

## ★ Stars of the Week ★

Year 1	Ireifeoluwa
Year 2	Pearl
Year 3	Cody
Year 4	Avneet
Year 5	Chaitra
Year 6	Oliver

## Head of School Award

★ **Pearl** ★

## House Point Winners



# Football

What a day of football! Yesterday, our amazing Year 4/5 team won the Castlevew tournament. After finishing the group stage unbeaten, with two wins and four draws, they then progressed through to the semi-finals. A tight 0-0 draw ended with a penalty shoot-out. Victor, Iszak and Jack scored our penalties and Grayson made a great save to ensure we progressed to the final. The team then produced their best performance of the day in the final; a hat-trick from Victor and another goal from Daniel meant they finished 4-1 winners and lifted the trophy. The team played brilliant football and every player contributed - well done boys.



# Head of School Update

What another wonderfully busy week it has been here at Dame Dorothy Primary! It has been a real joy to see so much happening across the school and to continue welcoming new faces into our community. I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the new friends who have joined our 2-year-old room this week, as well as their families becoming part of the Dame Dorothy family. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to seeing you flourish.

Across school, it has been another week full of rich learning experiences.

Classrooms have been buzzing with curiosity, determination and enthusiasm as our pupils continue to apply themselves so brilliantly in all areas of the curriculum. It is always a pleasure to see the pride children take in their work and the positive attitudes they bring to their learning each day.

As we look ahead to next week, I would like to share a special message for our Year 6 pupils as they prepare for their SATs. Although I have only been in school for a few weeks, it is already very clear that they are a group of dedicated, resilient and hardworking learners who approach challenges with maturity and positivity. They have demonstrated excellent attitudes to learning, strong collaboration skills and a real determination to do their very best. As a school, we are incredibly proud of each and every one of them, and we know that their families at home share in that pride. We are certain that they will approach next week with calmness and confidence, and truly shine.

As always, life at Dame Dorothy remains busy and full of opportunity, and it is a privilege to see our pupils flourish in so many ways.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

**Laura Tullock**  
Head of School

# Message to Year 6

As you are all aware, next week is SATs week. I would like to take this moment to remind our amazing Year 6 children how proud we are of all of them. From September, they have worked hard each week, demonstrating determination and resilience daily. They are brilliant role models for the rest of our school and are wonderful young people.

Please remember that there are many things SATs don't test – the creativity, kindness and humour we have in class makes it an amazing place to be and you have all developed these qualities. I am incredibly proud of every child in our class and that is not dependent on a score on a test paper.

Think of next week as the home straight in a marathon – the hard work has been done and the next four days are an opportunity to show just how amazing you all are.

Make sure you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend; I know you'll make yourselves proud next week. ~ Mr Robinson

**Can we ask for all Year 6 children to be in from 8:15am.**



# Thank Crunchie it's Friday

Last week we launched a new initiative to recognise our incredible team here at Dame Dorothy.

**Mr Fowler has been nominated for a Crunchie Award by one of our parents. Mr Fowler assisted a member of the public who had fallen outside of school and needed assistance to clean hi wounds. Thank you Mr Fowler!**

If you have a member of staff who has made a difference, please use the Arbor app to nominate them so we can celebrate with our community.

**THANK  
crunchie  
IT'S FRIDAY!** ♡

Big or small, every act of kindness,  
help and hard work makes a  
**HUGE** difference at our school!

Have you seen  
an **act of kindness**  
from a member  
of our staff?

Nominate them  
and let's say  
**THANK YOU!** ♡

**BECAUSE APPRECIATION MAKES OUR SCHOOL STRONGER!**

Let us know  
via the  
**Arbor app.** →

Let's  
celebrate  
our amazing  
**TEAM!** ♡

Have a fantastic Friday  
and a brilliant weekend! ♡

**Cadbury crunchie**

# Safeguarding

We are aware that many of our children enjoy gaming, either independently or with friends, and this can be a positive way to relax and socialise. However, it is important that this is done safely and appropriately.

We are sharing two helpful guides for parents which offer practical advice on how to support children to stay safe online, manage screen time and understand online interactions. We encourage you to take some time to look through these resources and talk with your child about their online experiences.

