



Barnsole Bulletin

TERM 5 | WEEK 5 | Friday 22nd May 2026



Dear Parents & Carers,

As we move into June, our new school value is Responsibility. This is such an important value for children to learn, practise and understand, particularly during their primary school years. Responsibility helps children to develop independence, confidence and care for others. It teaches them that their actions matter and that they can make a positive difference to their classroom, their family and the wider school community. At Barnsole, we know that responsibility looks different depending on a child's age and stage of development. For our youngest children in Nursery and Reception, it might mean hanging up their coat, putting toys away, washing their hands carefully or learning to look after classroom resources. These small steps help children begin to feel proud of what they can do for themselves. As children move through Key Stage 1, responsibility may include remembering their book bag, completing simple classroom jobs, looking after their belongings, sharing fairly and being kind to others. In Key Stage 2, children are ready to take on even more responsibility, such as completing home learning, organising equipment, being positive role models, helping younger pupils and making good choices even when adults are not watching. Responsibility is also an important value at home. Children can help by tidying their rooms, setting the table, feeding a pet, packing their school bag or remembering daily routines. These practical tasks build important life skills and show children that they are trusted and valued. By working together, school and home can help every child understand that responsibility is not about being perfect. It is about trying your best, learning from mistakes and doing your part to help yourself and others.

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I hope you all enjoy the May half-term break and the planned sunshine for the May bank holiday.

Best wishes,
Mr J Smales
Headteacher



House Points (Overall Total for the Academic Year)



1547

Invicta

1703

Medway

1117

Gordon

1229

Adams





If you have concerns about a child in school, please contact one of the Safeguarding team:

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mr Smales (Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Kramer (Deputy Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Barber (Assistant Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms Tollervey (Assistant Headteacher)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Kagan (FLO)

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead: Ms Rixon (Office Manager)

If you are concerned about a child outside of school, either after school, at the weekends or during a school holiday, you can contact the following to report your concerns:

Helpful Contact Numbers

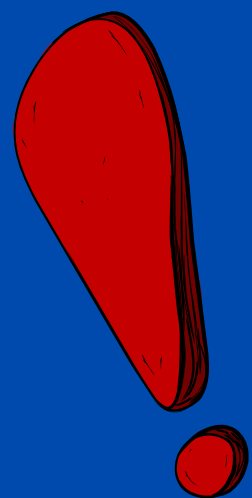
Medway Children Services – 01634 334466

Out of Hours Duty Team Medway – 03000 419191

NSPC – 0800 800 500

Police – 101

[Medway.gov.uk/mscb/](https://www.medway.gov.uk/mscb/)



Nursery

The nursery children enjoyed a train day where we got out all of the train track we possess and challenge the children to build the biggest track possible. They enjoyed building it all around the room and under the tables.



Year R

In Reception, we have been learning about shapes. We have looked at 2D shapes and 3D shapes and have been learning that even if you rotate a shape and it looks a bit different, it is still the same shape. We created pictures using the shapes too.



Year 1

This week Year 1 children have been learning all about food hygiene and how to stay safe when preparing food during their Design and Technology lessons. They enjoyed creating their own healthy salads and practised important skills like grating, chopping and slicing different vegetables. The children worked carefully and independently to make delicious salads, before evaluating their creations and talking about what they liked and what they might change next time.



Year 2

Recently, Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic trip to Hever Castle. The children listened carefully during the tour of the castle as we explored many rooms, including The Great Hall, where banquets were once held. We learnt all about Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII and what life was like in the castle during Tudor times. Each class also took part in a workshop where we explored Tudor foods and hats. We enjoyed a class picnic together and the children had a great time in the castle play area.

