



St Mary of Charity Primary Weekly Newsletter

Friday 26th June 2026

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Email: office@smcs.aquilatrust.co.uk

Website: www.smcschool.co.uk



Attendance



EYFS Hamilton	Year 1 Donaldson	Year 2 Anning	Year 3 Malala	Year 4 Hockney	Year 5 Rosen	Year 6 Attenborough
94.2%	91%	91.7%	89.2%	92.7%	92.7%	93.9%
Year to date: 94.8%		This Term: 93.5%			Target 96%	

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy week, I would like to begin by thanking you for your understanding and support as we navigated this week's exceptionally hot weather. We introduced a number of additional safety measures to ensure everyone remained as comfortable and safe as possible. I was incredibly proud of how adaptable our children and staff were, continuing to learn, work and support one another despite the challenging conditions. Their resilience and positive attitudes were truly commendable. I sincerely hope that next week we get some of the cooler weather promised and things can resume as normal.

On Friday, we enjoyed another fantastic Languages Day, celebrating the rich diversity within our school community. This year we explored the Czech Republic, Italy, Nigeria, Spain, Russia and Latvia. As always, the day was made extra special by our own pupils, who proudly shared their cultural connections with these countries. They worked incredibly hard to educate their classmates about traditions, customs, languages and, of course, delicious food! There was a wonderful array of homemade dishes for everyone to sample, which was thoroughly enjoyed despite the heat. A huge thank you also goes to our PTFA for kindly providing ice poles for all the children, a very welcome treat on such a hot day!

Looking ahead to next week, many of our Year 6 pupils will begin their transition programme to secondary school. This is an exciting milestone, and we wish them every success as they begin preparing for the next stage of their educational journey.

We will also be starting our internal transition arrangements across the school. On Monday, parents and carers will receive a letter informing them of their child's class teacher for the next academic year. Then, on Thursday, all children will take part in their first transition session, spending time with their new teacher and beginning to familiarise themselves with their new classroom and routines.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hope you all have a lovely weekend and look forward to another exciting week ahead.

Please don't forget to join us for our summer fair on Friday 3 – 5pm on the school playground.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Rowley-Jones
Headteacher





Arts Summer School

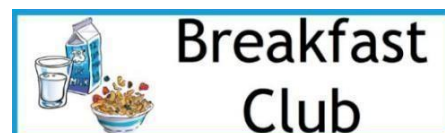
suitable for all primary-aged children

Faversham
August 3rd - 7th
St Mary of Charity Primary

10am - 4pm £35
or £40 for wraparound care
(9am - 5pm)



**PLEASE
NOTE..**



We run our own **Breakfast Club** and **After School Club**; spaces for these need to be pre-booked at least 24 hrs in advance using the MCAS App. Please contact the school office if you need support booking a place for your child.

Breakfast Club: 7:30am-8:35am

After School Club: 3:15pm- 6pm (with a 4pm, 5pm & 6pm collection option)

Please note: If you wish to collect after 5pm, we require 7 days' notice. Contact the office via email or phone to book a 6pm slot.



Please be aware that at the end of last term we again had an enormous amount of unclaimed uniform at the end of the term. Staff go through the lost property box at the end of each term and check to see if anything is labelled. If it is it will find its way back to its rightful owner. Items that are not labelled are placed in a black sack and given to the salvation army. Last term there were 2 black sacks full of unnamed uniform/clothing items. In total we have therefore donated 7 black sacks of clothing to the salvation army since Christmas. Please do not waste your money by ensuring that you label all of your children's clothing.



As the weather increases, please ensure that your child comes into school with a sunhat, sun cream applied and a water bottle. Children are encouraged to refill their water regularly throughout the day.



INTERNET SAFETY

This week's poster is about **MINECRAFT**. Please continue to monitor your child's online behaviour and access. If you need help with a specific app we have not highlighted yet, please talk to Mrs Ling.

ATTENDANCE



If your child is poorly and unable to come to school, please ensure that you inform the office via telephone or leave a message on our answer phone.

DROP OFF

Can we please remind parents that school gates shut at **8:45am**. If you arrive late, please drop off your child/ children at the school office.

For safeguarding reasons we do not allow parents/carers to drop off their children to their classes.



We would politely ask all parents/carers to supervise your child carefully during drop off and pick up. Some children have been seen standing in the flowerbeds and picking/pulling out plants. Please ensure that they do not destroy the school site which our staff and volunteers work so hard to maintain.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2023 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to adding friends to voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases server hosts may expose IP addresses (if hosting independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can waste hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or controlled servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge agreed screen-time limits. If not managed effectively, this can impact children's sleep, schoolwork, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase after a free trial, usually around £17, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Bedrock' for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these situations, meaning guidance and ongoing conversations about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attack. They are also ideal for shared play between adults and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server helps control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited to trusted friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict spending within agreed limits. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Ulysses Coombes spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



@wake_up_weds



/www.thenationalcollege



@wake.up.wednesday



@wake.up.weds

REMINDER

The School Gate

Please be mindful of other children and parents at the school gates. The front of the gates can become a very crowded place and we want children to have ease entering the school in the morning. Please encourage your child to walk through the gates on their own and do not stand in groups talking where you potentially block the entrance. It is intimidating for children to walk through adults into school.

HEALTHY LUNCHES



We promote healthy eating at St Mary of Charity Primary School and would appreciate parents adhering to the healthy eating guidelines as below:

Sweets: Please do not pack sweets or chocolate bars.

Drinks: children under 5 receive free milk with their snacks and water is available for everyone whenever they want to drink. Please do not send in fizzy drinks with your child's packed lunch.

Nut Free: Please be aware that we are becoming a nut-free school. We now have children in school who have potential life-threatening nut- allergies which can be triggered by direct or indirect contact with nuts in the environment. To keep our children safe, we request that parents please find a nut-free alternative. This also includes NUTELLA or any CHOCOLATE spread.

Thank you for your co-operation.



SCHOOL DINNERS –

Dinner Money cost £3.05, this will increase to £3.10 from September 2026

Please be reminded school meals are to be paid for in advance.

WRAPAROUND CARE: Both Breakfast and Afterschool club bookings are placed under this tab and payments need to be made when you book your session for your child. *This is done to avoid any payments not made.*

Please be reminded to clear out any outstanding balances under individual accounts of your children.

Dates for your Diary



Date	Event
29/06/26	Abbey school transition week Information about next years classes sent to parents. CRAZY HAIR DAY.
30/06/26	Archbishops School Transition day Year 5 trip to Rochester
2/7/26	Whole School transition morning 1/3
3/7/26	Summer Fair 3 – 5pm
6/7/26	Year 5 art morning at QE
9/7/26	Wimbledon Lunch Menu Whole school transition morning 2/3
10/07/26	Year 3 Dover Castle Trip Reports sent to Parents Year 5 Music day at QE
14/07/26	Year 6 end of year Performance 1.30pm and 5.30pm
16/07/26	Whole school transition 3/3
17/07/26	PTFA Inflatables activity for all classes
21/07/26	Year 6 Prom 5pm
22/07/26	Year 6 Leavers service 9.30am at the church LAST DAY OF TERM 2pm FINISH

