

# Thames View Primary School Newsletter



*Responsibility*

*Resilience*

*Respect*

## Special events coming soon

- 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> Science Week
- 14<sup>th</sup> March- Year 5 Trip to Riverside Park
- 14<sup>th</sup> March – PTA – Wear your own clothes
- 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> March- Strike Days
- 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March – PTA Mothers Day Gift Shop
- 16<sup>th</sup>- Topaz Chocolate Trip
- 17<sup>th</sup>- PTA - Mother's Day Afternoon Tea
- 17<sup>th</sup> March – Red Nose Day
- 20<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> March- Dogs Trust Visit to all year groups
- 24<sup>th</sup> March – PTA – break the Rules Day!
- 31<sup>st</sup> March- PTA- Easter Fun Day
- 31<sup>st</sup> March- Early closure- 1.15pm for all

## Mrs Rogers Message

This week has been rather busy, as well as very cold! Please can we remind all parents that children need a coat in school in this weather, as play time can be rather chilly. There have been some lovely trips this week, as Opal class went on their Adventure to Temper Temper Chocolate Factory in Tunbridge to see where chocolate comes from, how it is made and to make chocolate to take home, as well as eating some! Topaz will be off on this adventure this Thursday.

Reception and Year 1 have been at Tunbridge Theatre today on their House Trip to watch Room on the Broom. The show was excellent for the age group and it has been lovely to see the children enjoying the experience of going to the theatre. Reception will be continuing their learning on Julia Donaldson books as part of their Amazing Authors topic.

Next week is Science Week, which brings with it Silly Science workshops for Years 3 and 4 on the 14<sup>th</sup> March (Tuesday) and for Years 5 and 6 on the 16<sup>th</sup> March (Thursday). We will also be seeing the Creepy Crawly Man visit Years 1 and 2 on the 15<sup>th</sup> March (Wednesday), so the children can learn all about minibeasts as part of Science Week. Year 5 will be venturing to Riverside Country Park on Tuesday as part of their topic on Rivers.

Our Mother's Day gift wrap will be happening this coming week, thanks to the PTA. The Mother's Day afternoon Tea, which is now sold out will also be taking place on Friday. We look forward to welcoming mummies and nannys in to school on Friday for this. There are two sittings due to popular demand and this will be in the KS2 Canteen and Hall, so please come to the main Reception. We are grateful for the PTA for organising these events and invite any parents or carers who would like to join the PTA to let the front office know. Friday club will be happening as usual this week for the children who normally attend, but will be in the KS1 Hall.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and stay safe, Mrs Rogers.

## Quote of the week

**I opened a book and made some friends,  
I shared their tears and laughter  
And followed their road with its  
bumps and bends  
To the happily ever after  
Julia Donaldson**





## Temper Temper Chocolate factory – 9<sup>th</sup> March

Opal Class



## Room on the Broom Theatre trip – 10<sup>th</sup> March



**Golden Ticket will return  
next week!**

Golden Ticket is every Friday and a child in each Key Stage 2 class can win the golden ticket for outstanding effort, behavior and for showing our 3 school values, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.



## STARS OF THE WEEK



### PE Champions:

KS1: Millie S

KS2: Elijah

### Attendance Stars:

KS1 Kanzi

KS2:

### Nursery Stars:

AM: Rex

PM: Lucas

### Year 4 Timetable Stars:

Returning next week

Class	Star of the week	Star Reader	Star Writer	Maths Champion
Pippin	Jamie B	Zayann	Jakob	Dexter
Sunrise	Isobel		Maisie	Rosie
Elstar	Mason	Freddie	Albie	Luna
Kanzi	Layla	Aesha	Ava	Jayden
Fortune	Evie	Autumn	Bailey	Eliza
Liberty	Bonnie	Dilan	Oliver	Maria
Opal	Rio	Mahad	Evie	Mia
Topaz	Layla	Emily-May	Chenlin	Lahna
Enterprise	Chloe	-	Lily-Mae	Preston
Victory	Treasure	Flora	Harry	Taylor
Blenheim	Aidan	Phoebe	-	Mason
Windsor	Isla	Alice	-	Theo
Discovery	Phoebe	Finn	Henri	Stanley
Pioneer	Ruby-May	Reggie	Dollie-J	Archie



## 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 unnerve 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.



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If you have concerns about you child, please come in and discuss these with Mrs Flynn or Mrs Stevens. Each week there will be safeguarding tips here, let us know if we can help! Today's focus is on the online computer game Minecraft and its dangers!



## Teacher National Strike Days – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> & Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March

As you are aware there are two more national strike days next week. We have been risk assessing as a school as we have a number of teachers who are part of the NEU and we will be open as follows;

**15th March**- School will be open to Years 1, 2 and 3 ONLY.  
N, R, 4, 5 and 6 will close.

**16th March**- School will be open to Years 4, 5 and 6 ONLY.  
N, R, 1, 2 and Year 3 Opal will close.  
The Year 3 Topaz Class trip will go ahead as planned.

We understand that this can be difficult but we have to prioritise the safety of the children and ensure we can provide a safe adult to child ratio on site.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## Comic Relief – Red Nose Day 2023

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March, the children can wear something red, in support of this great charity. We won't be taking donations in school, but if you would like to donate, please do so via their link:

<https://www.comicrelief.com/rednoseday>



As you can see, our wonderful school shop is all ready for Red Nose Day – if you need a red t-shirt or any other items, pop along and see them.

**The shop is open :** Monday-Friday 8.35am - 9am ... Tuesdays & Thursdays 3.10pm - 3.45pm



PTA Events



Mothers Day Afternoon Tea – tickets bought event

**Thames View PTA**

## **Mothers Day Gift Shop**

**Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th March**

**All gifts priced at £2.50**

**Buy your tickets here:**

<http://buytickets.at/thamesviewpta/868800>

*Please note:*

EYFS/KS1 children will be collected from class and taken to the gift-shop to select a gift(s).

KS2 children will also be collected but are welcome to bring in cash and visit the shop themselves during either their break or lunchtime to purchase their own gift/gift(s) for Mother's Day

### **Easter Fun Day**

We are holding a non-uniform day on **Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March**.

Each donation of £1 will go towards the Easter Fun Day activities we are planning for the 31<sup>st</sup> March.