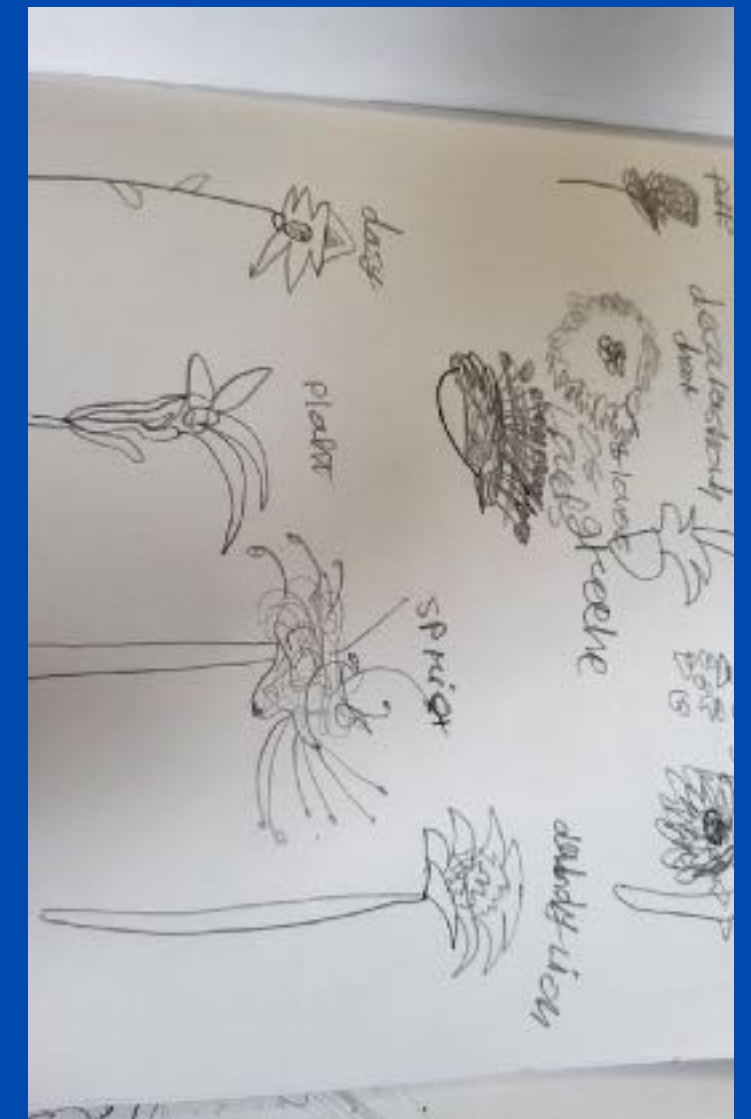
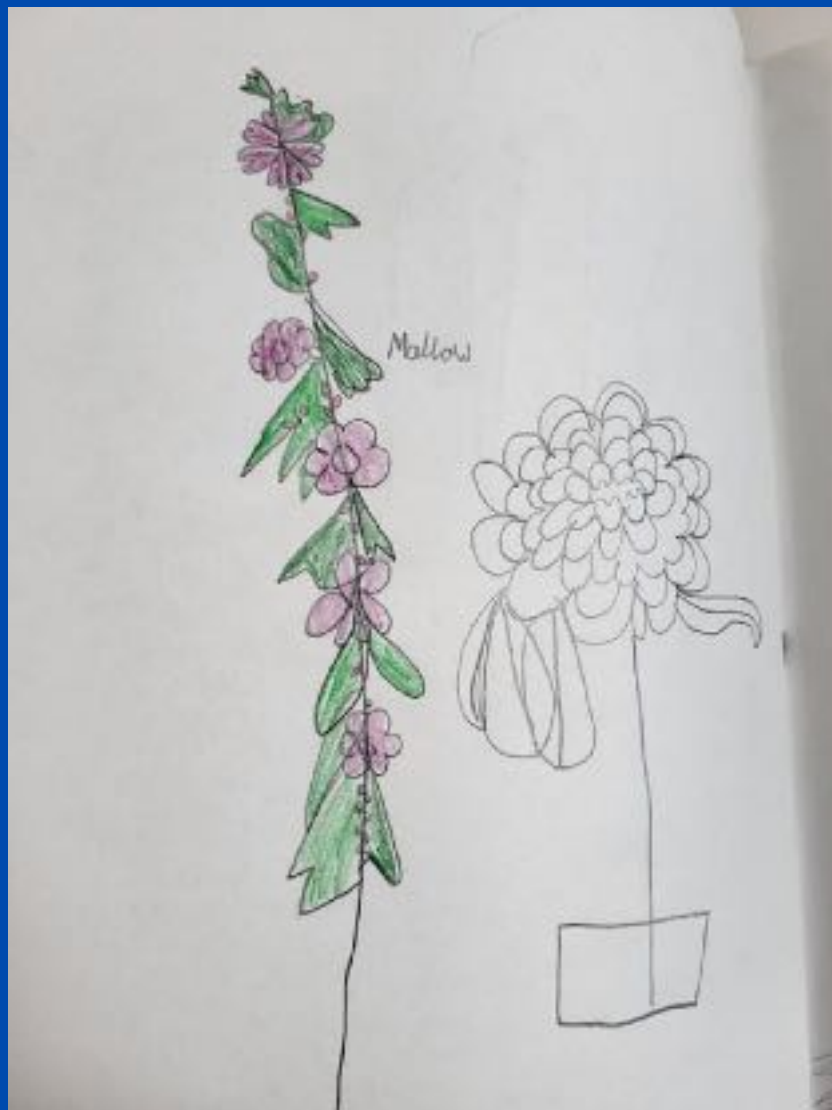
Back at school, the children used their experiences to write diary entries about their day during English lessons. They have produced some brilliant writing, using the past tense and ambitious adjectives to describe the castle.



