



Week beginning: 30th October 2023

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely half term. It has been lovely to have the children back in school and working so hard on their learning.

The Leesons Team

Attendance and Punctuality

Our attendance and punctuality for this week can be seen in the table below.

| Class | Attendance (%) |
|----------------|----------------|
| Little Orchard | 85.6% |
| Hedgehog | 88.9% |
| Squirrel | 95.6% |
| Robin | 98% |
| Owl | 92.5% |
| Woodpecker | 88% |
| Kingfisher | 90% |
| Badger | 97% |
| Fox | 98% |
| Rabbit | 92% |
| Mole | 92% |
| Otter | 90% |
| Stag | 87% |
| Kestrel | 92% |

Well done to Robin Class and Fox Class who won Leo the Attendance Bear the Attendance cup this week!

Well done to Woodpecker Class who won the Punctuality cup this week!



Language of the week



Our language of the week is German. You would greet someone by either saying 'Hallo' or more formally by saying 'Guten Tag'. Fun fact: did you know that there are more than 20,000 castles in Germany!

Oracy Talk Topic

At home, we would like you to pick an evening that is convenient and come together as a family to discuss the 'Talk Topic'. In order to ensure that your child participates in high-quality talk, please remember to play devil's advocate during the discussion. Your child should not only be given the opportunity to agree and build on other viewpoints, but also challenge/disagree, explain and justify.

The 'Talk Topic' for this week is the following:

'Clowns are more scary than funny'.

Leesons Reading Challenge

Earlier in the year we introduced the reading challenge trees that show the 100 books that we encourage to be read in each year group. The children can earn certificates (5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 50, 75 and 100 books) and a golden ticket which enables them to receive a book from the vending machine.

We would like to celebrate our wonderful readers at Leesons by sharing their reading success.

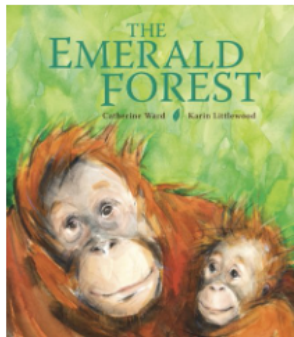
Congratulations to both Ben and Hope, from Rabbit class, who have received a book for their fantastic reading and comprehension.

Book of the week

Reading is a life skill but it is also an activity that stimulates the brain and support well being and has been used to reduce anxiety. Whilst we encourage and engage the children with reading at school it needs to continue outside as well. For the children to become successful readers and be able to meet the challenges within school they need to practice reading everyday.



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E-safety

Lots of children enjoy playing games online and these are great for some 'downtime, but please see the below about ensuring Minecraft is played safely and any risk to the children is minimised.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING
7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. 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 the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) 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 nothing too untoward in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

Advice for Parents & Carers

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 Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

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 lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. 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 needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your 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.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



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Maths Challenge



Make 100

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 = 100



Fill in the gaps with suitable operations (+, -, ×, ÷) to make 100

Thousands more problems can be found on the NRICH maths website:
<http://nrich.maths.org>

Word Aware

At Leesons, we are implementing a Word of the Week to make children more word aware and expand their vocabulary. Each week, we will post a word of the week for you to discuss at home and we challenge you and your children to use it in a conversation with each other. To start our word aware, we would like you to get excited about words and spend some time this week discussing your favourite word and explaining why.

The staff did this and some of their favourite words were:

Miss Bennett - I like fork because it makes a good mouth shape when you say it.

Mrs Dobbs - I like the word 'popty ping' because it sounds funny and makes me smile when I say it.

Highlights of the week

Mrs Dobbs and Mrs Murray have loved taking the children to Forest School with their Class Teachers this week. We have been looking at routines and identifying leaves and the trees they came from. Year 2 created a collaborative piece of artwork from all of their leaves. Mrs Dobbs thinks it looks like a Christmas tree!



