

CALENDAR DATES 2025

26 th MAY to 30 th MAY	MAY HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED
2 nd JUNE	ALL CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL **Note this was previously a staff training day – email sent 3.4.25 to advise of change**
6 th JUNE 9:30am to 11:45am	SPORTS DAY – WHOLE SCHOOL Parents/Carers invited in to watch
13 th JUNE	PTA Bring a bottle for the Summer Fair – Non Uniform Details to follow
16 th JUNE	PTA Bring a plant for the Summer Fair Details to follow
20 th JUNE	PTA SUMMER FAIR
7 th JULY 4:30pm to 6pm	PTA – Summer Picnic/AGM Details to follow
11 th JULY Time TBA	YEAR 4 LEAVERS DISCO Details to follow
16 th JULY 2-3pm	YEAR 4 PERFORMANCE Further information regarding tickets to follow
17 th JULY 6-7pm	YEAR 4 PERFORMANCE Further information regarding tickets to follow
18 th JULY 2pm to 3pm	YEAR 4 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY Parents/Carers of Year 4 are invited into Beaudesert
18 th JULY Finish at 3pm	WHOLE SCHOOL LAST DAY OF TERM **Note change of date as per email sent 3.4.25**



Year 4 Residential photos
to follow in next week's Newsletter.

Challenge Champions Last Week



Lynx: Bella-Mae

1P: Dori

20: Jonas

3DR: Tommy

4P: Daniella

1M: Whole Class

3J: Freddie

4G: Nina

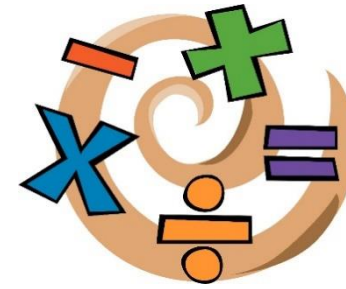


Congratulations to Maison from Year 4 who received the trophy last week for the 'fastest current studio speed'!

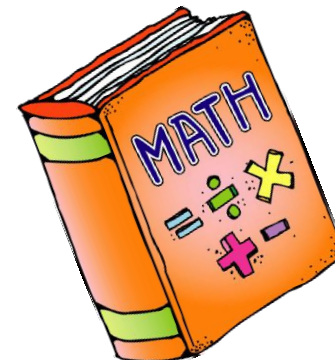
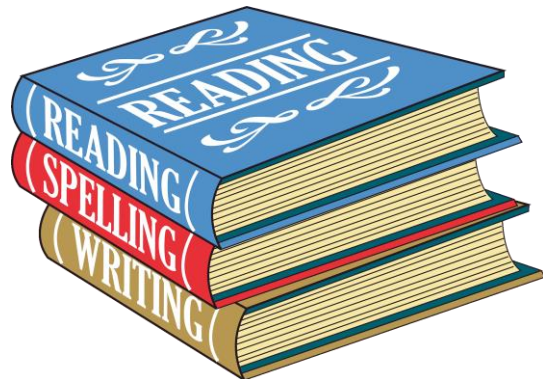
Maison answered each question in 0.69 of a second! WOW!