Year 3

This term, Year 3 have been exploring the fascinating world of botanical art, taking inspiration from the beautifully detailed illustrations of celebrated artist and illustrator, Katie Scott. Known for her intricate drawings of plants, animals, and natural forms, Katie Scott's work encouraged the children to look closely at the tiny details found in nature and to appreciate the beauty of scientific illustration.

Here are some of their examples of ink printing and sketches:



Year 4

This week, Year 4 have been learning about the five different layers of the ocean, the fascinating creatures that inhabit them and the ways these animals have adapted to survive in such varied environments.

We also took part in a live maths lesson with Mr Money Jar, where we joined hundreds of other schools in a fun "Would You Rather?" game. This encouraged us to debate different ways of spending and saving money.

In English, we have been exploring the life of pirates to support our work on persuasive advertisements. As part of this topic, Nova in Juno class baked her own pirate ship cookies at home and kindly brought them in for everyone to try although they were so crunchy we nearly broke our teeth on them!



Year 5

Year 5 have thoroughly enjoyed learning to play the recorder this term and have been working hard to develop their rhythm, note-reading and performance skills. The children have been practising the piece, Gobstopper Waltz by Sarah Watts and have shown great enthusiasm and confidence during lessons. It has been wonderful to see their progress and teamwork as they play together as a class. We are very proud of their effort and are looking forward to starting an exciting new song after half term!



Year 6

Year 6 have come to the end of their Britain at War topic and completed their learning with a DT project inspired by the wartime slogan 'Make Do and Mend'. Using old clothes from home, the children designed and created something completely new – including bookmarks, bags, pencil cases and more!

Throughout the project, the children learned valuable sewing skills such as threading a needle, running stitch and whip stitch. Some even challenged themselves further by adding buttons, handles and extra decorative details to their designs.

For many children, this was a completely new skill and a real test of fine motor control, patience, resilience and perseverance. We were so impressed with the determination shown throughout the project and the creativity displayed in the final pieces. Well done, Year 6!



Percussion Performance

On Monday, Josh and Bogdan, from Kent Sinfonia performed to our children, from Nursery to Year 6. They played a wide variety of instruments from the Percussion Family, the largest range of instruments in an Orchestra. We were incredibly surprised as they donated a box of unpitched percussion instruments for our children to enjoy playing! They were also very impressed with our children's questions and orchestral families knowledge!



Margot recently donated 15 inches of her hair and arising £325.

Her hair will be turned into a wig for children facing cancer treatments and the money donated will go towards making and fitting it.





