3:25pm—4pm

Tuesday 14th October 3:25pm—4pm



SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

Harvest sale of baked goods and plants



Saturday 4 October
12.00 noon to 3.00pm
Refreshments served
Raffle



Perton Library History Fair

Saturday 4th October 10:00am-3:00pm

Come along and enjoy a fantastic day celebrating our history and heritage!

Lots to see and do for all the family

All events FREE to attend

Please contact Perton Library on 01902 506050 for more details




EDUCATING KIDS OUTDOORS

EKO Holiday Club October Half Term

at Weston Park, Weston-under-Lizard, Shifnal, TF11 8LE

Tuesday 28th to Friday 31st October 2025

Sessions from 10:30am - 4:00pm - £38

Early Drop off 9:00am - 4:00pm - £44

**BOOK
NOW**



To book a place at our Holiday Club, simply visit <https://educating-kids-outdoors.classforkids.io/> For more information take a look at our website www.ekolearning.org.uk and if you have any questions or concerns email us at info@ekolearning.org.uk.

If you're new to EKO we are all about having fun outdoors whatever the weather. We might be bug hunting or plant spotting or den building or creating natural art, the list is endless and there will always be something new to try.

We are based at Weston Park and have our own dedicated EKO Outdoor Learning Site and Orchard Hive Classroom as well as use of the extensive grounds.





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Registered office: Astal Farmhouse, Norton, Shifnal, Shropshire TF11 9EW



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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 erasing 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 gameplay 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. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms, which 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 level is far lower. 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 team 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 8 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



DIARY DATES

OCTOBER 2025	
Friday 10 th October	World Mental Health – Children to come to school in sports clothes for a well-being off time-table day
Saturday 11 th October	10:00 am to 12:00 pm Open Morning for new Nursery and Reception parents for September 2026 intake
Monday 13 th October	2:50pm—Year 4 Laches Wood Residential parent information meeting—all Year 4 parents are invited to attend
Thursday 16 th October	School Discos - £5 for ticket, snap bands and refreshments 3:25 – 4:30pm for Nursery, Reception and Y1
Thursday 16 th October	School Association AGM 4:30pm to 5:30pm
Friday 17 th October	School Discos - £5 for ticket, glow sticks and refreshments 3:25 – 4:30pm for Years 2, 3 and 4
Monday 20 th October	Y1 Toy Workshop
Monday 20 th October	Y3/4 Cross Country Event
Wednesday 22 nd October	Reception Early Writing Workshop—parents and carers are invited into school at 9:00 to join their child as they learn about how to develop early writing skills.
Thursday 23 rd October	Y3 School trip
Thursday 23 rd October	Last day of term
Friday 24 th October	INSET – School closed to pupils
Monday 27 th to Friday 31 st October	Half Term Holiday

NOVEMBER 2025	
Monday 3 rd November	School reopens for pupils
Tuesday 4 th November	Parents' Evening – 3:35 pm to 6:00 pm (Reception/Year 1, 2, 3 and 4)
Wednesday 5 th November	Parents' Evening – 3:35pm to 6:00 pm (All year groups)
Sunday 9 th November	Remembrance Sunday – church service at 9:30 am / Memorial Hall at 11:00 am
Wednesday 12 th November	Stay and Play EYFS (N - 10:30 to 11:30, R – 2:00 to 3:00) Phonics Workshop for Reception parents 3:00pm to 3:25pm Refreshments from the SA
Tuesday 18 th November	Flu Vaccine
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need – £1 donation for charity Children invited to wear something spotty
Friday 14 th November	School Association Reading Café 2:00—2:30 – Y1/Y2 2:45—3:15 – Y3/Y4 Parents and carers are invited into school to read with their children and meet members of our School Association * NB Change of date and time
Friday 21st November	Year 2 trip
Friday 28 th November	Non-uniform day – donations of bottles or chocolate or sweets for the Christmas Fair
DECEMBER 2025	
Tuesday 2 nd December	Maths Parent Workshop 9:00am and repeated at 2:45pm This session is designed to give parents and carers an insight into how we teach maths at St. Paul's First School.
Thursday 4th December	EYFS Nativity Farm on Wheels visit to school
Friday 5 th December	Non-uniform day – donations of cakes for the Christmas Fair
Friday 5 th December	All children to visit church to decorate the tree – parent helpers needed to walk to church 9:15am for Nur/Y4, 10:15 for Rec/Y2 and 11:15 for Y1/3
Tuesday 9th December	9:00am Irocks concert—parents and carers of children who take part in Irocks are invited into school for their termly concert.
Tuesday 9 th December	3:25 – 4:25pm: Christmas Craft Club for Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 £5 per child
Wednesday 10 th December	Christmas Lunch in school Wear your Christmas Jumper
Wednesday 10 th December	Kids club Christmas Party 3:30pm to 4:30pm
Thursday 11 th December	3:25 – 4:25pm: Christmas Craft Club for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 £5 per child. Morning Nursery children are welcome to come back at 3:25 pm to join us.
Thursday 11 th December	9:30 am – Y1/2 Christmas Play 2:00 pm – Y3/4 Christmas Carol Concert
Friday 12 th December	9:30 am – Y3/4 Christmas Carol Concert 2:00 pm – Y1/2 Christmas Play
Monday 15 th December	Nursery and Reception Christmas Singing and Activities in the hall at 9:15 am
Monday 15 th December	Homework passports to be brought into school for showcasing
Tuesday 16th December	Polar Express Day
Wednesday 17 th December	Y2/3/4 Party Day – children in Y2/3/4 to wear party clothes to school
Thursday 18 th December	Nur/Rec/Y1 Party Day – children in Nur/Rec/Y1 to wear party clothes to school
Sunday 14 th December	Nine Lessons Carol Service at Church 6pm Year 3 and Year 4 to sing
Friday 19 th December	Last Day – Non-uniform - £1 donation for school fund School closes for Christmas