



Green Lea First School
'Learn, Explore, Achieve'
Weekly Newsletter
23rd of May 2025



Dear Families,

I cannot quite believe we have reached the end of Summer Term 1 at Green Lea First School already! It may have been a short term but it has been jam packed with our ethos of 'Learn, Explore, Achieve'. From Circus Workshops to V.E. Day celebrations and much more, we cannot wait to continue our adventures with you after a well deserved break. Wishing you lots of family time, memory making and hopefully some sunny days from all of us in Team Green Lea.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Lindsay Harris

Headteacher



This week at Green Lea:

Class 1

This week in class 1 in Maths we have been taking away. We've sang rhymes like five little men and five current buns and Reception have been using cubes to take away. Nursery ordered the steps using pictures and talked about what was happening in each one.

In English we have continued to learn about growing plants. We've shared a set of instructions with steps to tell us how to plant a seed. We followed the instructions and then we had a go at writing our own. The children are very knowledgeable about what a seed needs to grow and I am sure they'd be fantastic gardeners. Why don't you plant some seeds over half term? We'd love to see what you're growing.

Class 2

The Outstanding Owls have finished writing their re-tell of the story, Leon and the Place Between. We have used some amazing vocabulary like; ecstatically and anticipation. In maths, the Year 1 are learning about positional language and ordinal numbers. Year 2 are working out how many is the whole number, when given the amount of a half, quarter or third. Our scientists have loved planting beans and labelling the different parts of a plant.

Class 3

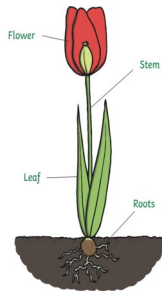
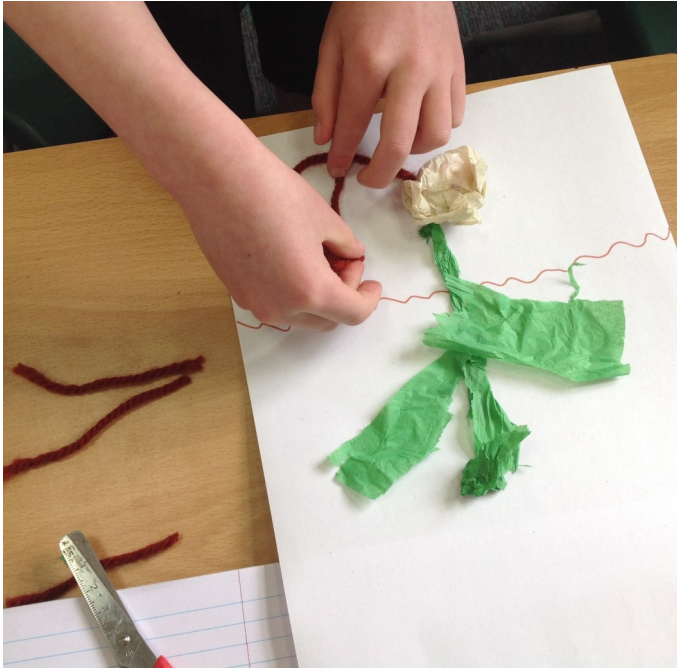
In Maths both Year 3 and Year 4 children have been adding with different amounts of money and finding what change they need too. They have also been working hard on their times tables. In English, the children have been learning what a list poem is. They have written one based on going to a circus. In Science, the children have been learning about the properties of solids, liquids and gases and have been changing a solid into a liquid. Here is a useful website link [Solid, liquid and gases - KS2 Science curriculum - BBC Bitesize](#)

Upcoming Key Dates

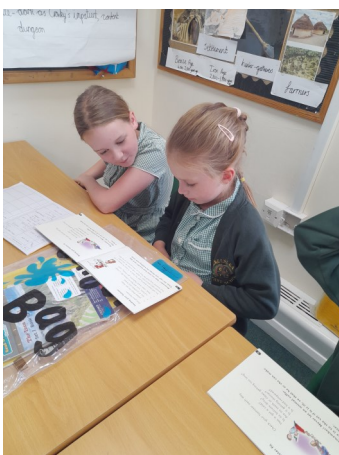
- **May Half Term Week** beginning the 26th of May
 - **INSET Day** 2nd of June
 - **Class Photos** 3rd June
 - **Individual and Sibling Photos** 4th June

'Learn, Explore, Achieve'

Class 2 scientists have loved planting beans and labelling the different parts of a plant.



Class 2 and Class 3 joined together to share their love of reading this week.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT



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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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. 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College



Green Lea First School
'Learn, Explore, Achieve'
Summer Term Key Dates and Events

April	May	June	July
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday 28th Return to School - Summer Term• Tuesday 29th Year 4 Families Multiplication Screening Check Meeting & Year 1 Families Phonic Screening Check Meeting 3.30pm and 5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday 5th - Bank Holiday• Week Beginning 26th May Half Term	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monday 2nd INSET DAY• Week Beginning 9th Father's Day Forest School Class One (10th June) 2.15-3pm Class Two (11th June) 2.15-3pm Class Three (12th June) 2.15-3pm• Friday 20th Sports Day 1.15pm <u>Thursday 26th</u> <u>Reserve Sports</u> <u>Day</u>• Friday 27th Summer Fayre 3.30pm - 6pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesday 15th Nursery Graduation 2.30pm• Thursday 17th Year 4 Graduation 9.15am• Friday 18th Last Day of Summer Term 2025



Term Dates & Inset Days 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2024

Inset Days: Monday 2nd September and Tuesday 3rd September

Term Starts: Wednesday 4th September

Holiday: Monday 28th October - Friday 1st November

Inset day: Monday 4th November

Term Ends: Friday 20th December

Holiday: Monday 23rd December - Friday 3rd January

Spring Term 2025

Inset day: Monday 6th January

Term Starts: Tuesday 7th January

Holiday: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

Term Ends: Friday 11th April

Holiday: Monday 14th April - Friday 25th April

Summer Term 2025

Term Starts: Monday 28th April

May Day: Monday 5th May

Holiday: Monday 26th May - Friday 30th May

Inset Day: Monday 2nd June

Term Ends: Friday 18th July

Inset Day: Monday 21st July