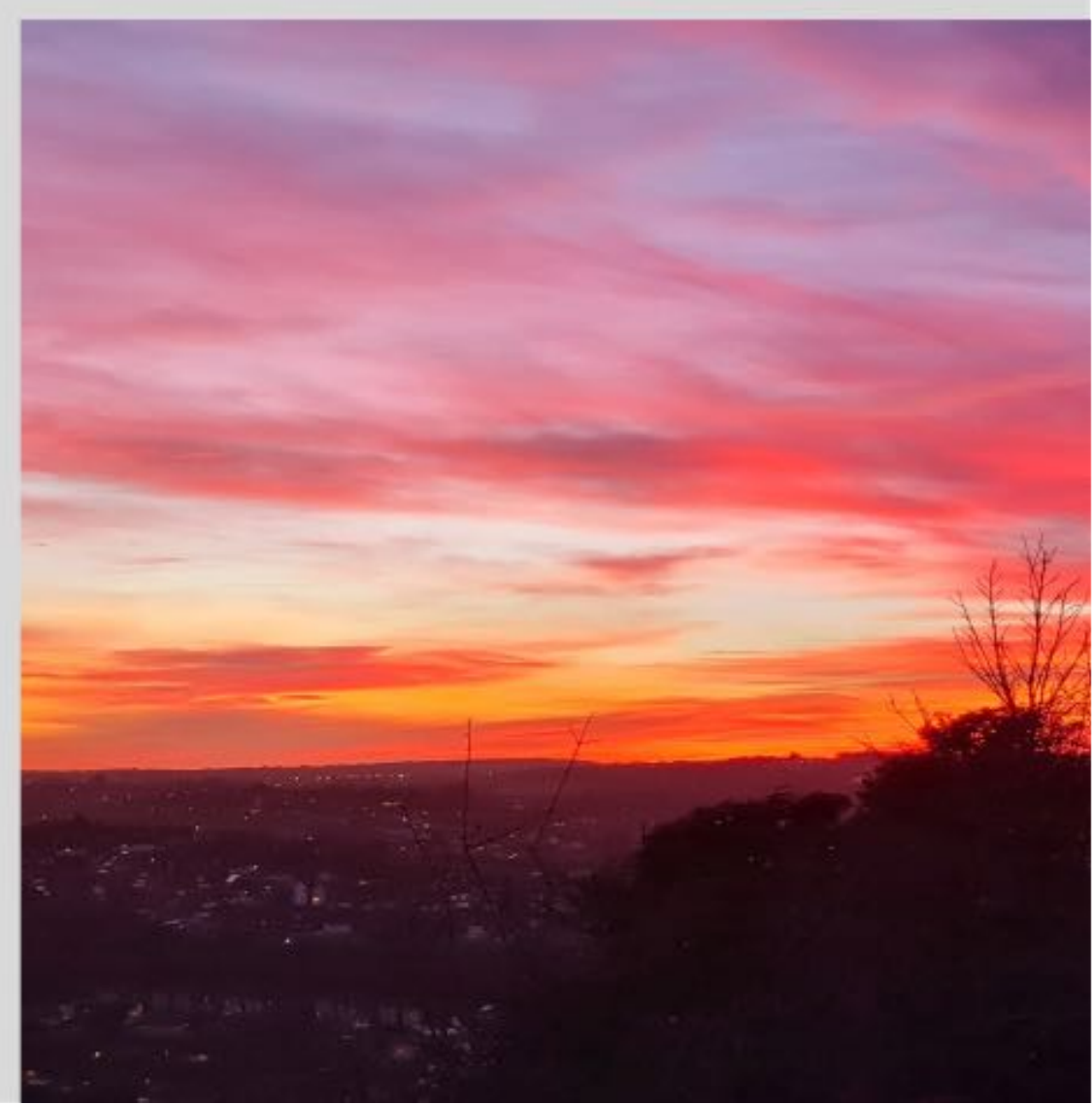
SAVE THE DATE

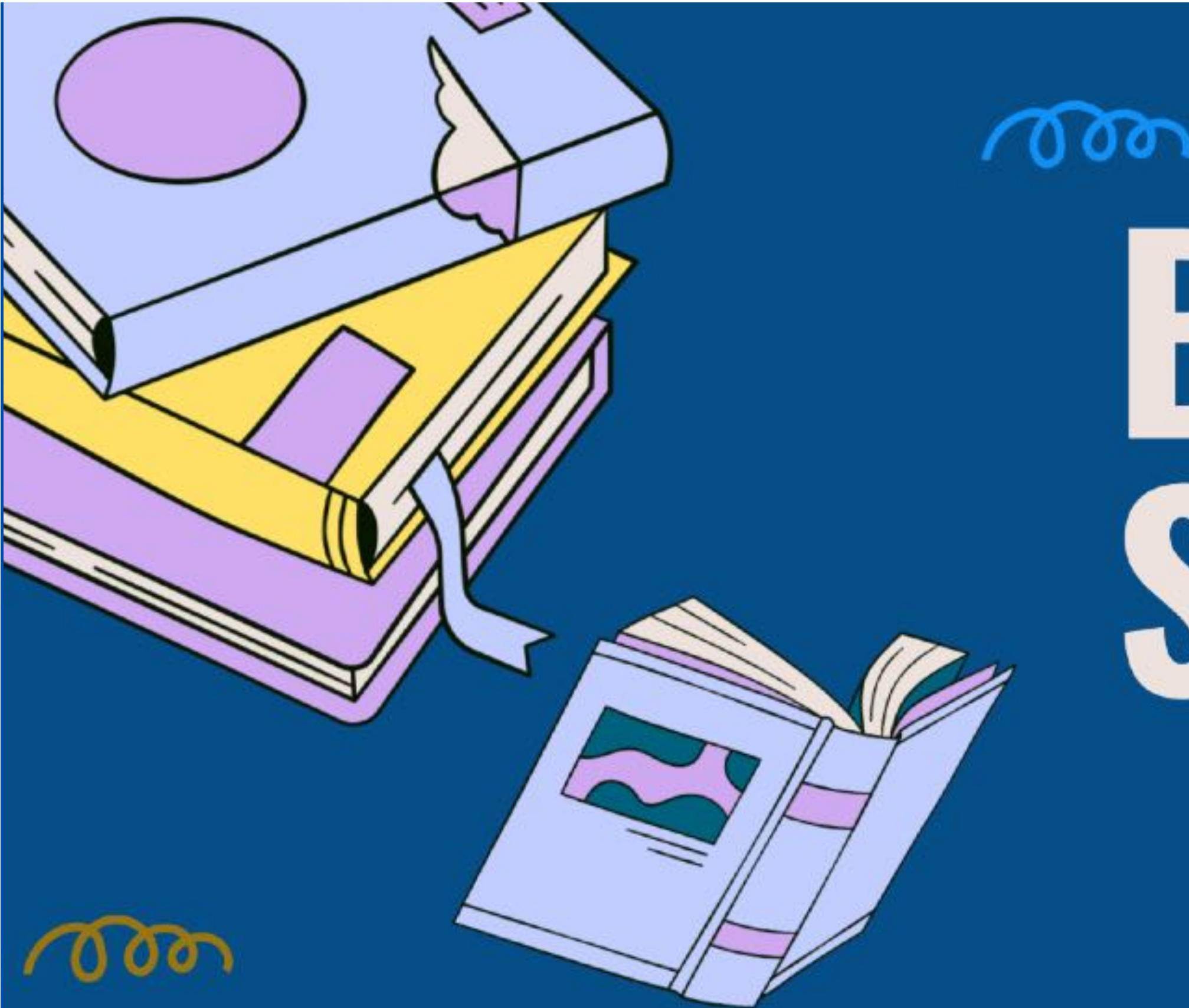
**Barnsole Through Our
EyesArt Exhibition**