As always, if you have any concerns or would like further support, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT**

PEEL CERTIFICATION PEGI 7

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- SCARY ELEMENTS**  
While Minecraft is not seen as a kind of violent game, it does have scary elements. These can be found in the game's story mode, in the multiplayer mode, and in the public servers. It is important to be aware of these elements and to talk to your child about them.
- GRIETING**  
Some players in public servers are known for being grieved. This is when they intentionally destroy your work in the game. It is important to be aware of this and to talk to your child about it.
- ADDICTIVENESS**  
Minecraft is a very addictive game. It is easy to get lost in the game and to spend a lot of time playing. It is important to be aware of this and to talk to your child about it.

**PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Public servers are open to anyone who wants to play. This means that your child can talk to anyone who wants to play. It is important to be aware of this and to talk to your child about it.

**ADDITIONAL PURCHASES**

Minecraft is available on a variety of devices. However, the full game is only available on PC and Mac. This means that your child may need to purchase a PC or Mac to play. It is important to be aware of this and to talk to your child about it.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- CHOOSE THE RIGHT MODE**  
Minecraft is available in several modes. It is important to choose the right mode for your child. For example, the Creative mode is a safe mode where your child can build anything they want without any risk of being grieved.
- HOST A PRIVATE SERVER**  
The easiest way to host a private server is to use a service like Minehut. This means that your child can play with friends without having to worry about strangers.
- TALK ABOUT STRANGERS**  
It is important to talk to your child about strangers. They should never give out their personal information to anyone they do not know.
- RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS**  
Minecraft has a large community of content creators. It is important to research these creators and to talk to your child about them.
- PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD**  
The best way to play Minecraft is with your child. This means that you can help them to stay safe and to have fun.

**Meet Our Expert**

David Green is a former teacher and now works for the National College. He has written a book about Minecraft and is a regular speaker at conferences.

**#WakeUpWednesday** **The National College**

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All the National College, our linked educational guides encourage all of our parents, carers and educators to talk to their children and young people to discuss such information and age-appropriate conversations around online safety, wellbeing, and mental health. Please see our links for further information on our website. For further guides think of tips, share with friends & family.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 800 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossover with everything from music artists to superheroes to sci-fi, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks to trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

### ALWAYS ONLINE

Fortnite is single-player, offline mode is available to watch for players online, and real-time voice chat is available as an add-on when playing. Always online, but it's worth of updates being sent along with the game. This may find that children playing Fortnite players are able to communicate with family, friends and other users, such as in-game chat, voice chat, or text chat.

### IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does have in-game purchases. These include: 1,000 V-Bucks, and battle passes. Children can be persuaded to spend money on in-game items, such as skins, emotes, and other cosmetic items. Some items may also be used to purchase in-game items like skins, emotes, and other cosmetic items.

### VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

Fortnite is a virtual world that allows players to interact with other players in a virtual world. This means that there is a risk of virtual violence, such as players being killed or having their avatars destroyed. However, it is important to note that Fortnite is a virtual world and does not contain any real-world violence. It is a safe and fun environment for children to play in.

### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages, and it's easy to find friends to play with. This means that children can be exposed to inappropriate language and behavior from other players. Parents should be aware of this and set appropriate boundaries for their children's play.

### FREQUENT UPDATES

Fortnite is known for its frequent updates, which can be both exciting and frustrating. These updates can change the game's mechanics and features, which may affect a child's progress or experience. Parents should be aware of these updates and discuss them with their children.

### POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Fortnite is known for its frequent updates, which can be both exciting and frustrating. These updates can change the game's mechanics and features, which may affect a child's progress or experience. Parents should be aware of these updates and discuss them with their children.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about safe social interaction when playing. Discuss safe play, including not sharing personal information, not meeting in person, and not accepting friend requests from strangers. Encourage them to report any inappropriate behavior to a trusted adult.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite is a social game, and it's a great way for children to connect with friends. Encourage them to play with friends and family members. This can help them develop social skills and have fun together.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's in-game store is a great way for children to purchase items, but it's important to set spending limits. Discuss the value of money and encourage them to think about their purchases. Parents can also use parental controls to limit spending.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The Fortnite marketplace is a great way for children to purchase items, but it's important to be wary of scams. Encourage them to only purchase items from the official marketplace and to avoid clicking on suspicious links.

