

- Everyday Excellence
- Authentic Care
- Independence
- Opportunity

## Key Information

### Anti-bullying Week - Odd Socks Day

This year for Anti-Bullying week 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November we will be taking part in 'ODD SOCKS' day on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November. We want to encourage everyone to put on their most colourful socks and celebrate the fact we are all different! No donations are required for this event, just dress your feet in some wonderful socks!

We cannot wait to see everyone and their fabulous socks!

**ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE**

With the support of **Andy and the Socks**

**This ANTI-BULLYING WEEK we are holding**

**ODD SOCKS DAY on MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023**

**Odd Socks Day**

Come to school wearing your odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique!

If you're worried about bullying you can speak to ...

**At The Quinta you can speak to:**

**Your Class Teacher**  
**Your Class TA**  
**Miss Gibson**  
**Miss Stones**  
**Mr Sharpe**  
**Miss Massey**

**#OddSocksDay**  
**#AntiBullyingWeek**  
**#MakeANoise**

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**ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE**  
ORGANISER

**MAKE A NOISE ABOUT BULLYING**  
#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

**Andy and the Socks**  
PARTNER

Non Uniform Day 16th November

# Bottle Tombola



All children are invited to come in to school in non uniform on Thursday 16th November in exchange for a bottle for the Merry Market bottle tombola. This can be anything in a sealed and unused bottle: wine, beer, juice, bubble bath, moisturiser; the list is endless - if it is in a bottle it counts!

### Drop-off Location:

Please pass all bottles to your child's class teacher on Thursday 16th November.



Thank you for supporting us!

## Non Uniform Day - Thursday 16th November

Children are invited to come in to school on Thursday 16th November in non uniform in exchange for a bottle for our Merry Market bottle tombola.

**Aladdin Pantomime in School - Funded by the Friends of Quinta**

The Friends of Quinta have kindly paid for the school to enjoy a little bit of festive spirit in-house. We have a professional stage company performing the pantomime Aladdin to the following year groups: Year 5 & 6 9am - 10am, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 - 10.15am - 11.15am, Year 3 & 4. -1.15pm - 2.15pm. Thank you to the Friends of Quinta for your kind gesture :)



**A Plea for Parent Helpers**

**Christmas Lights at the School** - As you will know, each year The Quinta Primary School adds a little Christmas sparkle to the estate with their festive lights. We were wondering if there are any parent helpers that would be willing to help us put these up during the week commencing 27th November please? If you are available and can help please either call the school office on 01260 221651 or email [admin@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk).

**To set up the Merry The Quinta Wonderland** - Again, please could we ask for you lovely parents to lend us a hand setting up the magical woodland and stalls within the school grounds on Friday 8th December. If you can spare us some time please let the school office on 01260 221651 or email [admin@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk).

## PARKING

You will have noticed that we have recruited some helpers in raising the awareness of road safety. The Congleton Rotary have donated £1000 to school to enable us to purchase 6 of these safety buddies. The feedback has been tremendous.

Our only desire is for all drivers to be considerate about how they arrive, where they park and know that no driver intentionally sets out to harm a person on the road or pavement and yet **1200 children are injured within 500m of school on the roads every year in the UK.** Let us not have a 3rd at The Quinta!



## Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal

Your child should have come home recently with a leaflet regarding the shoebox appeal. We are working with New Life Church to donate shoeboxes filled with gifts. There are several options if you wish to participate:

- Making a box with a shoebox from home and donating it to school for New Life to collect.
- Sending items into school for us to donate to New Life to support them with making their own boxes if you do not wish to create a whole box.
- Asking school for a box to make a shoebox. Please bear in mind that this is only as a last resort as New Life have to pay out of their funds for these flat pack boxes. Alternatively, if you are not making a shoebox yourself but have shoeboxes going spare at home, these can be brought into school for us to give to families who might need one to make their shoebox.

Please could all donations/items/spare shoeboxes be brought into school to Mrs Cope or Ms Stones.

**Boxes will need to be returned between 13th and 20th November** to be picked up by the New Life.



For more information about the Samaritans Purse Shoe Box Appeal [click here](#).



