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Minecraft has approximately

**74m**

users each month

AGE RESTRICTION

10+

## What parents need to know about MINECRAFT

**GROOMING**

As the majority of users who play Minecraft are children, this makes it an 'appealing' gateway for groomers. It has been reported that some users have created worlds in Minecraft to lure young people into a conversation to ask for explicit photos. There have even been more serious cases in which children have been persuaded to meet these people in real life.

**COMMUNICATING WITH STRANGERS**

Minecraft incorporates thousands of servers to choose from which are a single world or place created by the public and allow users to play the game online or via a local area network with others. No two servers are the same and each has its own individual plug-ins which are controlled by the creator. This means that some servers will allow communication with strangers.

**AGE RESTRICTION & 'FANTASY VIOLENCE'**

According to the 'Entertaining Software Rating Board' (ESRB), Minecraft is suitable for users aged 10+. Due to its 'Fantasy Violence', the ESRB states that this rating has been given as 'players can engage in violent acts such as setting animals on fire and harming them with weapons. Mild explosions are occasionally heard as players use dynamite to fend off creatures and mine the environment.'

**CHILDREN MAY BECOME ADDICTED**

As with other games, Minecraft is a game where players can keep returning with constant challenges and personal goals to achieve. Children may find it difficult to know when to stop playing, becoming absorbed in the game and losing track of time.

**CYBERBULLYING & GRIEFING**

In multiplayer mode there is a live chat feature which allows players to talk to other players through text. This chat functionality includes basic filtering to block out external links and offensive language being shared, but varies between each server. Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player during the game. This can be done by ruining somebody's creation or generally doing something to spoil gameplay for another. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating for players.

**VIRES & MALWARE FROM MODS**

There are several websites that offer downloadable 'mods' which modify gameplay in a number of ways. Most of the mods will be safe to use, but as they have been created by the public, they will often contain viruses that can infect your child's device and potentially try and find personal information about you or your child.



## Top Tips for Parents

**DISABLE OR MODERATE CHAT**

To avoid potentially inappropriate comments in a live chat, you can follow these steps to turn live chat off: 1. Select 'Options' 2. Toggle the Chat button to 'Hidden' or 'Commands Only'. Bear in mind that the chat feature is also where your child can enter commands during the game, so this may restrict their game play.

**SCAN 'MODS' FOR MALWARE**

Minecraft 'mods' add content to games to give extra options to interact and change the way the game looks and feels. However, although 'mods' can bring fun for a child, it's important to consider that downloading and installing 'mods' could potentially infect their device with a virus or malware. In 2017, security company Symantec stated that between 600,000 and 2.5 million Minecraft players had installed dodgy apps, which hijacked player's devices and used them to power an advertising botnet. Install a malware scanner on every device that your child plays Minecraft on and make sure it's regularly kept up-to-date.

**SET TIME LIMITS**

With 'Gaming Disorder' becoming an official health condition, we suggest setting a reasonable time limit when playing Minecraft. Parents can use parental controls on devices to limit the time a child plays games. It is worth having a conversation with your child to understand which mode they are playing the game. This may help you decide on the amount of time you would like them to play. For example, a mini game will have an 'end', but this will depend on how long the game creator has made the game last. In 'survival mode', the game has no end and there is no goal to be achieved other than the child's own e.g. after they have built something.

**CHOOSE SERVERS CAREFULLY**

To protect your child from engaging in conversation with strangers, advise them to only enter servers with people they know and trust. Your child can also create their own multiplayer server and share this with their friends, which is safer and more controlled than joining a stranger's server.

**MONITOR YOUTUBE TUTORIALS**

Many Minecraft users turn to 'YouTube' for video tips on improving their game play and discovering new techniques. Although many videos are age-appropriate, some include sexual references and bad language. We suggest watching Minecraft tutorial videos together with your child. If your child is under the age of 13, we suggest installing 'YouTube Kids' which provides a safer platform for children to safely find the content they want.

**PLAY IN 'CREATIVE' OR 'PEACEFUL' MODE**

Even though the age limit is 10+, Minecraft can be quite overwhelming at times, especially for younger players or SEND children. We suggest restricting your child to play in 'creative mode' or 'peaceful mode' which takes away the survival element and removes the 'scarier' monster/zombie characters.

**National Online Safety**

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We do not create this guide, please check with the app's support information to see if your security and privacy concerns are addressed.

[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



# The Apple



*The weekly news from Isaac Newton School, Grantham*

Volume 3 Issue: 018

Circulation: 420

Date: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019

## Dear Parents/Carer

I hope that you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing half term break. Unfortunately there have been lots of indoor playtimes this week due to the wet weather. I really hope that the weather soon turns around again so that we can get the children back outside in the sunshine, where they can enjoy our fantastic outdoor space. Some of you may have noticed that a fence has appeared on our school field- this is the beginning of our Forest School.



Mrs Fulcher is currently on her Forest School training and by next week will be fully qualified! We will continue to develop this area over the coming months and from September children will be making use of this fantastic resource!

