

Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



[@robertbrowning.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/robertbrowning.bsky.social) [@towerbridgeschool.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/towerbridgeschool.bsky.social)

[@snsprimary.bsky.social](https://twitter.com/snsprimary.bsky.social)

Find us at: www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk

Newsletter 16th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are so proud of our year 6 pupils who worked so very hard during the SATS this week, we hope they have a very relaxing weekend. They have lots more to look forward to in the coming weeks.

We're really looking forward to seeing the children's homework projects next week. It is always a joy to celebrate their effort and creativity!

We have many children on track for a blue wristband for 100% attendance and punctuality for summer 1 and 98% attendance to be entered into the attendance hamper raffle which is fantastic. Please continue supporting your child to attend school every day on time.

Please see page 8 of the newsletter for a new page sharing information for parents of children in year 5 about secondary school open days. If your child is in year 5 this is a good time for you to be researching schools and planning open day visits.

Have a restful weekend and remember that the school reopens on Monday at 8:45am.



The Neurodiversity Family Hub

Please find the link [here](#) for the Neurodiversity Family Hub which provides activities for children in three age categories: under 5, 6-11 years and 11-18 years of age. They are based at Mint Street Park Adventure playground. 14 Weller Street SE1 1QU.



Dates For Your Diary



Tower Bridge

Tuesday 20th May - Groundwork coffee morning
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May - HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 2nd June - Back to school - gates open 8.45am
Tuesday 1st July - Sports Day Y1-6 (DATE CHANGE)
Wednesday 2nd July - EYFS Sports Day
Wednesday 16th July (AM) - Sunshine Class celebration assembly

Robert Browning

Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May - HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 2nd June - Back to school - gates open 8.45am
Tuesday 1st July - EYFS Sports day
TBC - Sports Day
Friday 18th July - 2.45pm - EYFS Celebration of learning assembly
Tuesday 22nd July - Break up at 1pm.

Snowsfields

Wednesday 21st May 3:30pm Red Class Fundraiser
Thursday 22nd May 3:30pm Purple class Fundraiser
Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May - HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED
Monday 2nd June - Back to school - gates open 8.45am
Tuesday 1st July - Sports Day (DATE CHANGE)
Tues. 15th July - Sunshine class Graduation, 10am
Thursday 17th July - Year 6 End of year show 2pm

Term Dates 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 are on the Federation website

[Term Dates - The Bridges Federation](#)

Term time holidays will not be authorised.

Other important dates for this year can also be found on the school website here:

[Diary - The Bridges Federation](#)



This week the pupils in Year 6 took their SATs Tests. We are so proud of the hard work and resilience they have shown over the past few months. Although the tests are important, this week we are celebrating the creative learning which takes place at school every single day.

**excellence,
enjoyment
and effort**

[value of the week]
TOWERBRIDGE

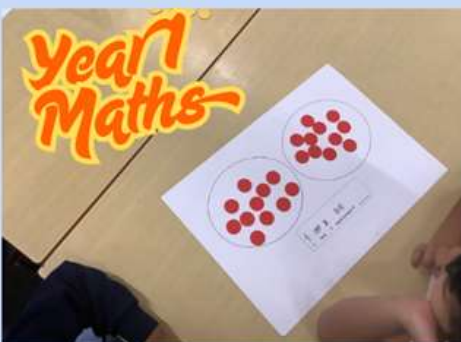


Art & Craft Club

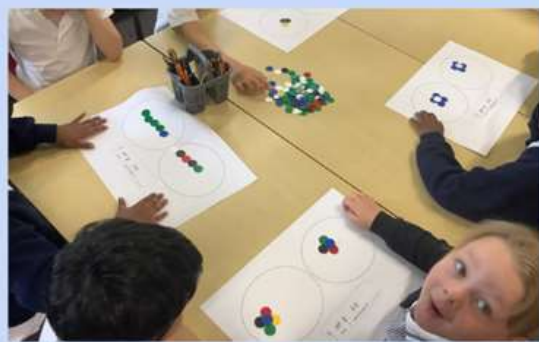
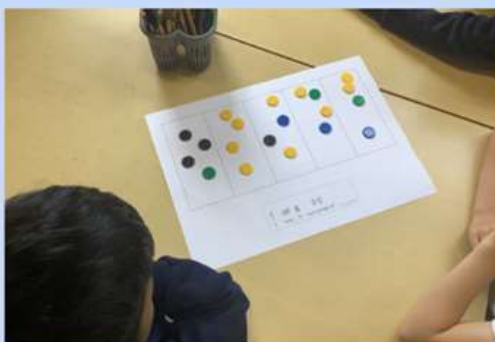
**Year 5
design technology**



