



# Ark Brunel

## Primary Academy

### Newsletter



1<sup>st</sup> July 2022

Our  
**Heart**  
Values



*Honesty*



*Enthusiam*



*Ambition*



*Resilience*



*Thought*

## Dear Ark Brunel Community,

Welcome to the start of another long weekend.

We kicked off the week with the excitement of the Ark Music Gala at the Barbican Centre. A celebration of music from across all Ark Schools up and down the country. It being my first time attending, and I was blown away by the talent on show. The whole experience was smooth and professional from start to finish, with the collaborative acts especially pleasing. Our Djembe Drummers raised the roof with their performance alongside Ark Swift, whilst our singers harmoniously synchronized with their peers to bring smiles to the many in attendance. I know I'm not alone when I say that I didn't realise how much of an occasion the Ark Gala was. Therefore, I would implore you all to search 'Ark Music Gala' on YouTube and have a look at the performances of years gone by. Hopefully, this week's event will be posted there shortly too. Certainly, one to look out for.

Outside the building, I have been informed that PCNs are on the rise. Apparently, there are some new wardens on patrol, who haven't been allowing a grace period for child collection. There is not much I can do to help here other than warn you of the potential risk of a PCN should you choose to arrive by car. If the thunderstorms hold out, perhaps a walk in the sunshine will be beneficial in more than one way!

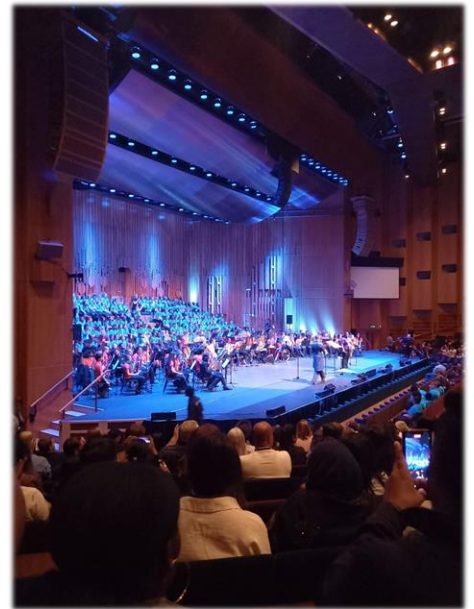
Finally, I wish you all a lovely long weekend with your families, whilst we complete our final in-service training day of the year tomorrow.

Stay safe,

Mr Scott

# Ark Music Gala

On Monday evening a group of Year 5 singers and Year 4 drummers took part in the Ark Music Gala and performed on stage of the Barbican Centre. The theme of the evening was 'A Night of Hope and Celebration' and it certainly lived up to its name. Our Year 5 singers were part of the massed choir and raised the roof of the Barbican with hundreds of other Ark pupils in the final song of the evening 'We Will Rise'. Our Year 4 djembe drummers were the youngest performers of the evening and received many compliments for their energetic and lively performance, they certainly did us proud. This is what one of our parents had to say 'The gala was an amazing event. Full of different music from different Ark schools. The Barbican stage was magically brought alive by the music. Parents were dancing along in their seats to the music. A brilliantly organized event in such a short time. What a special event to be a part of, with so much talent in young children.'



Congratulations to this week's winning Class:  
**Johnson**

Total School Points: 17,000

**Please remind your child to continue completing Mathletics**

Overall attendance for last week was 94.17%. We're getting really close to the 96% target. Please continue to help us improve by making sure your child comes to school EVERY day.

Buss	89.9%
Carpenter	95.9%
Caxton	96.6%
Darwin	95.6%
Dickens	93.4%
Faraday	94.2%
Fry	88.5%
Jenner	96%
Johnson	93.5%
Newton	97.1%
Pankhurst	94.2%
Seacole	89.2%
Shackleton	97.3%
Wilberforce	94.5%
Wollstonecraft	98%



**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Parent Voice, 9am
- EYFS Domino Day, 2:15pm

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Y2 Fry class visiting Pizza Express
- Nursery to Kensington Gardens

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> July:**

- EYFS Sports Day, 9:30am
- Y6 End of Year Performance, 2:15pm
- Y6 End of Year Performance, 7pm

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Domino Day (class transition for Y1-Y5)
- Y2 End of Year Performance, 2pm

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Y5 visiting the Natural History Museum
- Skipping Workshop (Y2, Y3 & Y4)
- Reception Graduation, 2:15pm

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Reception visiting Holland Park

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July:**

- Y6 Leavers Lunch

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> July:**

- Last day of term

## 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 menacing 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 2016, 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.



**NOS** National Online Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday



# Should I keep my child off school?



## Yes

### Until...

<b>Chickenpox</b>	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
<b>Diarrhoea and Vomiting</b>	48 hours after their last episode
<b>Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)</b>	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
<b>Impetigo</b>	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
<b>Measles</b>	4 days after the rash first appeared
<b>Mumps</b>	5 days after the swelling started
<b>Scabies</b>	they've had their first treatment
<b>Scarlet Fever</b>	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
<b>Whooping Cough</b>	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

## No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

<b>Hand, foot and mouth</b>	<b>Glandular fever</b>
<b>Head lice</b>	<b>Tonsillitis</b>
<b>Threadworms</b>	<b>Slapped cheek</b>



SCAN ME

### Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.