## AS YOU PRAYERFULLY PACK YOUR SHOEBOX GIFT ...

Please remember that your shoebox gift will be an expression of God's love to a child. In fact, it may be the only gift the child receives. So, plan to pack quality items that will last, and don't forget to make it FUN!

**1 SHOEBOX:** Get a standard-size shoebox to pack for a boy or girl. Need shoeboxes? Great preprinted shoeboxes are available on our website.

**5 DONATE £5 PER BOX:** A donation of £5 per box is critical to cover shipping and other project costs. For easiest processing you can give online, or give by cheque or cash using the attached pre-paid envelope. If you use our Follow Your Box feature online, you can also discover the destination of your shoebox!

**2 SPECIAL ITEM:** Select a quality toy such as a doll, football with pump, or cuddly toy to bless a child.

**6 DROP OFF:** Take your shoebox gift to a local drop-off location during National Collection Week, 13-20 November. Visit our website to find one near you.

**3 OTHER GIFTS:** Pack full with other fun toys, personal care items, and school supplies.

**4 PERSONALISE & PRAY:** Include a personal note and photo to delight the heart of a child. Most importantly, pray for the child who will receive your gift.







### Fancy a Christmas night out with friends?

Join us on the Friday 1st December from 6pm until 8pm for our annual Christmas Wreath Making Workshop in conjunction with the Friends of Quinta PTA and the wreath making experts

### Broadleaf Forest Adventures CIC.

This is an adults' only event and a chance for you to have some festive fun with friends. So, roll up your sleeves and set your creative side free making your very own Christmas Wreath while enjoying a glass of prosecco (or non-alcoholic drink) and a mince pie. Festive cheer will be aplenty, along with the professional wreath crafting advice from Kirstie and Shereen from Broadleaf Forest Adventures CIC, and most importantly you'll get a fantastic kit containing the following:

- 1 X 12 inch copper wreath ring
- 1 X wreath binding wire reel
- 10 X mossing pins and stub wire.
- 1 X bunch of FRESH foliage, (conifer, holly, ivy, spruce and other mixed festive foliage)
- 1 X bag of living moss
- 1 X hessian bow
- A mixed selection of pine cones, dried cinnamon sticks and dried fruit slices.

Please note, the lovely ladies at Broadleaf Forest Adventures CIC do ask that you bring a set of kitchen scissors or secateurs so you can really get stuck in.

Tickets for this event are priced at just £35 and they usually go quick. To secure your place please book via [Scopay](#) and let the festivities commence!



JOIN US FOR OUR  
**CHRISTMAS  
WREATH MAKING  
WORKSHOP**  
WITH  
Broadleaf Forest Adventures CIC  
&  
Friends of Quinta

**6-8PM, FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER**

Enjoy a festive adults only evening with friends.  
Roll up your sleeves and create a Christmassy masterpiece including: a 12 Inch copper wreath ring, plentiful wire and pins, fresh foliage, living moss, a selection of pine cones, dried cinnamon sticks and dried fruit slices, and a hessian bow. Advice will be a plenty from our wreath making experts; plus we're providing a glass of prosecco (or alternative) and a mince pie.

**£35 per person. booking & payment via Scopay**

### The CHS Christmas Market

The CHS Christmas Market is back! The festive fun will run from 4-6pm on Friday 1st December - more details to follow but save the date and don't miss out on the chance to enjoy a great evening and stock up on Christmas treats for family, friends and yourself!



**CHS**

**Save the Date**

**Congleton High School  
Christmas Market**

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023  
4:00 - 6:00pm

The perfect chance to pick up gifts and stocking fillers for family and friends (and lots of ways to treat yourself too)!

**Governor Vacancy**

Claire Norburn's (Co-chair of governors / parent governor) term of office is due to expire on 27th November 2023. She is happy to renew for a further term of office. However, if you are interested and would like to apply for this role please contact the school office before Friday 10th November 2023.