**Wednesday 10th & Thursday
11th June**

Junior Hall, 3.30- 4.30pm





Book Swap



Bring a book, swap a book

Next term, we will be hosting a book swap for all year groups to join.

Bring along a book you're ready to pass on, and in return, choose one to take home and enjoy. It's a great way to discover new stories and share the love of reading with others.

More details, including the date, will be confirmed soon we look forward to seeing you there!



TIME TO PLAY!



Maritime
Strong
Foundations

Come and join in our
weekly stay and play session at
Barnsole Primary School!

Looking for something fun to do with your little one? Join us for a relaxed and engaging session of songs, rhymes and early learning activities for under 4s. Led by a qualified nursery teacher, these sessions are open to everyone in the community and are a lovely way to learn, play and connect.

Every Thursday
Morning
8.50am - 10am



Location:
Key Stage 1 Hall,
entrance by
Neptune Class

FREE



Barnsole Primary School
Barnsole Road
Gillingham
ME7 2JG
01634 333400



Barnsole Food Bank

Our foodbank is here to support members of our school community who may be finding things a little difficult. We know that a sudden drop in finances can happen to any of us, at any time, and for many different reasons. Our community looks after one another. Support is here whenever you need it.



Food Bank Q&As



Who is the food bank for?

Our food bank is for anyone in our school community who needs a little extra support.

Do I have to use it every week?

No. You can contact us whenever you need support. Some people may need help once, others may need it more than once, there is no judgement and no obligation.

Do you only provide food?

No, we also have hygiene items available, such as toiletries and other everyday essentials.

How do I access the food bank?

You can email the food bank directly or speak in confidence to Michelle, Mel or Frankie. All conversations will be handled sensitively and discreetly.

Contact



foodbank@barnsole-maritime.org



Michelle



Mel



Frankie

Barnsole Food Bank Donations

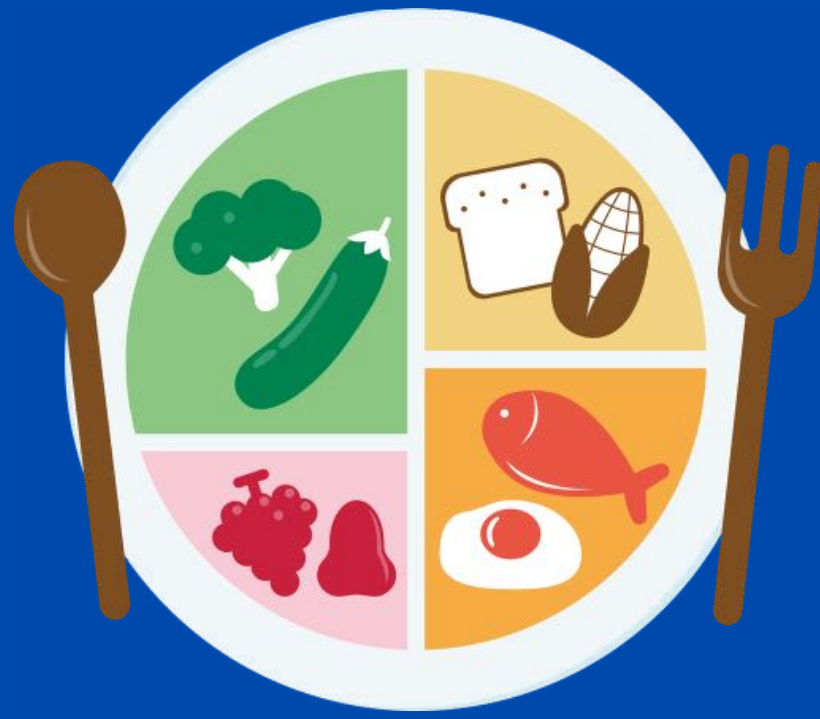
Just to remind you our Food Bank Donation baskets are located in both our Infant and Junior Offices, this is for anyone in our school community who needs a little extra support. Many parents ask us what items are needed the most or struggle knowing what to buy.