English Champion of the Week
9th May 2025



Maths Champion of the Week
9th May 2025

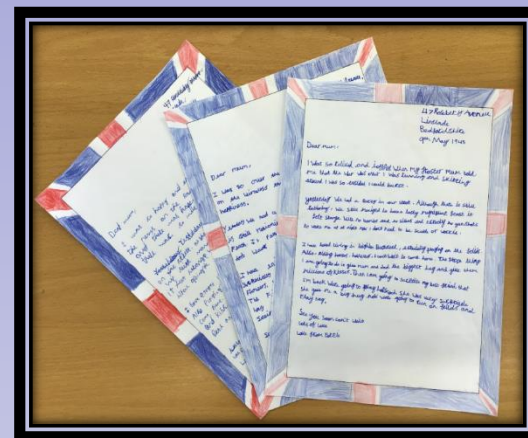


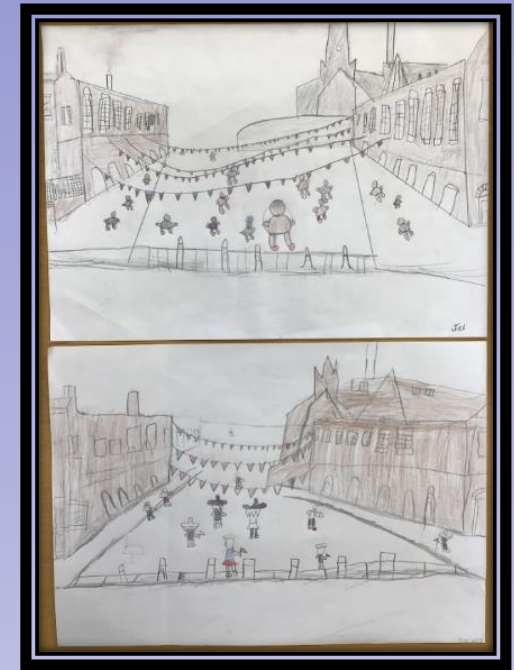


VE DAY
80TH ANNIVERSARY
A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION
8 MAY 2025

Beaundesert had a wonderful time celebrating VE Day!

The children looked fantastic in red, white and blue and enjoyed a range of activities in their classrooms in the morning. In the afternoon the weather was kind to us and the whole school had a picnic on the field, sat in 'V's for 'Victory'. At the end of the day we had an assembly where the children shared their excellent learning and sang World War 2 songs, then finally we ended with the National Anthem. The children were so enthusiastic and learnt so much as well as having a very enjoyable day!





After School ART Club!

Every Tuesday & Thursday at Beaudesert
Lower School



Join us for our June/July term for lots of crafty fun!

Tuesdays - KS2 (y3 & y4)

Thursdays - KS1 (y1 & y2)

15:00 - 16:00

£36 for 6 weeks

from w/c 1st June - w/c 7th July

to book:

Go to:

<https://artventurers.co.uk/berkhamsted/> or

email: jess@artventurers.co.uk

ARTventurers®
Squidge, squish, paint, explore, sing, dance!

Leighton-Linslade Town Council

NEWSLETTER

www.leightonlinslade-tc.gov.uk/council_events/



Market Event for Families Tuesday 27th May 10am - 2pm

Our next Market Event for Families is all about animals! Animal Edge Petting Farm will be joining us and we'll have free face paint and crafts too.

When: Tuesday 27th May, 10am - 2pm
Location: High Street, Leighton Buzzard



Bug Hunt!

24th May - 1st June

Find the 10 fairy doors hidden in Parson's Close Rec and see which bugs are living there.

When: 24th May - 1st June.
Map: From the Library or on our website



What's On in June

Splash Park and Sandpit are now open!



Band Concerts begin on Sunday 1st June.

Pride Festival on Saturday 7th June

Big Lunch Festival on Sunday 8th June

Guided Curiosity Spotter Trail Walk



Date: Thurs 29th May
Time: 10am (duration 40mins)
Meet: Market Cross

There's a new Curiosity Spotter trail, for children who love a time-travel adventure. Join this free, guided walk and discover some unusual objects from the past.



Leighton-Linslade
**CURIOSITY
SPOTTER**



May 2025

Story Garden – Summer Reading Challenge 2025

The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual challenge run jointly by The Reading Agency and public libraries. This year's Challenge is called Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors. This exciting new theme will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature.

The challenge will run from Friday 18th July until Saturday 6th September.

Children are encouraged to read whatever they choose for the challenge, recognising the importance of reading for pleasure in increasing empathy and improving well-being, as well as in children's educational success. The theme this year is all about nature and the Great Outdoors. From planting seeds, encouraging outdoor play, and exploring wildlife - children will be able to find books linked to all of these wonderful themes and more.



The Challenge:

- Children must be members of the library service. Join the library [here](#) or go to your local library.
- The challenge invites children to read any six library books or more during the summer holidays.
- Children can borrow books or read our e-books, magazines and audiobooks available on our Libby and BorrowBox apps. [More about e-resources](#)
- Families can sign up for the challenge at any library, at any stage in the summer, from Friday 18th July.
- Children are awarded a certificate and a medal for reading 6 books; there are also some other prizes to collect along the way!
- Children completing the challenge (6 books) will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £50 voucher for The Works, to buy arts, crafts and books.

