School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
	Walk or Scoot to School Week – leaflet sent home
Monday 19th May	• PTFA "My St Giles Challenge" starts • KS1 SATS for Year 2 will take place throughout this week
Tuesday 20th May	• Cricket Festival – Those involved have been informed • KS1 Qualtias After School Club – Cricket • **Football match after school – St Giles v All Saints**
Wednesday 21st May	• **South Peak Sports Trials are taking place today. Children in years 3-6 will need their PE kit and trainers.** • KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Cricket • **Phonics Screening Meeting for Year 1 parents 5.00pm**
Thursday 22nd May	• Bunting Cup – letters sent to those involved – Please provide consent on ParentPay • Little Smiles Toddler Group • Swimming – Class 3
Friday 23rd May	• **PTFA SUMMER Fair Raffle Tickets on Sale from today** • **BREAK UP FOR HALF TERM**
Monday 2nd June	• **INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED**
Tuesday 3rd June	• **BACK TO SCHOOL** • KS1 Qualitas After School Club – Football – please use ParentPay to book and pay
Wednesday 4th June	• Transition morning at Anthony Gell School • KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Tennis - book and pay on ParentPay
Thursday 5th June	**Whole School Trip to Gulliver's Valley.** **PLEASE ENSURE YOU HAVE CONSENTED FOR THIS TRIP ON PARENT PAY.** **All Children need to be at school for 8.30am with a packed lunch, sun hat, sunscreen and waterproof coat. We will be back around 4.00pm**
Friday 6th June	

OTHER NEWS

- **We couldn't be prouder of our amazing Year 6 children for completing their SATs this week. They approached each day with determination, resilience and a positive attitude that truly impressed us all. These tests are just one part of their journey and every single one of them has shown incredible perseverance and effort. They have supported each other, stayed focused and done their very best. Well done Year 6!**

- **My St Giles Challenge – All children should have brought home information about this today. Good luck and we look forward to seeing and hearing what the children have done for this.**

- **Gulliver's Valley Whole School Trip - Thursday 5th June. Please use Parent Pay to consent for your child to go on this trip as soon as possible. There is no cost. Children need to be at school for 8.30am. Please ensure they have a packed lunch (Infants packed lunches provided by school) are in school uniform, have a sun hat, sunscreen and waterproof coat. We will be back at approximately 4.00pm.**

- **WALESBY FOREST RESIDENTIAL – Please return the completed consent forms and menu/special diet forms on Monday if you have not already done so. THE FINAL BALANCE WAS DUE AT THE END OF MARCH. Please can further payments/final payments be made as soon as possible.**

- **ParentPay – PLEASE ENSURE ALL YOUR ACCOUNTS ARE SETTLED BY THE END OF TERM. You can help by making regular payments to prevent balances increasing. Payments should be made at least monthly and must be clear at the end of each half term.**

- **Water Bottles - Please ensure children bring a water bottle to school every day and that they also have a sunhat and sunscreen once the warmer weather comes.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 56813 or by email with any questions or queries.

Friday updates can be found in the Newsletters section of our school website.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 9th June	KS2 Qualitas After School Club - Athletics
Tuesday 10th June	KS1 Qualitas After School Club - Football
Wednesday 11th June	KS2 Qualitas After School Club – Tennis
Thursday 12th June	South Peak Sports – Darley Dale Primary School
Wednesday 18th June	Class 2 Dance and Gymnastics Festival at All Saints Juniors **Parents meeting for September 2025 new starters 5.00pm**
Thursday 19th June	**Lady Manners Transition Day for Year 6 pupils** Class 3 Activity Day and Sleepover Reserve Date for South Peak Sports
Wednesday 25th June	**SPORTS DAY (afternoon) – details to follow**
Friday 27th June	**PTFA Summer Fair 3.15pm**
Tuesday 1st July	• **Transition Visit for September 2025 new starters 1.30pm – 3.00pm** • **Move up afternoon for children changing classes in September** • **Highfields Transition Day for Y6 Pupils**
Wednesday 2nd July	**Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4**
Thursday 3rd July	**Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4** FINAL SWIMMING LESSON FOR CLASS 3
Friday 4th July	**Walesby Forest Residential – Class 4**
Wednesday 9th July	**Transition Visit for September 2025 new starters – 9.30am – 11.30am**

	Class 2 Sports Day at All Saints Juniors Reserve Date for Sports Day
Thursday 10th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Tuesday 15th July	**Class 4 End of Year Production in the evening**
Thursday 17th July	NO SWIMMING FOR CLASS 3
Friday 18th July	Year 6 Leavers Prom – Details to follow
Tuesday 22nd July	**Leavers Service in St Giles Church - afternoon**
Wednesday 23rd July	Year 6 Primary Athletics at Moorways, Derby (rearranged from 26th June)
Thursday 24th July	**Last day of the school year** **NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUB**
Friday 25th July	First Day of the summer holidays
ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026	
Thursday 4th September	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Friday 5th September	**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
Monday 8th September	**First day back at school**

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 7

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 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, which is typically around £15. 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 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 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.