**sculpture in
YEAR 2**



**Year 1
Maths**



Science > Year 5

Groundwork Update

Thank you to everyone who attended the sessions last term- we hope you found them useful! Dates for this term:

Tuesday 20th May: Ideas for playing with your children

Tuesday 3rd June: Autism and play

Tuesday 17th June: Planning the school holidays.



VE Day Celebrations

Last week, children across the school took part in a range of special activities to commemorate VE Day. They listened carefully in a special assembly to find out more about VE Day. They learnt some war time dances and songs and wore some clothes from that era. They decorated biscuits and made paper aeroplanes. They also enjoyed a special picnic.



Snowsfields Primary School

Red class will be holding a fundraiser after school on Wednesday 21st May to raise money for their class. They'll be selling ice lollies and cakes, so please bring some change and help support our little entrepreneurs!

The year 1 children had a great time at the Unicorn Theatre this week!

Rainbow Class enjoyed their second workshop with the Unicorn Theatre. The children had a wonderful time engaging in sensory play with coconut snow, and chasing giant bubbles around the playground.

Tate Modern 25th Anniversary

Year 5 took part in a series of workshops to celebrate Tate Modern's 25th Anniversary.

Year 2 enjoyed an outdoor science lesson in the garden investigating plants.

In science, Green class have been classifying animals and plants by their characteristics and habitats using sorting diagrams. They then went into the garden to find leaves and plants to classify.

Sunshine class read the story 'Giraffes Can't Dance' and took part in a lively hot-seating activity, where the children asked Gerald the Giraffe some thoughtful questions.

Years 3 and 6 enjoyed a 'Reading Buddies' session in the sunshine!



Our school value this week is:
E - Excellence, Enjoyment, Effort



Reading Raffle Winners



Reading
Raffle
Winners



Our core value this week
is: Resilience



Times Tables
Rock Stars

Our school value this week is:
F - Fun and Friendly



Reading
Raffle
Winners





	% present	Lates	Total
Year 1	99.48%	2	275
Year 2	100%	3	375
Year 3	97.92%	8	75
Year 4	95.8%	5	250
Year 5	95.5%	9	0
Year 6	96.1%	5	150

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning 6/5/2025: 97.23%

1st Place Attendance: Year 2

1st Place Punctuality: Year 1



Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 6/5/2025: 96.62%

1st Place Attendance: Y1 & Y2

1st Place Punctuality: Y1 & Y5

	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	0	2	100%
Year 2	0	4	100%
Year 3	2	4	99.01%
Year 4	8	4	95.98%
Year 5	6	2	97.40%
Year 6	11	6	94.58%



	Absence	Lates	Total
Year 1	2	8	250
Year 2	18	9	125
Year 3	2	3	400
Year 4	1	9	175
Year 5	6	4	325
Year 6	9	12	175

Overall whole school attendance for week beginning: 6/5/2025:

96.48%

1st Place Attendance: Y4

1st Place Punctuality: Y3

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Find us at: www.thebridgesfederation.org.uk

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

Being in school and having the best attendance possible underpins all the many benefits of school for your child, such as their learning, wellbeing and wider development. We want to work with you to ensure that attendance for pupils at the Bridges Federation is the best it can be.

As a parent, you are legally responsible for making sure your child gets a suitable full time education. This means making sure your child is in school every day except when

- Your child is too ill to go to school.
- You have permission for a leave of absence from your child's school for them not to attend. You should only ask for this in exceptional circumstances. Generally, a holiday will not be classed as an exceptional circumstance.
- Your religious body has a day especially for religious observance.

If my child needs to be absent from school, what do I need to do?

You should contact us as early as possible (no later than 10am) on the first day of absence to explain why. If you do not, we will contact you to find out where they are.

My child is ill. What should I do?