Junior Duke

We would like to celebrate the achievements of those taking part in the Junior Duke programme. This week the following children have completed tasks. Well done and keep up the hard work.

| Name | Class | Activity |
|--------|------------|---|
| Alina | Woodpecker | Caring for Others |
| Evie | Rabbit | Cookery |
| Lily | Fox | Cookery |
| Finley | Woodpecker | Cookery Creation Domestic Challenge Interest Writing Exercise Caring for Others |
| Owen | Stag | Averting Disaster Happiness Cookery Domestic Challenge Computer Skills First Aid |



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Well done Finley, you have completed the Gold Award - Mini Duke. I hope you like your certificate and badge. We are proud of you.

What's on?

| Week 2 | |
|----------------------|--|
| Tuesday - 07.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• KS1 Assembly - GD mindfulness• KS2 Assembly - GD mindfulness• AN out |
| Wednesday - 08.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.30pm - Coffee morning English |
| Thursday - 09.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trust Multi-skills tournament for Year 2 9-12 |
| Friday - 10.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11am - 2 minute silence for Remembrance Day• 2.45pm - Kestrel Class Assembly (Remembrance) Parents and Carers are invited to watch this. Please arrive for 2.45pm |

| Week 3 | |
|----------------------|--|
| Tuesday - 14.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents Evening - Otter• 6pm - New Parents Open Evening for children who are due to start school in September 2023 |
| Wednesday - 15.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coffee Morning ORACY - time to be confirmed• EYFS Height, weights and sight/ Year 6 height and weight• Parents Evening - Otter |
| Thursday - 16.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EYFS Height, weights and sight/ Year 6 height and weight |
| Friday - 17.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children in Need - Cake Sale and wear own clothes for £1 donation |

| Week 4 |
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| Monday - 20.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 5 Otter - Library visit (10am-11am) |
| Wednesday - 22.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flu Vaccinations• Coffee Morning Computing - time to be confirmed• 9:30am - 10:30am - Year 4 Fun with Feelings workshop• 2.15pm EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Open afternoon for current parents to come and share the children's learning in classes• Reception to Year 2 Flu Vaccinations• Bingo Night to be confirmed - Adults Christmas Bingo night run by Friends of Leesons |
| Friday - 24.11.23 | INSET Day - School Closed to Children |

| Week 5 | |
|--|--|
| National Tree Week - tree planting with FOL - Junior Duke, Eco-Committee and School Council to support with planting | |
| Wednesday - 29.11.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9am - Coffee Morning PE• 9:30am-10:45am Year 5 Friends with feelings workshop• 11am - 12:15am Year 4 and 5 Friends with feelings workshop• |

| Week 6 | |
|----------------------|--|
| Wednesday - 06.12.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9am - Coffee Morning PSHE MH |
| Friday - 08.12.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friend of Leesons Winter Wonderland - More details to follow• 2.45pm KS2 Carols on the playground - Parents/EYFS/KS1 to watch |

| Week 7 | |
|----------------------|---|
| Monday - 11.12.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.30pm - EYFS Christmas dress rehearsal to whole school |
| Tuesday - 12.12.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.30pm - EYFS Christmas performance |
| Wednesday - 13.12.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9.30am - KS1 Christmas dress rehearsal to whole school |



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|---------------------|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.30pm - EYFS Christmas performance |
| Thursday - 14.12.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Christmas Dinner Day• Christmas Jumper Day - online donations by parents• 2.30pm - KS1 Christmas performance |
| Friday - 15.12.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2.30pm - KS1 Christmas performance |

| Week 8 | |
|----------------------|--|
| Monday - 18.12.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christmas Church at St Barnabus - children only• Christmas parties in class |
| Tuesday - 19.12.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last day of term |
| Wednesday - 20.12.23 | School Holiday |
| Thursday - 21.12.23 | School Holiday |
| Friday - 22.12.23 | School Holiday |

Holiday - 20.12.23 to 02.2.24

Children return to school on 4.1.24