**SEND**

**Safeguarding**

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MINECRAFT

AGE RATING

7+

Minecraft is a beloved classic of modern gaming. First released in 2011, this open-ended 'sandbox' game of building and exploration still has over 140 million players who happily return to play it at least once every month. Minecraft has also been utilised for much more than just entertainment: it's sometimes used in schools to teach children coding, and it's also employed as a tool for computer-aided design, which is another valuable skill. Encouraging creativity and problem solving, Minecraft has plenty to offer gamers of all ages, and it's available on almost all video game platforms.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PUBLIC SERVERS

Joining a public network (called a server) lets your child potentially interact with strangers through text chat. Some servers focus on building, while others are dedicated to role-playing – encouraging direct player interaction. Anyone can join public servers and connecting to one is relatively simple. Public server IP addresses (and therefore someone's location) are easy to find with search engines.

### GRIEFING

Some people in Minecraft delight in purposefully damaging or destroying another player's creation. This is called 'griefing' and is a form of bullying: it intentionally spoils someone else's experience in the game by deleting hours of their work and forcing them to start from scratch. Many public servers treat griefing as a severe offence and frequently ban offenders.

### ADDICTIVENESS

Minecraft's gameplay is relatively simple, and the outcome (when a child has built something new, for instance) can be extremely gratifying. This can make the game highly addictive. It's easy to lose track of time while playing Minecraft, causing committed young players to forget about other activities like homework or enjoying family time.

### SCARY ELEMENTS

The visual design and gameplay of Minecraft is purposefully child friendly, so there's nothing too unworldly in the game. However, some of the 'baddies' that can be encountered might prove a little too scary for very young players. In the game, certain enemies come out at night and are accompanied by audio – such as zombie moans and skeleton bone rattles – that may unsettle young ones.

### ADDITIONAL PURCHASES

After initially buying the game, players can make optional extra purchases for cosmetic items and other bonuses. Minecraft Realms is an optional online subscription (requiring regular payments) that lets users run a multiplayer server to play with their friends. Most games consoles also need an active subscription to enable online play – so online gaming can quickly become an expensive hobby.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### RESEARCH CONTENT CREATORS

There are a lot of Minecraft content creators who release helpful videos about the game on YouTube and Twitch. Not all of these, however, are suitable for children. Watching these content creators' channels yourself first is a safe way to find appropriate Minecraft videos to share with your children. This also helps you learn more about the game itself, and how your child plays it.

### 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 lower. This allows you to work together on a long-term project, creating something special without the threat of moaning zombies or creepers damaging your build.

### HOST A PRIVATE SERVER

The easiest way to find a safe server for your child to play on is to make one yourself. Hosting a server prevents strangers from finding it, unless they've been given the necessary joining details. A private server also lets you control who's allowed to enter and – if necessary – to ban someone who shouldn't be there. This is the closest equivalent to parental controls in Minecraft.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

It's easy for the hours to fly by while your child is playing Minecraft, so reminding them to take regular breaks is essential. This is a useful way for them to learn good time management, which they'll benefit from as they get older. It will also teach them to play their favourite games in moderation – limiting addictive behaviour and allowing them to manage their day better.

### TALK ABOUT STRANGERS

At some point in their lives, almost everyone needs to have contact with a stranger online. Talking to your child about online safety, therefore, is essential – as is having a plan in place for dealing with any hostile or difficult strangers. Ensure that your 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.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Goolwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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**Dates**  
[Click here for holiday dates](#)

- Tempest Photography - Class Groups and Year 6 Leavers - 23rd May 2024

**Sporting dates for your Diaries**

**Bee Active**

- Monday 4th December KS2 Sports Explorers
- Monday 5th February KS1 Gymnastics
- Monday 11th March KS2 Inclusive sports and wheelchair basketball
- Monday 15th April KS1 Olympics
- Monday 20th May KS2 Combat Dodgeball

**Skip-hop( last time as Lee is retiring)**

- Tuesday 30th April and Wednesday 1st May 2024

**Watersports**

- Year 3 Thursday June 20th 2024
- Year 4 Wednesday 10th July 2024
- Year 5 Wednesday 19th June 2024
- Year 6 Wednesday 22nd May 2024