We thought it might be helpful to give you some examples:

- Red split lentils
- Egg/Rice Noodles
- Stock cubes
- White plain flour
- Tubes of tomato puree
- Tinned potatoes



HEALTHY LUNCHBOX TIPS FOR PARENTS



Providing a balanced lunch helps children stay focused, energetic, and ready to learn throughout the school day. When packing your child's lunchbox, try to aim to include a variety of foods from the main food groups to support their growth and wellbeing. There is also the option of ordering a free hot meal each day for your child in Reception and KS1 or a paid hot meal in KS2.

What a Balanced Lunchbox Looks Like:

- Starchy Foods

These give children the energy they need to learn and play. Good options include wholemeal bread or rolls, wraps, rice, pasta, or crackers.

- Protein

Protein supports growth and keeps children feeling full for longer. Try lean meats, eggs, hummus, tofu, beans, or cheese.

- Dairy or Dairy Alternatives

These foods help support strong bones and teeth. Include plain or low-sugar yoghurt, cheese, or plant-based alternatives where appropriate.

- Fruit and Vegetables

Aim for at least one portion of fruit and one portion of vegetables each day. Fresh, chopped options all count.

- A Healthy Drink

Water is the best choice for staying hydrated. Please avoid sugary drinks.

A lunchbox that includes a mix of these foods helps children get the nutrients they need to thrive at school. Thank you for supporting healthy eating habits at home and at school!

IMPORTANT UNIFORM REMINDER



PE Days

On allocated PE Days, children expected to wear the correct PE kit.

This consists of:

- House colour t-shirt
- Dark blue joggers or shorts
- School jumper or cardigan
- Plain white t-shirt if they do not yet have their house t-shirt.

Jewellery

Earrings must be small studs only. Hoops and larger decorative earrings (including character earrings) are not permitted. This is a health and safety requirement and school expectation.

School Uniform

School uniform footwear should be black shoes or all black trainers. White, pink or other coloured trainers are not in line with our uniform expectations.

NO SMOKING OR VAPING POLICY



Please note that there is a no smoking/vaping on the school site. This includes outside areas, such as the playground, car park and outside the school gates.





Class Attendance for the year so far ...

Infants

Saturn - 95%
Neptune - 94%
Mercury - 94%
Comet - 92%
Venus - 91%
Jupiter - 91%
Moonbeams - 90%
Mars - 87%



Juniors

Oberon - 96%
Icarus - 95%
Titan - 95%
Apollo - 95%
Polaris - 95%
Phoenix - 95%
Dragon - 94%
Juno - 93%
Pegasus - 93%
Aquarius - 93%
Capricorn - 92%
Orion - 92%
Aquila - 89%

FRIENDS OF BARNSOLE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2026



JUNE



11/06 : CommuniTea
 18/06: Fathers Day Shop
 26/06: Donation non uniform day - revised date



JULY



01/07: Summer Fair - Revised date
 09/07 : CommuniTea
 10/07: Inflatables afternoon - Revised date

CommuniTea

Join us for a relaxed tea & coffee morning once a month right after drop-off.

A chance to meet, chat and connect with other parents in our school community.

Babies and pre-school children are very welcome.

If you can bring a mug, that would be great!

We'd love to see you there!

Thursday 2nd April

Thursday 7th May

Thursday 11th June

Thursday 9th July

Free to attend!



STAY UP TO DATE WITH ALL EVENT DETAILS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE



facebook.com/friendsbarnsole



friends@barnsole-maritime.org

Dates for the Diary

Monday 25 th May-Friday 29 th May	May Half Term
Monday 1 st June	School Returns
Friday 5 th June	Nursery Sports Day (9am-10am) <i>more details to follow</i>
Tuesday 9 th June	Yr 3&4 Sports Day (Brasenose field) (9.30am-11.00am) Yr 5&6 Sports Day (Brasenose field (1.00pm-2.30pm)
Wednesday 10 th June	Yr R Sports Day (Infant Field) (2.00-3.00pm)
Thursday 11th June	CommuniTea - Join us to meet, chat and connect with other parents in our school community (younger children welcome) <i>(9am-10am) KS1 Hall</i>
Friday 12 th June	Yr 2 Sports Day (Infant Field) (2.00-3.00pm)
Tuesday 16 th June	Yr 1 Sports Day (Infant Field) (2.00-3.00pm)
Thursday 18 th June	Fathers Day Shop
Friday 26th June	Summer Fair Donation non unifoirm day
Wednesday 1 st July	Summer Fair
Thursday 9 th July	CommuniTea - Join us to meet, chat and connect with other parents in our school community (younger children welcome) <i>(9am-10am) KS1 Hall</i>
Friday 10 th July	Inflatables afternoon - <i>more details to follow</i>
Friday 17 th July	Yr 6 Production (Third Avenue Church) 10am-11.30am
Tuesday 21 st July	End of School Year