If your child is ill, read the NHS's 'Is my child too ill for school?' advice to help you decide whether they can go to school. Contact us as soon as possible to let us know that they will be absent.

Do I need to provide medical evidence to support my child's illness related absence?

We may ask for medical evidence when your child is absent due to illness. This may be in cases where:

- Your child is regularly absent due to illness, to assess how we can help by putting support in place.
- We have reason to believe your child was not too ill to attend and a conversation has not resolved the issue.

If you are asked to provide evidence this does not need to be a letter from your doctor or consultant, and doctors will not usually provide such letters. It can, instead, be appointment cards, prescriptions, or notes of previous consultations (including from the NHS App.)

To avoid disruption to your child's attendance, medical and dental appointments should not be booked during the school day whenever reasonably possible.

My child is struggling to attend school. What can I do?

The first step is to talk to us about why your child is missing school, and what help we can give. You should still do everything you can to help your child attend as much as possible whilst waiting for help and support to be put into place. Information on who you can contact for help, including the school's senior leader responsible for attendance, can be found in our attendance policy on the website. We follow the expectations laid out in the DfE guidance 'Working together to improve school attendance.'

<https://assets.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/wpuploads/2024/07/aaa-guide-for-parents-on-school-attendance-19th-Aug-version.pdf>

<https://thebridgesfederation.org.uk/home/attendance/>

secondary
transfer
for parents
of Year 5
pupils



HARRIS ACADEMY BERMONDSEY OUTSTANDING EVERY TIME!

Ofsted Outstanding in 2009 | 2015 | 2019 | 2025

#ProudToBeHAB



Outstanding in all areas – including Quality of Education, Behaviour and Attitudes, Personal Development, Leadership and Management, and Sixth-Form Provision.

Open Days

3rd June

10th June

17th June



Book a Tour

What Ofsted said about us

“Pupils benefit from an exceptional enrichment offer.”

“Pupils develop a rich body of knowledge and achieve very highly.”



Keep up with the latest school news, student achievements, and community events—follow us!
Stay Connected, Stay Informed – Follow HAB Online!



Contact us if you have any questions at admissions@harrisbermondsey.org.uk

55 Southwark Park Rd, Bermondsey, SE16 3TZ

www.harrisbermondsey.org.uk

020 7237 9316

Harris Academy
Bermondsey

family
fun



LONDON MARBLE SHOW

SATURDAY 24TH MAY
BERMONDSEY VILLAGE HALL
12 - 6PM



FREE GIRLS FOOTBALL

EVERY MONDAY (17:00-18:00)
BURGESS PARK ASTRO TURF

WILD CATS | OPEN TO ALL GIRLS AGED 5-11 | SQUAD

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER



AFTERSCHOOL SPORTS

AT MARLBOROUGH SPORTS GARDEN

FREE

SCHOOL'S OUT, TIME TO PLAY!



GIRLS FOOTBALL CAMP 2025

YEAR GROUPS 1-7

FREE

09:30 - 15:30
27th - 30th May 2025

Michael Faraday Primary School, Putney, SW15 2NU

SCHOOL'S OUT, TIME TO PLAY!

Children aged 5-11 - join us for **FREE** afterschool sports at Marlborough Sports Garden! Fun, beginner-friendly sessions run Tuesday-Thursday, with free play on Monday and Friday. Choose from football, touch rugby, rollerskating, cricket, volleyball and more.

SPRING 2025

Week 1: Tue 27th April - 28th April
Week 2: Wed 2nd May - 3rd May
Week 3: Thu 4th May - 5th May
Week 4: Fri 6th May - 7th May

SUMMER 2025

Week 1: Tue 17th June - 18th June
Week 2: Wed 18th June - 19th June
Week 3: Thu 19th June - 20th June
Week 4: Fri 20th June - 21st June

TIMES
All sessions start from 5.00 - 5.30pm

LOCATION
Marlborough Sports Garden, Lower Street, SE1 1JG

Get in touch! Email sports@best.org.uk or call 020 7463 3393 or visit online at www.best.org.uk/afterschoolsports

BANKSIDE OPEN SPACES TRUST



London Wildlife Trust | Centre for Wildlife Gardening

28 Marsden Road, SE15 4EE

Half Term Family Workshops

Plant Power ~
Edible plants Wednesday 28th May 10am-3pm
Medicinal Plants Thursday 29th May 10am - 3pm

Free fun one- or two-day workshops for families living in Southwark suitable for primary aged children but you are welcome to bring your younger and older ones too. On Wednesday you will discover which plants are edible and which are poisonous and cook something to eat. On Thursday you will look at medicinal herbs and make a lotion, a balm and a bath bomb to take home.

