



Newsletter: 5th June 2026

Dear Families,

We are so lucky to be part of such a vibrant and supportive school community, and this has been demonstrated very clearly this week through our fantastic Art Gallery experience. As a result of staff and pupils working together to produce some wonderful pieces of artwork—along with the dedication and amazing efforts of our Friends of St Patrick's and the generous use of the church—we were able to create a truly inspiring display.

I have to say, I was absolutely blown away by how professional the whole experience was. From the careful presentation of each piece to the thoughtful organisation of the space. It felt like stepping into a real gallery. The pride our children took in their work was clear for all to see, and it was wonderful to watch them sharing their creations so confidently with family and friends.

The event was also a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the creativity and individuality of every child. Each class contributed something unique, resulting in a rich and varied exhibition that truly reflected the talent and enthusiasm within our school.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped make this event such a success—our dedicated staff, our talented pupils and of course our brilliant Friends of St Patrick's for their hard work and support. It really was a perfect example of what can be achieved when our whole school community comes together.

If you feel you have some time and you have a desire to support our school further by joining the Friends of St Patrick's group, please drop us an email and someone from the group will be in touch.

Please enjoy a flavour of the gallery through a few of the photographs taken.

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Burgess

General News



General News



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Brite Bites Dental Health Visit

We were very fortunate to welcome Emma from Dentaaid – the Dental Charity - into school this week. Emma worked with all of our pupils, from Nursery through to Year 6, sharing important messages about good dental hygiene in an engaging and age-appropriate way.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and gained a great deal from them. Emma explained clearly how to look after their teeth, the importance of brushing regularly and correctly and how making healthy choices can help keep their smiles bright and strong. The sessions were both informative and interactive, helping to reinforce key messages in a fun and memorable way.

It was wonderful to see pupils so enthusiastic and keen to share what they had learned, and we hope they will now be even more motivated to take good care of their teeth at home.

We are very grateful to Emma and Dentaaid for taking the time to visit us and support our pupils' health and wellbeing in such a meaningful way.

Children received a free tooth brush and toothpaste. Don't worry Year 5 and Year 6 - your free gifts will be delivered to school and we'll pass them on when they arrive.

Potty Training Guide

Please see potty training guide on the following link for some useful information and support around potty training.

<https://stpatricksdipton.bwcet.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/The-Potty-Training-Guide.pdf>

General News

Water Safety Information

We would strongly encourage all families to watch the RNLI's '*Float to Live*' video, which shares a simple, lifesaving technique to use if you find yourself struggling in the water. In light of recent tragedies reported in the news, it is more important than ever that everyone is aware of these essential water safety messages and feels more confident about what to do in an emergency.

[Float To Live – What To Do In An Emergency – RNLI](#)

Parish Newsletter

Please click [here](#) to view this week's parish newsletter for St. Patrick's and St. Joseph's parishes. Here you will find news about upcoming parish events and news.

Girls' Football Team Update

Our girls' football team had another good night winning one and losing one match. As ever, fantastic performances from everyone.

Thank you to Mr Bell for coaching the team and to everyone who came to support us.



Online safety

We will give regular updates throughout the year regarding the need for vigilance with online safety. Please alert us to any concerns you may have.

Please see the following guidance and advice from National Online Safety.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

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 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 undo 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 £15, but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft 'Realms' 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.

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.

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.

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.

June Wellbeing Activities

Positive Affirmations June Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 I am unique.	2 I am curious.
3 I am helpful.	4 I can do hard things.	5 I can make a difference.	6 I am free to be myself.	7 I am confident.	8 I always try my best.	9 I am thankful.
10 I am kind.	11 I ask for help.	12 I like challenges.	13 I am a good friend.	14 I believe in myself and my abilities.	15 I am honest.	16 I make good choices.
17 I learn from my challenges.	18 I am a good listener.	19 It is ok if I make mistakes.	20 I stand up for what I believe in.	21 I am patient and calm.	22 I can try again.	23 I am generous.
24 I see the good in myself and others.	25 I am open and ready to learn.	26 I believe in my dreams and goals.	27 I am loved.	28 Today is going to be a great day!	29 I am worthy.	30 I am creative.

Try your best today as that is always good enough.

It's okay to make mistakes. They are just stepping stones to success.

