



Fawbert & Barnard's Primary School

Newsletter 24

Dear Parents and Carers,

We've reached the end of another exciting week at Fawbert and Barnard's! As always, there has been plenty of wonderful learning happening across the school. This week, our Reception children have shared what they've been learning—enjoy reading all about it!

I'm delighted to share some fantastic fundraising news:



The **Valentine's Discos** raised an incredible £609.63 in profit for the school!



The **Osborne Book Fair** also raised over £530 to purchase more books for our library. A huge thank you to you all for your continued support and hard work!

Exciting Easter Events 🥰

We have some lovely Easter activities coming up:

- 🎨 **Easter Craft Sale - Friday 21st March**
Everything you need to make **Easter bonnets and more** will be available at **super discounted prices**. Tables will be set up outside Year 2 and Reception from **3 PM**, so be sure to stop by and take a look!
- 🏆 **Easter Bonnet Parade - Thursday 3rd April at 2:30 PM**
Children are invited to create their Easter bonnets at home and bring them in on the morning of **Thursday, 3rd April**. Parents are welcome to join us at **2:30 PM** in the main playground, where KSI will proudly showcase their creations. The **Friends** will provide prizes for the winning bonnets, which will be awarded at the end or in classrooms.
- 🥚 **Easter Egg Hunt - 3rd April**
Following the bonnet parade, the **Friends** will be hosting an **Easter Egg Hunt**, marking the first year we are running this fun event!

Thank you for your ongoing support—we look forward to celebrating these special events together!

Best regards,
Sophia Ovonen
Headteacher



Achievements



Please see below for some of the achievements that were celebrated this week.

AWARD	WINNER
Timestables Rockstar Cup	Year 3
Numbots Cup	Year 2
Timestables Rockstar champion	Artem
Numbots champions	Sydney
STARS OF THE WEEK	
Reception	Josie
Year 1	Rosie
Year 2	Lacie
Year 3	Dylan
Year 4	Charles
Year 5	Ella P
Year 6	Whole Class

Congratulations!

Reception Class Corner

The children have been working hard this term and showing us what a wonderful class they can be!

This half term our topic is all about growth and spring. It is a lovely topic that lends itself to every aspect of our curriculum. We have been watching the spring flowers grow and the children have been sending in lots of lovely photos of the spring flowers and blossom that they see on their way to and from school. We have also opened up our own little garden in the playground and have been delighted to find lots of spring flowers there as well.



In maths, we have been looking at the composition of numbers to 10 and learning about doubles and odd and even numbers. We spent a week comparing length and height. We used our outside area and the lovely weather to explore this area of maths by making towers and



bridges of different lengths and comparing the height of beanstalks that we had 'planted'.

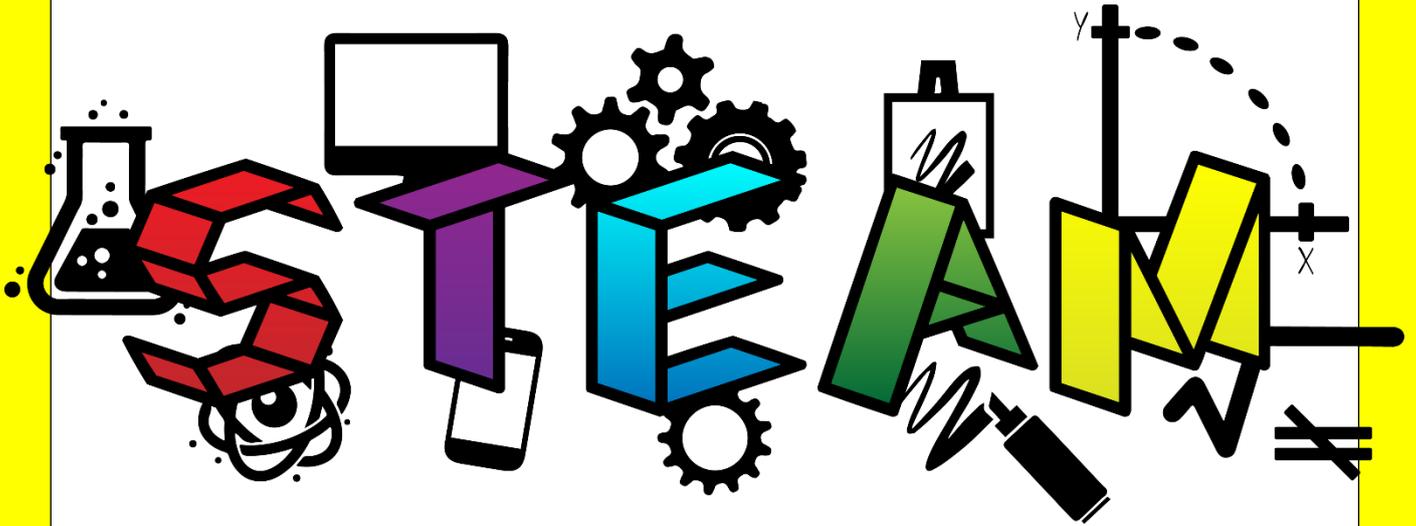


We have enjoyed our books of the week, *The Tiny Seed* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and we have followed the children's interests this week, by spending some time making wands and writing to Father Christmas. The

seeds that we planted last week have not germinated, so the children thought that Father Christmas might have some magic left over that we could use to help us grow the plants. We are writing him a letter this week!

We have also done some art based on *Jack and the Beanstalk* using mixed media. We have encouraged the children to work as independently as possible and choose their own resources. term so far and we look forward to more exciting learning ahead!