You can choose Wednesday or Thursday or both days. Workshops for all the family funded by Southwark Council. Booking essential. Free, booking fee £3 but let us know if that is too much for you (email enquiries@wildlondon.org.uk)

To book visit our website: www.wildlondon.org.uk/events

Only one free Southwark family workshop per academic year per adult.

Funded by **Southwark Council**

To book please scan the QR code or visit wildlondon.org.uk/families



HALF TERM HOLIDAY CAMP

LEWISHAM LIONS CENTRE

TUESDAY - FRIDAY 10:00AM - 15:00PM

£12 PER DAY OR £40 WHEN BOOKING ALL DAYS

FOR MORE DETAILS EMAIL:

EPOOLE@MILLWALLCOMMUNITY.ORG.UK



Lewisham Inclusive Sports Festival

Lewisham Disability Sports Network presents:

Register Now!

A free event, accessible to all abilities, for disabled young people and their families, aged 5-25!

Register below or scan the QR code: <https://bit.ly/LewishamMultiSport>

Saturday 21st June
2pm to 4pm
Ladyswell Arena
Silverware Rd
SE8 4QX

In Partnership with:

Access Sport | GLL | London Borough of Lewisham | Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust | London Borough of Lewisham | London Borough of Lewisham

Camille.Redfern@AccessSport.org.uk | 020 7993 1985



OPEN TRIALS

MONDAY 19TH MAY 2025

GIRLS FOOTBALL

SOUTHWARK JAGUARS

Family support

FATHER'S GROUP



Join a 12-week course to improve your parenting skills.

Whether you are a father, grandfather or stepdad, receive advice and tips on topics such as positive parenting, improving relationships and role modelling. Crèche provided.

When:
Where: 1st Place Family Hub, 13 Charnleigh Street, Burgess Park, SE16 0HT

BOOK A PLACE
Email: ben.campbell@southwark.gov.uk
Phone: 07738 860 768

Parent Skills
PARENT SPACE
A QUARTERLY ONLINE & IN PERSON PROGRAM
A 12 WEEK COURSE DESIGNED FOR PARENTS WITH CHILDREN FROM TWO YEARS TO SCHOOL AGE. THE COURSE IS FREE AND AS WELL AS GOOD PRACTICE, IT PROVIDES THE SUPPORT THAT PARENTS NEED.

SERIES
WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2025 10:30-11AM
WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2025 10:30-11AM
WEDNESDAY 10TH JULY 2025 10:30-11AM

FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER
• adrian@parentskillsgo.com
• parentskillsgo.org

BOOKING
07507443231
0772530083
02030494878
07504463863

PLACED HERE TO IMPROVE PARENTING AND SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION

The Nest - Wellbeing Hub

The Nest operates a drop-in service every **Saturday between 10:30 and 14:30**. Therapeutic practitioners and support workers can offer 1:1 emotional support, information & advice and signpost you to the appropriate services.

Drop-In Service | The Nest

SENsational Stay & Play
Fun FREE groups for children with additional needs or disabilities and their parents/careers

• Have fun with your child
• Meet other families
• Get advice and support from a range of specialists on topics such as Speech & Language, Behaviour and Autism

Multiple locations across Southwark
Multiple **stay & play** sessions for under-5s
Saturday respite sessions for 5-11 years
See timetable on back of this leaflet

For more info visit www.southwark.gov.uk/sensational-stay-and-play
Or to book bookings@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark Children and Family Centres
We are currently looking for volunteers to support our family practitioners

Southwark Young Carers

To get involved, you can refer via our website www.imago.community or scan the QR Code

We support young people living in Southwark aged 6-24, who provide unpaid care or support to a family member with a long-term illness, disability, mental health condition or a substance misuse issue.

