



Newsletter 31

21st May 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another lively and joyful week in school, with plenty of moments that remind us why this term is such a special one. The signs of spring continue to brighten our days; from the growing confidence of the tadpoles in Owl Class's micro pond to the cheerful buzz of learning happening across the school.

Today was our whole school Fieldwork Day, and what an exciting day it has been. Children have been out exploring both the school grounds and the wider village, gathering real world data and sharpening their geographical skills. Different classes investigated a wide range of themes - rubbish and recycling, playgrounds, street names, temperature, colours, puddles, and plenty more. The enthusiasm was infectious, and it was wonderful to see pupils so engaged in hands on learning that brings the curriculum to life.

A special thank you to the parents who joined us today, accompanying classes around the village and supporting the children's investigations. Your time, energy and good humour made a real difference, and we are very grateful for your help.

Across the school, children have been working with real focus as we move through the final stretch of the half term. Staff have commented on the positive attitudes, kindness and resilience they are seeing in classrooms, corridors and on the playground - qualities that make such a difference to the atmosphere of our school community.

I'm pleased to share that Class Photos have now arrived and are ready to order, and parents should already have received details on how to do so. A reminder that tomorrow (Friday) is a Teacher Training Day, so children are not in school. Next week is half term, and with a Bank Holiday Monday - and a promising weather forecast - we hope everyone enjoys a well-earned break filled with sunshine, rest and time with family.

We look forward to welcoming the children back after half term, refreshed and ready for the final stretch of the year.

Dates for the Diary

TOMORROW - Training Day

JUNE

1st Return to School

3-5th KITE Residential

6th Party in the Park

w/c 15th Arts Week

19-20th Village Beer Festival

25-26th Abbey Transition

JULY

1st - 2nd EAGLE Residential

2nd KITE Trip

3rd Sports Day (weather permitting)

6-10th Careers Week

9-10th Ivo Transition (TBC)

10th Northstowe Transition

10th School Disco

13th End of Year Reports

15th 6pm KITE Performance

17th 2:30pm Leavers Assembly



Our Guided Reading

Our guided reading approach has evolved, with a stronger focus on reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Reading fluency means being able to read accurately, smoothly and with expression so that children can focus on understanding what they are reading, rather than decoding every word.

During guided reading lessons, children practise reading aloud regularly, revisit carefully chosen texts and are supported to read at an appropriate pace with confidence and expression. Teachers model fluent reading and provide opportunities for repeated reading, discussion and vocabulary exploration. Research shows that as pupils become more fluent readers, they are able to think more deeply about texts, make connections and develop a greater enjoyment of reading.

These sessions have been soft launched this half term and are set to be fully embedded after the May half term. We look forward to sharing with you how these are going before the end of the school year.

The Big Future

As Children's Commissioner, I'm writing to ask for your support in helping children at St Helen's take part in my new survey, The Big Future.

I want to hear from children aged 0–18 from every background, in every part of the country, and your support will help make that possible. I'm asking children about the things they enjoy, the challenges they face, the changes they want to see in their communities, and what they think a good childhood should look like today.

Children can take part here: <http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigfuture>

As many of the Year 6 pupils will have recently finished their SATs, this could be a great opportunity for them to reflect on their time at primary school and share their hopes and ideas for the future in their own words.

Schools with particularly high participation rates will receive formal recognition for helping amplify children's voices, along with a summary of their pupils' responses, and an invite to my final Festival of Childhood.

Thank you very much for your support.

Dame Rachel de Souza
Children's Commissioner for England



Our Year 3-4 Girls at the ESFA Kickabout Event



There will also be a brilliant range of competitions, so over the half term why not get children, families and grown-ups working on their entries? Please see the posters for details, there really is something for everyone.

Raffle tickets were sent home yesterday, if you need more, please ask a member of FOSH or the school office. There are some fabulous prizes including £100 cash, lots of amazing vouchers and lovely treats.

Keep an eye on Facebook where FOSH will share lots of information over the next two weeks as the countdown begins!

Party in the Park – SATURDAY 6th JUNE!

Plans are coming together for Party in the Park 2026 which is set to be an afternoon packed with family fun, entertainment, and community spirit.