Dear Parents/Guardians,

Science Week is coming up at the end of March! This year's theme is Change and Adapt—as the world's population grows, plants and animals must adapt to survive, and we too must change our behaviours to protect our planet.

One way we can make a difference is by rethinking how we consume resources and recycling waste. To support our activities, we need washed and cleaned plastic bottle tops—please drop these in the collection box in the hall. We also need washed and cleaned 500ml plastic bottles, which can be left at the collection point outside Year 5.

Thank you for helping us inspire students to think about sustainability and positive change!

Best regards,

Mrs Derriman

Science Subject Leader



Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2025	
3 rd February	Parents Consultations
7 th February	Open Book Afternoon
10 th February	Parents Consultations
14 th February	Valentine Disco
17 - 21 February	Half term holidays
27 th February	School Photos
3 rd - 7 th March	World Book Week
7 th March	Osborne Book Fair
6 th March	World Book Day
18 th March	Year 6 Trip
20 th March	Celebrate Harlow
21 st March	Easter Craft Sale
24 th March	Year 5 Trip
25 th March	Ladies in your life Sale
27 th March	Year 4 School Trip
31 st March	Rocksteady Concert
31 st March - 4 th April	STEAM Week
4 th April	Last day of term School finishes at 1.30pm
7 th - 18 th April - Holidays	

Please note that holidays requests during term time will not be authorised.



For Parents

Keeping Our Children Safe: Safeguarding and Child Protection

At Fawbert and Barnard's Primary School, the safety and well-being of every child is our top priority. As parents and carers, you play a vital role in safeguarding too, so here's a simple guide to what it means and how we work together to keep children safe.

What is Safeguarding and Child Protection?

- **Safeguarding** means everything we do to keep children safe—this includes creating a secure school environment, teaching children about safety, and making sure staff can identify and respond to any concerns.
- **Child Protection** is when we take specific action to protect a child who may be at risk of harm.

Who is Responsible for Safeguarding at Our School?

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, but we have a dedicated team in place:



Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): *Headteacher, Sophia Ovonler*



Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSLs): We have five deputies who support safeguarding across the school.



Look out for our safeguarding posters around the school - they display photos of all our DSLs so children and adults know who to go to if they have a concern.



How Do We Keep Children Safe?

- ✓ All staff receive safeguarding training and follow strict policies.
- ✓ Visitors and volunteers follow safeguarding procedures.
- ✓ We teach children how to stay safe, including online safety.
- ✓ We work closely with families and outside agencies if needed.

How Can Parents Help?

👁️ Be alert - If you notice any changes in your child's behaviour, check in with them.

💬 Talk openly - Encourage your child to share their worries and experiences.

☎️ Know who to contact - If you have concerns, reach out to a safeguarding lead at school.

Together, we can ensure every child at Fawbert and Barnard's feels safe, supported, and protected. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sophia Ovonlen

Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead



FRIENDS OF F&B PRESENTS

EASTER CRAFT SALE

FRIDAY 21ST MARCH
3PM

YEAR 2 PLAY AREA & JUST
OUTSIDE RECEPTION

Get ready for KSI Easter
Bonnet parade (3rd April) &
other crafts. Cash only.



Friends Account:

ACCOUNT: 20215163 S/C: 203698





1st & 2nd Church Langley Rainbows



Meet Tuesdays, term time only



(1st unit) 4.30- 5.30pm (2nd unit) 5.45 – 6.45pm



Girls, aged 4- 7 years of age



2nd Church Langley Brownies

Meet Monday's, term time only. 4.45- 6.30pm.

Girls, aged 7- 10 years of age



Meet: Potter Street Baptist Church Hall



Contact us on:



Girlguiding.org.uk

07831 153 857

ChurchLangleyGuiding@hotmail.co.uk



How can I access an emergency dentist in my area?

My father has returned home from hospital after a stroke. Where can I get support?

How can I choose the right care home?

I am worried about my health - is there any further support out there?

I want to share my story...

Not sure where to turn?

We can offer information and guidance to help you get the support you need. So don't be shy, if you've got a health or social care issue – we're all ears.

We can help with:

- finding health and care services
- accessing advice and support
- sharing feedback about services
- how to make a complaint



Call 0300 500 1895
WhatsApp/Text 07712 395398
info@healthwatchessex.org.uk

healthwatch
Essex

Lines open Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm. Cost of local call & standard message rate.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING
7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming, still boasting over 160 million players who happily return to it at least once every month. The game has also been used in schools to teach coding, science and other skills. Encouraging creativity, Minecraft has plenty to offer, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public Minecraft server lets children potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to playing mini-games or competitive modes that pit players against each other. Anyone can join a public server and connecting to one is relatively simple. A public server's IP address is easy to find with search engines and can potentially be used to determine the host's location.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creations. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying: it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and seeing the result of hours of resource gathering and building can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's no mature content in the game. However, some enemies might prove scary for younger players. In the game, certain creatures come out at night and are accompanied by spooky audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may be unnerving. There are also enemies called 'creepers' which sneak up silently and explode, which could startle and upset young users.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Additionally, Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription service that lets users run their own private server to play with their friends. Some games consoles also need a separate active subscription – such as PlayStation Plus – to enable online play, so multiplayer Minecraft can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Educators

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate videos to share with children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself.

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 zombies attacking you, or creepers exploding and damaging your build.

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. However, hosting a private server will cost a monthly fee.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while a child is playing Minecraft, so remind them to take regular breaks. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

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. Ensure that a child knows to never tell a stranger about themselves online, and that they should come to you straight away if they do encounter a problem.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Lipscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College