### Meet Our Expert

David Davidson is an expert on children's mental health and has been working in the gaming industry for over 10 years. Find out more about him and his work in the gaming industry on our website.



# Attendance

Attendance is so important for children to get the most from their education and the aim should always be 100%.

This week's attendance winners with **99.4%** are **Year 2**.

Children with **5** late arrivals will miss out on prizes and awards even if they are at **98%**.

**Our school day starts at 8:00am with our free Breakfast Club, which is open to all children from Reception to Year 6. Children must arrive before 8:30am to attend Breakfast Club. If your child arrives after 8:30am, they will not be able to enter school until the main gate opens at 8:45am.**

Classroom doors are open from 8:45am to 8:55am for the start of the school day. Any children arriving after 8:55am must enter through the school office and will receive a late mark.

Thank you for your support in helping your child arrive on time each day.

## DIARY DATES

- 11 - 15<sup>th</sup> May - Y6 SATS week
- 17<sup>th</sup> May - Sunderland 3K
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May - Half Term
- 18<sup>th</sup> June - Y3 @Broomhouse Farm
- 24<sup>th</sup> June - Summer Concert
- 14<sup>th</sup> July - Sports Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> July - Y6 Leavers Assembly @2pm

# Reception Newsletter Special

Reception Class been enjoying lots of outdoor activities. The themes of Spring, Earth Day and National Gardening Week have come underneath this umbrella. We are very lucky to have such an extensive outdoor provision so that our classmates can explore and learn.

## **Spring is Here ~ 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

What a busy week! The children have returned from after the holidays and have been raring to go in the outdoor area.

On Monday we went on an outdoor detective hunt to spot how the environment had changed over the week. The children were amazed to see how tall the rhubarb had grown. They were fascinated by how many holes there were in the leaves so we talked about who may have been nibbling there. We also discussed how the enormous leaves act like drains , pouring rainwater onto the soil below.

The children loved the cherry blossom and how the nasturtium plants had grown. This led to some fabulous collaborations of artwork

Many of the children readily volunteered for weeding duty. It was an opportunity for the children to pull out weeds in their entirety and see the difference between roots and shoots. It was heavy work adding the new top soil to the raised beds in readiness for Gardening Week.

Some parents had kindly donated plants and so the children have enjoyed placing them in the greenhouse and tending them daily.

Some of the children had returned their sunflower plants and we were able to talk about why they had been so successful.

To celebrate Earth Day, the children painted then wrapped an Earth. The children were then able to weave natural materials into the thread, creating a beautiful reminder of how even little hands can make a big difference to our environment.

## **National Gardening Week ~ 27<sup>th</sup> April**

Following the work that we did last week around Earth Day, Reception class moved on to celebrating National Gardening week.

I explained to the children that Springtime is the perfect time to sow seeds in time for a good harvest. It is a great way to teach the passing of longer periods of time in context , talking about the months of the year. I was able to show how the week sat upon our monthly diary.

I began by acting out the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, using props and puppets. This was a way to hook the interest of the children while modelling how to use the props

appropriately. It is also an opportunity to develop the language of storytelling. Later, I observed groups retelling the tale in the story corner . One group even made clouds in the sky by using the cushions from the sofa.

We were then able to listen to, then follow instructions on the seed packets. I was able to link the passage of time to the chart showing when to sow and when to expect a harvest.

As the children have had previous experience with sunflowers, they were able to sow the beans confidently.. They were able to seek out a straight stick to use as a marker, then place the pot in greenhouse to water them.

Many of the children were able to independently record what they had done with writing and illustrations with labels.

During the class library visit, I encouraged the children to find some information books about gardening. I was able to reinforce prior learning, by showing the features of non fiction texts including the use of photographs, labels, captions and a contents page.