For further information, please contact our Hub
youngcarers@imago.community
0300 111 1110

Southwark Young Carers is a service of Imago Community
Registered charity number: 2228 000

Drug and Alcohol Service **Young People**

Free Workshops for Parents and Carers

Do you want more guidance on how to talk to your children, teens and young people about vaping, alcohol or drugs? Do you want to be informed on the current themes and trends we come across working with young people in the borough?

Substances are more accessible today than ever before. For parents, carers or anyone responsible for children and young people, it can feel overwhelming and difficult to know how to respond.

We're offering FREE online workshops for parents and carers in Southwark, to give advice and guidance to help you navigate this quickly changing landscape.

Workshops:

- Current trends amongst young people
- Strategies for talking to young people about substances in an open and supportive way
- Practical advice on how to keep your children safe from the dangers of substance misuse

For further information contact:

- Email: Southwark.YoungPeople@cg.gov.uk or scan the QR code for a direct link to the eventbrite page.
- You can call us on: 020 3404 7699

BOOK HERE

TAP - IN SESSIONS
Training about PARENTING

Free and stand alone information sessions for parents and carers on a range of topics - 'TAP-IN' to the ones you need or complete the set!

Sessions include:

- Digital Safety - how to support children to be safe online
- Ages and Stages - how to support different developmental stages
- Parental Wellbeing - how to communicate our needs
- Parenting and Autism
- Parenting and ADHD
- More to come...

JOIN NOW

Beth Gilbey
07394 865 980
bethany.gilbey@southwark.gov.uk
EARLYHELP@SOUTHWARK.GOV.UK

We hold in person and online sessions throughout the term
Contact the team for next available session

Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities

For parents of children aged 8 - 18 years

This 12 week course helps parents and carers to:

- Build positive family relationships
- Manage anger and stress
- Implement effective discipline strategies
- Understand your child's development
- Recognise and value your family and cultural traditions
- Develop effective communication
- Meet others and share ideas

JOIN NOW

With us support: **Positive Parenting**
Build strong family relationships
Manage anger and stress
Understand your child's development
Recognise and value your family and cultural traditions
Develop effective communication
Meet others and share ideas

WHERE IS IT ON?
Tuesday 7pm to 8pm
Wednesday 10am to 11am
Friday 10am to 11am
Online learning, groups and individual support
What time?
Every two

Please contact us for more details

The Neurodiversity Family Hub

The Neurodiversity Family Hub provide specialised clubs for children & young people with SEND in Southwark, including: Teen Tribe, Junior Tribe and Tiny Tribe

As well as parent/carer support, including:

Parent Connect, Parent Circle, Walk & Talk, My Advocacy Partner and whole family gatherings.

<https://theneurodiversityfamilyhub.org/>

FREE YEAR 6 LITTLE FISH THEATRE SUMMER PROGRAMME
FOR SOUTHWARK CHILDREN
28TH JULY - 8TH AUG 2025 (MON-FRI)
AT RYE OAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK A PLACE FOR YOUR CHILD
EMAIL: INFO@LITTLEFISHTHEATRE.CO.UK

TO FILL IN A BOOKING FORM
CLICK THE LINK BELOW OR
SCAN THE QR CODE

<https://bit.ly/413nERW>

ART DREAMS MUSIC DANCE

Online English (ESOL) Course

**A FREE 15-week Entry level online accredited course
for Southwark residents**

Classes will be on
Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10am—12.30pm
25th February - 26th June 2025
(here-time only)
plus online Conversation Clubs
This course will take place on Zoom.
Applicants should live in Southwark

To apply for a place on the course *in advance*
please use this link:
<https://www.southwark.co.uk/en/online-english-2025-course/#/en/1451/2771/1451>

Spaces are limited so book soon.
We will contact you to confirm your place on the course.

On the **11th** of February we will launch our **NEW** website. The URL remains: www.price-buckland.co.uk





Website QR code. This will take you to the homepage to search for your school



If you have ordered from our website before, go to the **Account Section** and **re-set** your password. You can use the same password that you have currently.



You can then see previous orders and manage your account.

Any Questions? Call us on 01895 640827

Free* 15 week Learning Unlimited course for adults interested in becoming Teaching Assistants Award in Support Work in Schools

Wednesdays 9.30am – 12.30pm

From 26th February to 25th June 2025

We will contact you after you register to arrange an assessment time.
This course will be delivered online using Zoom



What will I get from attending the course?