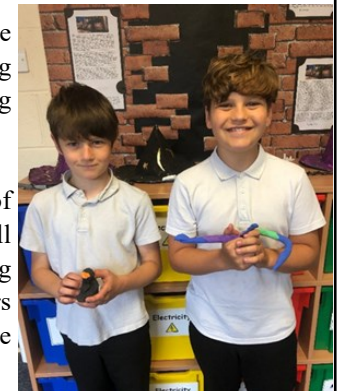


A Forest School allows us to teach the children a range of different skills including den building and fire lighting as well as working on their teamwork skills, resilience

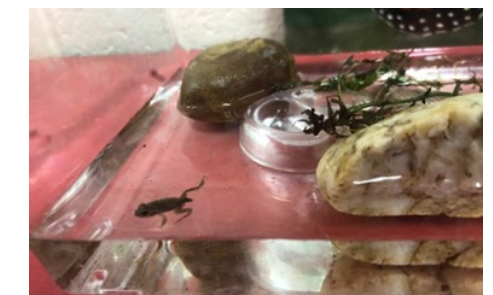
and self-esteem. We will also be using this space during our lessons to help enhance the teaching of subjects such as art, science, literacy and even maths!

As always, it's been another busy few weeks here at Isaac Newton and below are a few highlights from this week.

Year 5 have been designing and making some 'Fantastic Beasts' out of clay. They will be filming their characters later in the term.



In Reception the children are excited to see how the tadpoles are changing every day.



Chris Heathcote

*Heathcote*  
Headteacher



### Year 5 Football Tournament

Well done to our Year 5s who took part in a tournament at Lincoln City FC last week. They played some fantastic football. They won 5, drew 1 and lost 1. This meant that they came runners up in their league. Well done guys- you were a credit to the school!



### Sports Days

Sports days are approaching quickly. As ever we will expect all children to participate unless their Parents/Carers have discussed any injuries or issues with the pupil's class teacher.

Sports Day for pupils in years 3-6 will take place on 10th July. Children should arrive at school at the usual time in their PE kit. It would be great if as many pupils as possible

were able to wear a t-shirt in the colour of their house. As soon as the registers have been taken we will set off for the Meres. Parents/Carers should meet us there (we hope to begin at approximately 9:30am). All of the children should be back at school in time for lunchtime as usual.

Sports day for pupils in the Foundation Stage and Years 1/2 will take place on 12th July. Again pupils should arrive in their PE kit. Parents and Carers should drop their children off as normal and then head to the school field. We will register the children and then bring them onto the school field as quickly as possible in readiness for the races. Please remember to send in a hat and a water bottle. You should also ensure that pupils have applied sun cream prior to their arrival at school.

For both sports days we would love to see as many Parents/Carers and Grandparents as possible!

### Dates For Your Diary:

15 <sup>th</sup> June	Grantham Carnival
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 5 visit to Rutland Castle
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 visit to Harry Potter Studios
19 <sup>th</sup> June	Mini Olympics (Year 3)
19 <sup>th</sup> June	New Parents Meeting EYFS 2019/20 (2.00pm)
20 <sup>th</sup> June	New Parents Meeting EYFS 2019/20 (9.30am)
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Year 2 visit to Twycross Zoo
2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Year 1 visit to Twycross Zoo
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	Violin and Class 9 Concert (2pm)
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Years 3- 6 Sports Day (Meres Stadium)
12 <sup>th</sup> July	EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Frank's Ice Cream Van £1.00 for an icecream
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Summer Fayre (3.30pm)
18 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Leavers' Presentation (6:00pm)

### Summer Fair

Our next fund raising event will be The Summer Fete on Tuesday 16th July straight after school. We would be grateful for a donation of ONE of the following:

- Cuddly toys (in good condition)
- Chocolate Bars (for prizes)
- Cakes (to be handed in on the day of the Fair)
- Sweets (for sweetie cups)
- Toys and books (again in good condition)
- Old plates for a smash the plate game
- Tombola items.
- Bottles- wine, squash, fizzy pop.

Please hand in cakes on the day (16<sup>th</sup> July) and toys and books the week before (W/C 8<sup>th</sup> July).

Sweetie cups will be sent home on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July. Please return them by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July.

**Thank you all for your continued support.**

### PE Kit

Can all Parents/Carers please ensure that children have the correct PE kit in school during the week. A number of children have been turning up without any kit at all. Your support would be very much appreciated.

### Year 6 Leavers

The year 6 leavers' presentation evening will take place on Thursday 18th July at 6pm. All Parents/Carers and Grandparents are welcome – please put the date in your diary.

### Applying for Holiday During School Time

A number of Parents/Carers have applied to take their children on holiday during school time this term. Please remember that we are not able to approve such requests and that the pupils' absence will be recorded as unauthorised. We encourage all Parents/

Carers to take their children on holiday during the school holidays.

### Bank Holiday May 2020

As many of you may already be aware, next year, the May bank holiday will be moved to mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day. It will move from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May. The terms dates have been updated on our school website.

### Carnival

Grantham Carnival takes place this Saturday. The children have been busy making costumes and masks ready for the 'Mardi Gras' theme. Hopefully the weather will improve by then.



Please meet Miss Jones and the other adults at the Market Place Cross at 11.00am. The parade leave the Market Place Cross at 12.00pm and we will walk up the High Street and round to Wyndham Park. Please can we remind parents that they will need to meet their child at Wyndham Park when the floats arrive at 1.15pm. We will not be able to bring children back to school.

### E-safety

This week we have decided to focus on Minecraft. Minecraft is played by millions of children around the world, who use their imagination to build three-dimensional worlds with virtual building blocks in a digital, pixelated landscape. It is classed as a 'sandbox game,' which means players have the freedom to build their own creations with 'blocks' they collect and also have the opportunity to explore other people's creations with their characters.