Strawberry Scones

Ingredients

- 225g self-raising flour (plus extra for work surface)
- 50g cold butter, cubed (plus extra for greasing and serving)
- 25g caster sugar
- 50g sultanas (optional)
- pinch of salt
- 120ml milk, plus extra for brushing
- strawberry jam for serving
- strawberries to garnish

Equipment

- mixing bowl
- knife
- round cutter
- wooden spoon
- baking tray
- rolling pin
- ruler
- pastry brush
- cooling rack

Method

- Preheat your oven to 200°C-200°C (fan/gas mark 7).
- Grease a baking tray with butter.
- Put the flour and salt into a mixing bowl and add the cubed butter.
- Gently, rub the mixture together with your fingertips until it looks like breadcrumbs.
- Carefully, stir in the sugar and sultanas (optional).
- Gradually, add the milk to the mixture and stir well.
- Coat the work surface with a light dusting of flour. Pour the mixture out onto the floured surface and knead it with your hands until the dough is quite stiff.
- Roll out the dough until it is roughly 2cm thick. Press the cutter into the dough to cut out individual circles. Repeat with any remaining dough.
- Gently, spread out the scones on the greased baking tray, allowing a gap between them. Then, brush them with milk.
- Bake in a hot oven for 12-15 minutes. Leave to cool on the cooling rack.
- Carefully, cut the cooled scones in half and add a layer of butter and strawberry jam to each half.
- Wash the strawberries and chop off the green stems. Cut the strawberries into slices and add them to the top as an extra garnish.
- Enjoy!



Head Teacher's Awards

The following children have received a head teacher's certificate this week:

Reception/ Nursery	Being Respectful	Georgia	For always having beautiful manners.
Year 1	Being Ready to Learn	Faith	For working hard this week on her independence when completing work by showing good listening.
Year 2	Being Ready to Learn	Oscar	For amazing work in maths.
Year 3	Being Respectful	Leo	For always addressing every member of staff with 'Miss' and saying 'Please' and 'Thank you'.
Year 4	Being Ready to Learn	Emiryn	For always trying her best and joining in with class discussions
Year 5	Being Ready to Learn	Charlie	For writing some exciting sentences about William Shakespeare.
Year 6	Being Respectful	Indiana	For such a polite and well-mannered attitude.

Class Teacher Special Mention Awards

The following children have received a Class Teacher Special Mention certificate this week:

Reception/ Nursery	Ashton	For really trying hard with his handwriting this week.
Year 1	Niamh	For showing real kindness this week in her actions and words towards others in class.
Year 2	Everley	For always showing enthusiasm for learning.
Year 3	Delilah	For always participating enthusiastically in class discussions.
Year 4	Alice	For a super attitude to learning and 100% effort in every lesson.
Year 5	Evie	For excellent maths work this week!
Year 6	Mary-Jane	For taking pride in work, always presenting it so beautifully.



Summary of upcoming events

Monday 8 th - Friday 12 th	Y1 Phonics screening test window/Y2 resits where necessary
Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th	World Faith Week – Islam
Tuesday 9 th	Little Acorns Meeting 9-10.30am. Invited carers
Monday 15 th – Tuesday 16 th	Y6 Residential Visit to Newby Wiske Hall Adventure Centre, Northallerton
Wednesday 17 th	Y5/Y6 Golf Festival at Beamish Golf Club am
Thursday 18th	Y1/Y2 Multi-Skills Festival at Greenland Primary School am
Thursday 18th	KS2 Fire Safety Assembly
Thursday 18th	Y5/Y6 Girls' Football at Greenland 4.00pm–5.00pm
Friday 19th	Whole School Sports Day 1.30pm

[Please click here to view our Diary of Events for the rest of the Academic year](#)



ADHD

Parent Support Group

Consett



Are you a parent or carer of a child with ADHD (or traits of ADHD)?

You're not alone.



Join a supportive, relaxed group where you can:

- ✓ Share experiences in a safe, non-judgemental space
- ✓ Learn more about ADHD and executive function
- ✓ Gain practical strategies that work in real life
- ✓ Connect with other parents who understand



What to expect

Each session will include:

- A gentle topic focus (e.g. routines, emotions, school challenges)
- Open discussion and shared experiences
- Practical tips and strategies
- Time to talk, listen and reflect



No pressure. No expectations.
Just support.



Facilitated by Darren McCabe

RNLD | Non-Medical Prescriber | ADHD Coach

- ♥ 15+ years' experience supporting children, families and professionals
- ♥ lived experience of ADHD



Location

The Grey Horse, 115 Sherburn Terrace,
Consett, DH8 6NE



When

Monday 8th June 2.30pm - 3.30pm



Cost

Free



Important

This is a supportive group — not therapy or crisis support — but a space to learn, share and feel understood.



Interested?

info@lilyofthevalleycoaching.co.uk
lilyofthevalleycoaching.co.uk



Lily of the Valley

Supporting understanding, compassion
and practical change