- The Knowledge and Skills required to become an effective teaching assistant
- The City & Guilds Award in Support Work in Schools (level 2)
- The opportunity to progress to the Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools or to apply for work as a Teaching Assistant
- First course FdSA Exam: <https://www.cityandguilds.com/uk/en/exams/first-course-fdsa-exam/>

How much does it cost?

The course is free but there is a non-refundable registration fee of £40.

To apply for a place on the course use the link below to complete the online form:
<https://www.cityandguilds.com/uk/en/exams/first-course-fdsa-exam/>

All applicants should have level 2 English

*Please note you will need to complete a portfolio which will require quite a lot of homework.
Places are subject to completion of application form and assessment.*



We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 6.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

- Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
- Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
- Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
- Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
- Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
- Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday

The Barmby Road School of Music
402298 London, UK

Enter your password

Log In

Register yourself

Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

- Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
- Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
- If the login email was sent to you more than 90 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
- Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
- Enter the birthday** of one of your children to get log in.
- Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.

Holly Cook
Mum

Notifications

Holly Cook may not have a communication method associated

17.01.2018
on 12 May 2021
Registration Year 9 Term 104
Age 200
We updated

Statistics

Attendance (Last 90d)

80.1%
Avg Last 90 Days

71.4%
Current

Activities

Holly Cook Code

Let's talk PANTS with Pantosaurus! | NSPCC



The graphic features the word 'PANTS' in large, colorful letters, each shaped like a pair of underwear: 'P' is red with white stars, 'A' is pink with white stars, 'N' is blue with white stripes, 'T' is orange with white stars, and 'S' is green with white stars. A small green dinosaur head is visible behind the 'S'.

Topic	Link
Privates are private	Link
Always remember your body belongs to you	Link
No means no	Link
Talk about secrets that upset you	Link
Speak up, someone can help	Link

Parent Skills 2Go
 www.parentskills2go.org

SEWING SKILLS

10 WEEKS DRESSMAKING COURSE FOR BEGINNERS & INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS

FREE SEWING MENDING STATION
 (open on a one to one basis for members only)

BASIC / BEGINNERS SEWING CLASS STARTS
 WEDNESDAY 16TH JANUARY 2025

INTERMEDIATE LEARNERS SEWING CLASS STARTS
 FRIDAY 17TH JANUARY 2025

VENUE:
 THE LEWISTON CENTRE COMMUNITY CENTRE
 8 ELKINSDALE ROAD
 BOTTLEWORTH LE16 2BU

FOR DETAILS & TO BOOKSSEE
 02033316600, 07384692692
Admin@parentskills2go.com
parentskills2go.org

10AM TO 12PM
 COST PER PERSON **£20**
 (includes all materials)
£30
 (includes materials)

space is limited so book early

what we will be provided

what you will need
 15cm Hand

A fire can start in any room and the effects can be devastating, even a small fire in your home can lead to substantial damage and expensive repairs. The LFB want to stop fires from happening and that is why we offer free home fire safety visits to help keep you and your loved ones safe.

What happens during a home fire safety visit ?

Our firefighters or trained staff will visit you at home, at a time that suits you and carry out a risk assessment. They will give you advice based on your home and individual needs, this includes; information on how to **prevent** fires, the importance of smoke alarms to **detect** a fire and your **escape** plan in the event of a fire.

A visit can take up to 90 minutes or longer if needed and we will fit free smoke alarms if required.

Specialist alarms can be fitted for people who may have a delayed response to escape for example; strobe light and vibrating pad alarms for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

How to book a Home Fire Safety Visit:

Freephone: 0800 028 4428

Email: smokealarms@london-fire.gov.uk

Text /SMS: 07860 021 319

<https://www.london-fire.gov.uk/safety/the-home/home-fire-safety/>

Worried about a relative, friend or neighbour? Although everyone is eligible for a free home fire safety visit, some people with health problems or lifestyle behaviours can have an increased chance of a fire happening. To help you we have listed some of these examples below:

Increased risk factors can include:

Anyone that smokes; overloaded electrical sockets or poor wiring; unsafe use of candles or naked flames; previous fires or near misses; cooking left unattended; hoarding of any kind or someone who lives alone.