BROMPTON ACADEMY
MAY 2026
MULTI-ACTIVITY AND SPORTS CAMP

8:50AM - 4PM
8AM EARLY DROP OFF
Teens apply

DAYS	THEMES
TUESDAY 26 TH	Strive's Wild, Wild West Theme Day
WEDNESDAY 27 TH	Glow in the Dark Dodgeball
THURSDAY 28 TH	World Cup Theme Day
FRIDAY 29 TH	Soft Archery & Laser Tag

CONTACT US!
07378 951411 www.strivepeandsport.co.uk
@strivepeandsport

KEEP YOUR CHILD ACTIVE, SAFE & SMILING THIS HALF TERM

WORLD CUP THEME DAY
MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP
BROMPTON ACADEMY
THURSDAY 28TH MAY 2026
PRICES START AT £25

BOOK ONLINE TODAY VIA OUR WEBSITE

WHAT'S INCLUDED

AFTERNOON:
WORLD CUP GOODIE BAG (ENGLAND FLAG, MINI CHOC BALLS, BUBBLES, WHISTLES & STICKER TATTOO)
THEMED ACTIVITIES:
INFLATABLE FOOTBALL GOAL
PENALTY SHOOTOUT
WORLD CUP TOURNAMENT PM
ARTS & CRAFTS (ENGLAND FLAG DECORATING, MAKING A WORLD CUP)

OPTIONAL: NATIONS FOOTBALL SHIRT OR BRIGHT COLOURS

MORNING:
A RANGE OF SPORT ACTIVITIES WILL TAKE PLACE (MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)
BENCHBALL
DODGEBALL
TARGET GAMES
TAG GAMES
DANCING
BASKETBALL

KEEP YOUR CHILD ACTIVE, SAFE & SMILING THIS HALF TERM

STRIVE'S WILD WILD WEST
BROMPTON ACADEMY
TUESDAY 26TH MAY 2026

TEACHER LED
DBS CHECKED
SEND SPECIALISTS

8:30AM-4PM
EARLY DROP OFF AT 8AM
ADDITIONAL £4 CHARGE

PRICES START AT £25

BOOK ONLINE TODAY VIA OUR WEBSITE

WHAT'S INCLUDED
WOODY AS SPECIAL GUEST - MASCOT
FANCY DRESS RODEO THEME
SCIENCE ROCKET LAUNCHING
WILD WEST LASER SHOOT OUT
STAMPEDE DODGEBALL
TOY STORY SCAVENGER HUNT
TEAM WOODY VZ TEAM ZURG TUG OF WAR
WILD WEST ARTS & CRAFTS
SHERIFF BADGE MAKING
AND SO MUCH MORE.

OPTIONAL: FANCY DRESS (RODEO THEMED)

strivepeandsport.co.uk @strivepeandsport 07378 951411

FACE June 2026 Timetable
All regular sessions delivered live online via zoom, 90 minutes long
£24 each or FREE with School Membership
Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk
Recordings available for 48 hours

Understanding Anger	1 June 10am
School Anxiety	1 June 7pm
Facing Defiance	2 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	2 June 7pm
Anxiety Explained	8 June 10am
Cannabis & Ketamine Awareness	8 June 7pm
Introduction to OCD	9 June 10am
What is ACT?	9 June 7pm
Decreasing Depression	15 June 10am
Raising Self-Esteem	15 June 7pm
Understanding the Teenage Brain	16 June 10am
Supporting Healthy Sleep	16 June 7pm
Improving Family Communication	22 June 10am
Autism-Improving Communication	22 June 7pm
Supporting a Child with ADHD	23 June 10am
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	23 June 7pm
ADHD and Homework	25 June 7-8pm

Scouts

Gillingham

Adventure starts here!

Is your child ready to make new friends, try exciting activities, and grow in confidence?

Gillingham 21st Scout group is now welcoming new members across all 3 of our sections.

From building dens and learning new skills to exploring the outdoors and taking part in fun challenges, there's something for every young adventurer.