There will be lots to enjoy on the day but to make it happen, **we need volunteers** to help on the BBQ, bar and stalls. Even giving a small amount of your time makes a big difference. Please sign up here: [Volunteers sign up sheet](#)



CHARITY NUMBER: 277524



Party in the Park 2026

Plans are coming together for an afternoon packed with family fun, entertainment, and community spirit.

There will be lots to enjoy on the day, including:

- ✨ Live music 🍔 BBQ & refreshments 🍹 Bar
- 🚗 Vehicles on display 🐔 Mobile Farm Experience
- 🏇 Races for all the family
- 🛍️ External stalls & local community groups 🎭 Performances 🍰 Cake stalls 🍦 Ice creams
- 🎯 Classic games including Coconut Shy & Crockery Smash 🧶 Craft tent
- 🎪 Silks & hoops ⚽ Football activities
- ...and so much more!

We'll also be holding a brilliant range of competitions, so over the half term why not get children, families and grown-ups working on their entries? Competitions will include:

- 🍰 Victoria Sandwich Competition
- 🌸 Best Flower Arrangement
- 👒 Best Decorated Hat Competition
- 🧚 Small World / Fairy Garden Competition
- 🧱 Original LEGO Build Competition
- 📷 Village Photography Competition
- 🍪 Open Craft Competition

Bring your friends, family, and picnic blankets for a brilliant afternoon in the park. We can't wait to see you there!

We are also looking for volunteers to help make the day a success. Even giving a small amount of your time makes a big difference.

Please sign up here: [Volunteers sign up sheet](#)

**St. Helen's Primary School
Bluntisham**

2PM - 6PM | SATURDAY 6TH JUNE | FREE ENTRY

MAY

HALF-TERM CAMPS

Y.D.P

YOUTH DREAMS PROJECT
CAMBRIDGE



SOMERSHAM PRIMARY
26TH & 27TH MAY
PE28 3EU
9AM-3PM

MIDDLEFIELD PRIMARY
26TH MAY
PE19 2QE
9AM-3PM



WARBOYS PRIMARY
28TH & 29TH MAY
PE28 2RX
9AM-3PM

ST HELEN'S PRIMARY
28TH & 29TH MAY
PE28 3NY
9AM-3PM



ALL CAMPS ARE £25 PER DAY
BOOK NOW!
WWW.YDPCAMBRIDGE.CO.UK

CHARITY NUMBER: 277524

FOSH PRESENTS OUR FIRST EVER...
(ADULTS ONLY)

SILENT DISCO

3 CHANNELS
80'S, 90'S & 00'S
BRING YOUR OWN
DRINKS

8pm-11pm

FRIDAY 3RD JULY

ST. HELEN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

TICKET PRICE: £12.50

(PROPS AVAILABLE ON NIGHT, NOT INCLUDED
IN TICKET PRICE)



Buy Tickets!





ARTS WEEK

15th - 19th June 2026

Calling all Artists & Performers!

Can you spare us a little of your time?




 office@st-helens.cambs.sch.uk

01487 841468



KINGDOM BUILDERS

Holiday Bible Club

For Primary School Children

Join us at
Bluntisham Baptist Church

20-24th July

10-12.15pm

Family Celebration 26th July

Contact Michelle Gore 01487 843538
michelle.gore@bluntishambaptist.org




FREE

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 2026 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 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 £9, 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.

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

Lloyd 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



Free Healthy Relationship courses for parents

All relationships have their ups and downs, but if parents are regularly arguing in front of their children, it can have negative and lasting consequences. Help is available for parents who want to communicate in a healthier way. Family Hubs are running courses to support parents who would like to improve the relationship with their partner or ex-partner.

Courses bookable directly via the QR code.

****SUMMER TERM 2026****

Improve the communication with your partner to support your children

(Arguing Better)

Online via Teams: Tuesday 23th June and Tuesday 30th of June

Midday - 1 pm

Improve the communication with your ex-partner to support your children

(Getting it Right for Children)

Online via Teams: Wednesday 24th June and Wednesday 1st July

Midday - 1 pm

2026 workshop booking form