They are less able to react because of:

Mental health conditions such as dementia or learning difficulties; no smoke alarms are fitted or they don't work; alcohol dependency or drug misuse (prescribed or recreational); physical health issues including sensory impairments eg: hearing or sight.

They have a reduced ability to escape:

Mobility issues due to a physical disability; age-related problems or as a result of a long-term illness; escape routes are not kept clear or are blocked due to actions such as hoarding or conditions that affect decision making.

Remember -This is not an exhaustive list. if you are unsure please contact us for extra advice.

SOUTHWARK SCHOOLS' INDOOR AIR QUALITY

 Indoor air is a significant component of a school's health and safety. It affects the health and learning of students and staff. This project will use air quality sensors placed in classrooms and the restrooms of Southwark schools, offering a free insight into the air quality they experience.

Teachers and students will participate in a specially designed curriculum to deepen their understanding of air quality's effects on health and discover strategies to [improve](http://www.airqualityschools.co.uk) their schools' environment.

This initiative focuses on raising air quality awareness and provides tools such as a dedicated webpage and monitoring device to assist schools in fostering a cleaner, healthier educational atmosphere.

School staff and parents can register interest by filling out the form on this link or by emailing:

https://forms.office.com/r/1234567890
2216

environmental@southwark.gov.uk
www.southwark.gov.uk

Create School Action Plan

Check that the School School Action Plan/Code which includes a section to improve air quality



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Still the best-selling game of all time, Minecraft is a bastion of creativity and community, with hundreds of millions of players building and crafting in its almost endless world. The popularity of Minecraft among gamers of all ages means it's important to remain informed about the game, including how to play it safely and whether it's suitable for the children in your care. That's why we've created this guide explaining the risks associated with Minecraft and how to ensure a purely enjoyable gaming experience.

SCARY ELEMENTS

While Minecraft can be seen as a kind of 'digital LEGO', certain game modes include creatures accompanied by eerie sound effects. These can be a bit too frightening for some younger players, potentially leading to distressing in-game combat and other encounters – although the combat is quite basic and free from any real depiction of violence.

GRIEFING

Some players in Minecraft take pleasure in deliberately damaging or destroying another person's creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying – it intentionally ruins someone else's experience by erasing hours of their work and forcing them to start over. Many public servers regard griefing as a serious offence and often ban those who engage in it.

ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's focus on creativity means that, as with any creative endeavour, it can be easy to get carried away. If your child is finding it difficult to manage their time because they're drawn in by Minecraft's gameplay loop of resource gathering and building elaborate projects, it could have a knock-on effect on their social interactions and schoolwork.

PUBLIC SERVERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

With public servers being so easily accessible in Minecraft, it's highly likely that children will end up chatting with strangers through the in-game text chat. Some servers even place an emphasis on social interaction, actively encouraging communication between players. While there's nothing inherently wrong with this, it does carry certain risks. In addition to the concerns around speaking with strangers online, players who host their own servers may have their IP addresses exposed, posing a further security concern.

ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

Minecraft is available as a free trial on a variety of devices; however, the full game requires a one-off purchase, which is typically around £15. After that, players have the option to buy additional cosmetic upgrades or subscribe to Minecraft Realms. Realms is an entirely optional subscription service that allows users to run their own private server to play with friends. Without proper supervision, younger players may end up making unintended or excessive purchases.

Advice for Parents & Educators

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 enemies and creatures attacking you or damaging your building.

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. Hosting a private server, however, will cost a monthly fee.

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. It's important that a 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.

RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

Much of Minecraft's early stages can be an exercise in frustration for players who don't know where to start. Thankfully, there's a wealth of material online and in video format to help you learn the basics. Just be mindful that some of this content may not be appropriate for children, so you should consider watching it yourself first.

PLAY MINECRAFT WITH YOUR CHILD

As a creative building tool, Minecraft makes it great fun for children to team up and construct vast buildings accompanied by imaginative landscapes, much like working with LEGO or model kits. Playing in a game mode that includes enemies can encourage critical thinking and teamwork; however, you should consider which game mode is appropriate for the child in your care.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Gaming Editor at the Daily Star, and has worked in games media for more than 6 years. A long-time gaming enthusiast, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety for children of all ages.



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