Beavers (6-8) — games, crafts, outdoor fun (Fridays 6.00-7.15pm)

Cubs (8-10½) — camping, teamwork, new skills (Mondays 6.30-8.00pm)

Scouts (10½-14) — bigger adventures, independence, leadership (Fridays 7.30-9.00pm)

Give your child the chance to discover their potential and be part of something amazing.

Meeting at our Scout hut on Junction Road during term time we are welcoming to all and offer the first 2 sessions for free.

Join the adventure today!

Contact: Ralph Gifford gsl21stgill@gmail.com

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE GROOMING

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online grooming is when someone builds a relationship with a child or young person online to gain their trust for the purpose of sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation, or criminal activity – such as county lines or financial scams. According to the NSPCC, police in the UK recorded over 7,000 offences involving sexual communication with a child in a single year – an increase of 89% since 2017/18.

STRANGERS USING FAKE IDENTITIES

Groomers often pose as children or teenagers online to build trust. They may create convincing fake profiles, share photos stolen from real people, or mimic the interests of the child. By pretending to be someone their age, they make conversations feel safe and relatable. Over time, they may ask for personal details, photos, or suggest meeting in person, exposing children to significant emotional and physical harm.

EXPLOITATION THROUGH GIFTS AND FLATTERY

To gain trust quickly, groomers often send gifts, gaming credits, or money. Alongside material offerings, they use excessive compliments, affection, and attention to create emotional dependency. These tactics make children feel valued and special, lowering their defences. Once trust is secured, groomers may escalate their requests, often asking for photos or private conversations, making the child feel pressured or indebted to continue.

GROUP CHATS AS HIDDEN PATHWAYS

Unmonitored group chats on platforms like WhatsApp or Discord provide a cover for groomers. They can watch how children interact, identify those who seem vulnerable, and then move conversations into private messaging. This transition makes detection difficult for trusted adults. The seemingly harmless group setting often masks the presence of predators, giving children a false sense of security.

THE RISE OF SEXTORTION

Sextortion involves pressuring children into sharing explicit content, then blackmailing them for more. Offenders may claim to have hacked a child's device, threaten to share images with friends or family, or demand money. Many victims remain silent out of fear and shame. This growing crime is particularly dangerous because children often feel trapped, believing there's no safe way to escape the situation.

GAMING PLATFORMS AS GROOMING GATEWAYS

Games like Roblox, Fortnite, or Call of Duty, which include live chat features, are frequent targets for groomers. Conversations often begin casually during gameplay and can become manipulative over time. Groomers may offer in-game gifts, credits, or exclusive add-ons to build rapport. Children using headsets or private chat features are especially at risk, as conversations are harder for adults to monitor.

CRIMINAL & RADICALISATION RISKS

Grooming is not always sexual. Some offenders manipulate children into criminal activities such as drug running or online fraud. Others attempt to radicalise young people with extreme ideologies. Groomers often use fear, money, shame, or promises of belonging to control their victims. These forms of exploitation can be just as harmful as sexual grooming, and often leave lasting psychological and social consequences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS REGULAR

Rather than having one "big talk" about online safety, weave conversations into everyday life. Ask questions about children's online friendships and interests. Share real-life examples to make discussions relatable and encourage honesty instead of secrecy. When children feel comfortable discussing their digital lives, they are far more likely to share concerns or admit when something feels wrong, reducing the chance of risky interactions going unnoticed.

CREATE A "TELL ME" CULTURE

Children often keep silent because they fear being punished or losing access to their devices. Reassure them that coming forward with concerns won't get them into trouble. Emphasise that you are there to help, not judge. Creating a safe, open environment encourages children to speak up if something feels wrong, and helps to ensure they don't suffer in silence when facing potential grooming risks.

UNDERSTAND THE PLATFORMS CHILDREN USE

Take time to learn about the apps, games, and social platforms children are on. Familiarise yourself with privacy settings, parental controls, and group chat features. Use resources like The National College guides or conduct quick searches to stay updated. By understanding how these platforms operate, you'll be better equipped to set boundaries, guide safe use, and notice any unusual or concerning online behaviour early.

STAY ALERT TO WARNING SIGNS

Be attentive to both behavioural and digital red flags. Sudden secrecy, mood swings, or new online contacts may signal a problem. Watch for unexplained gifts, new social media profiles, or changes in sleep patterns. Increased anxiety or reluctance to attend school can also be indicators. Regularly checking in and showing interest in those whom they communicate with online help prevent small issues from escalating into serious risks.

Meet Our Expert

Staffordshire Police is dedicated to keeping people safe and tackling crime across both the physical and digital world. The force continues to strengthen its digital investigation and safeguarding capabilities to protect children and vulnerable people online, working in partnership with local, regional and national organisations, schools, and the wider community.



The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.03.2026

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can undo hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

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