#WakeUpWednesday®

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DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION-FUNDED

HOLIDAY CLUBS IN DERBYSHIRE

it's about me

Derbyshire's Holiday Activity and Food Programme

2025/26

MORE INFORMATION

Did you know that as well as free school meals during term time, your child can also benefit from Department for Education-funded spaces at holiday clubs in your local area?

Thanks to the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, known in Derbyshire as 'It's About Me', your child can experience holiday clubs filled with fun, learning and healthy meals at no cost to you!

If your child is aged between 4-16 years old* and is eligible to receive benefits-related free school meals, they're entitled to access It's About Me holiday clubs.

With a wide range of activities such as sports, arts and crafts, cooking, dance, music and more, there's something for everyone! Plus, every session includes a nutritious meal to keep them energised and happy throughout the day.

Each club offers a unique programme depending on its location and type—there's so much to explore!

Not eligible? Many clubs also offer paid places, so every child has the chance to join the fun.

*See website for full eligibility criteria.

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING

Bookings open: 17th March 2025
Holiday clubs open: 7th April 2025 - 17th April 2025

SUMMER

Bookings open: 30th June 2025
Holiday clubs open: 28th July 2025 - 3rd September 2025

WINTER

Bookings open: 1st December 2025
Holiday clubs open: 22nd December 2025- 2nd January 2026

All dates exclude bank holidays and weekends.

HOW TO BOOK

1. Get your unique IAM/ HAF code from your child's school
2. Go to our website itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk
3. Follow our handy How to Book Guide
4. Sign-up to receive It's About Me updates



DERBYSHIRE County Council

Department for Education

MORE INFORMATION:
itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk

Spring & Summer Menu

Available Daily: Bread, Salad, Fresh Fruit, müller Yoghurt & Drinking Water

Allergen Key

Celery	C	Molluscs	Mo
Cereals	G	Mustard	Mu
Crustaceans	Cr	Nuts	N
Eggs	E	Peanuts	P
Fish	F	Sesame Seeds	Se
Lupin	L	Soya	So
Milk	M	Sulphur Dioxide	Su

Week 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Main Event	"Meal designed by pupils at Staveley Junior School" Crispy Beef Tacos with Sunshine Rice	V Creamy Tomato Lasagne G/M/Mu/So with Garlic Bread G & Side Salad	Roast of the Day with Stuffing G, Mashed Potatoes M, Seasonal Veg. & Gravy	Big Breakfast Sausage G/So/Su, Bacon, Hash Browns, Baked Beans & Tomatoes	Fish Fingers F/G with Chips, Carrots & Sweetcorn (Young's)
Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal – Please speak with your school for their selection				
Dessert	Chewy Cherry Cookie E/G (NEW)	Ice Cream M with Fruit (50% Less Sugar)	Flapjack G with Fruit (50% Less Sugar)	Jaffa Choc Pot M (NEW)	Strawberry Marbled Muffin E/G/M (müller)

Weeks Starting: 21.04.25 / 12.05.25 / 09.06.25 / 30.06.25 / 21.07.25 / 15.09.25 / 06.10.25

Week 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Main Event	Golden Pastry Topped Pie E/G/M, with New Potatoes, Seasonal Veg. & Gravy	V Cheese & Tomato Pizza G/M with Potato Wedges & Side Salad	Pork Sausages G/So/Su with Mashed Potatoes M, Seasonal Veg. Yorkshire Pudding E/G/M & Gravy	BBQ Chicken Fajita Wrap G with Sweetcorn Salsa, Oven Baked Potatoes & Seasonal Veg. (NEW)	Fish Stars F/G with Chips, Baked Beans & Peas (Harry Ramsden's JUNIOR)
Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal – Please speak with your school for their selection				
Dessert	Oaty Cookie Su/G	Chocolate Pear Slice E/G (50% Less Sugar)	Sprinkle Cake E/G	Strawberry Whip M (NEW)	Scrumble G with Fruit & Ice Cream M (NEW) (50% Less Sugar)

Weeks Starting: 28.04.25 / 19.05.25 / 16.06.25 / 07.07.25 / 01.09.25 / 22.09.25 / 13.10.25

Week 3

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
The Main Event	Cheese & Bean Enchilada G/M with Mexican Rice & Salad (Tilda)	Beef Burger G in a Bun G with Diced Potatoes, Salad & Rainbow Slaw E/Mu	Roast of the Day with Stuffing G, Mashed Potatoes M, Seasonal Veg. & Gravy	Chicken Curry M served with Rice & Homemade Flatbread G/So (Tilda)	Fish Fingers F/G with Chips, Carrots & Sweetcorn (Young's)
Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal – Please speak with your school for their selection				
Dessert	Chocolate Orange Cookie G	Lemon Muffin E/G	Chocolate Cracknel M/G & Fruit (50% Less Sugar)	Jelly & Fruit (50% Less Sugar)	Pancakes E/G/M with Fruit Coulis

Weeks Starting: 05.05.25 / 02.06.25 / 23.06.25 / 14.07.25 / 08.09.25 / 29.09.25 / 20.10.25