Struggle with reading?

We can help!

- For dyslexia, we have collections of shorter books, with special fonts and paper – and great stories.
- The Libby app has special accessibility features, which allow customers to select font, background and font size, we also have children's large print books available in some of our libraries.
- Picture books aren't just for toddlers! Libraries have collections of [older picture books](#) for young readers.
- Get hooked on [graphic novels](#) (comic style books). Learning to read?
- Select from beginning to read (green spots) or short chapter books (red spots).
- Booklists with lots of ideas available on our Virtual Library [Books and Reading - Children and Teenagers Pages](#)
- Some children prefer non-fiction. Dinosaurs, transport and space are particularly popular.
- Enjoy stories through audiobooks. Free to borrow on CD or download with Libby or BorrowBox apps.

Contact your library...

Ampthill Library: 0300 300 8053 Ampthill.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Arlesey Resource Centre: 01462 731469 enquiries@arleseyresourcecentre.org.uk

Barton Library: 0300 300 8054 Barton.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Biggleswade Library: 0300 300 8055 Biggleswade.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Dunstable Library: 0300 300 8056 Dunstable.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Flitwick Library: 0300 300 8057 Flitwick.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Houghton Regis Library: 0300 300 5058 HoughtonRegis.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Leighton Buzzard Library: 0300 300 8059 LeightonBuzzard.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

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.



REMINDERS

Start & Finish Times for September 2024 – July 2025

Year	Start time	Finish time
Years 3 & 4	8.40am	3.00pm
Years 1 & 2	8.40am	3.00pm
Reception	8.40am	3.00pm

PLEASE FOLLOW THE WAY SYSTEM AROUND THE SCHOOL, EVEN IF THIS MEANS YOU WALKING BACK AROUND THE BUILDING FOR A 2ND LAP.



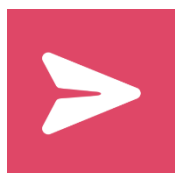
Change of contact details/address

If you have changed your address or phone number recently, please let the school office know your new details. Thank you.



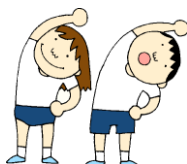
Absences/lateness

Can all parents ensure that all absences are reported to the School Office by 9.30am on the day of absence. It is also very important for the school to know if your child is sick, or if they have a medical appointment. If your child arrives into school late (after 8.45am), Parents are asked to please bring their child to the school office.



School App

We now have a new school app. It is available to download free from the App Store on any mobile device. Search for '**reach more parents by weduc**'. Please be sure to download the app onto your phone as it will be our main method of communicating via text with Parents.



PE Kit

September 2024 – Please can all children bring in their PE kits at the beginning of the week so they can change into them during school time on their nominated days.



School Lunches

Ordering and paying for school lunches is now done on www.parentpay.com. Parents should have received letters that features login details. Please order all school lunches by Thursday for the following week. If you have any queries, please call 01908 615705.

Beaundesert has a strict 'No Nuts' policy, and we ask parents to not send in food items such as peanut butter, cakes or biscuits that may contain nuts!



Breakfast Club and After School Club

Advance bookings for **both the Breakfast club and After School Club** need to be made online at <https://www.kidzzzoneclub.com/>. For same day bookings please can parents email hello@kidzzzoneclub.com or call their office on 01525 591036 (between 9am and 3pm). Please note a parent/guardian must complete a 'Kidz Zone' child registration form either online via the website or with a member of the Kidz Zone team for the booking to be accepted – this information is required to meet Ofsted regulations.



Bikes and Scooters

Please can everyone remember to dismount bikes and scooters whilst on the school grounds, as accidents can occur on pathways at busy times.



Car Parking

Just a reminder for some parents when parking outside of the School that it is very important to park as considerately as possible. Parents and carers dropping their children off at school should not be parking on pavements. Car number plates may be reported to the Police if this continues to happen. Can parents also remember that parking in the Staff car park or the Kitchen car park is also not permitted. Thank you.



PTA Second Hand Uniform Shop

The PTA have set up a pre-loved uniform shop. Please click on the below link to browse and make your purchase.

Link: <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/beaudesert-lower-school>