**Swimming pool in use 9th-18th July**



**Key Assessment Dates**

Attendance all year round is extremely important for your child's well being and progress however there are some key dates within the year that their attendance is imperative for national assessment, these dates are as follows:

- Key Stage One Phonics Screening Check - w/c 10th June 2024
- Key Stage One SATs - throughout May 2024
- Year 4 Multiplication Check - within the two week period commencing 3rd June 2024
- Key Stage 2 SATs Week - Monday 13th until Thursday 16th May 2024

**The Quinta Senior Leadership Team**

**Who to contact**

Member of	Position	What areas can they support	How to contact/where they can be
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staff		me with?	found
Mr W Sharpe	Headteacher	Escalation of concerns. Any safeguarding concerns.	<a href="mailto:head@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk">head@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk</a>
Mrs L Gratton	Assistant Headteacher	Issues or concerns relating to EYFS and KS1.	<a href="mailto:lgratton@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk">lgratton@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk</a> Teaching in reception.
Ms S Stones	Assistant Headteacher	Issues or concerns relating to KS2. Any safeguarding concerns.	<a href="mailto:sstones@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk">sstones@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk</a> Teaching in Y6.
Mrs K Bernard	Assistant Headteacher	Issues pertaining to special educational needs. Any safeguarding concerns.	<a href="mailto:kbernard@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk">kbernard@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk</a>
Mrs S Hoyle	School Business Manager	Any issues pertaining to the school office, preschool booking.	<a href="mailto:sbm@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk">sbm@thequinta.cheshire.sch.uk</a> In the school office.

Exciting Opportunities

### Get set for Christmas with Artisanity

Artisanity, is a supportive community for local makers, crafters and artists based in Congleton.

Join them at their Christmas Craft Fair at Congleton Town Hall on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 10:30am – 3:30pm.

Alternatively, join them for an evening of shopping, pampering and prosecco at Glebe Farm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 7pm-9pm.

demonstrations · refreshments · shopping · gifts · art · browsing

**ARTISANITY**  
SUPPORTING LOCAL MAKERS

**FREE ENTRY**  
**FREE ENTRY**  
**FREE ENTRY**

# Christmas Craft Fair

Congleton Town Hall  
Sunday 19th November 2023  
10.30am-3.30pm

info@artisanity.co.uk  
artisanity.co.uk

Celebrating our local  
crafters and artists



# GET SET FOR Christmas

BE CHRISTMAS READY:  
SHOPPING, PAMPERING, AND PROSECCO!

AT ARTISANITY

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER  
7PM-9PM



£5 VIP ticket  
with Goody Bag



*"The opportunity to learn  
an instrument offers  
something very special  
that can last a lifetime"*



**INSPIRE  
CREATE  
PERFORM**

# Learn a Musical Instrument at School!



- Outstanding specialist music tuition
- Learn almost any instrument including voice
- Independently rated an "outstandingly effective service" offering "outstanding value"
- Free access to ensembles and performances

**Book a course of lessons here:**



[www.musicforlife.org.uk](http://www.musicforlife.org.uk)  
[admin@musicforlife.org.uk](mailto:admin@musicforlife.org.uk)  
01244 728 922



# Rambert grades



## CREATIVE DANCE WITH SOPHIE

Creative Dance for Early Years is an innovative dance syllabus, created by Rambert Grades. Each dance class will take the children on an imaginative journey with endless themes. An energetic warm up is followed by physical skills development as the children learn structured movement material. Creative intuition is encouraged with a closing creative exploration to dive deep into their imagination. Swimming with whales, flying rockets to the moon or adventuring through the desert- every class is different.

Each session will explore movement in a new way and help to develop physical skills, harness musicality and empower confidence in young children

**WHERE?** The Quinta Primary School.

**WHEN?** - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023 - 5<sup>th</sup> December, 15:20-16:15 every **TUESDAY**.

**WHO?** The club is open to Years 1, 2 & 3.

**HOW MUCH?** The six-week course is £30 per student (£5 per class). This payment will be made in full, upfront, for the duration of the full course. (In the circumstance of an absence, no refunds will be made) **SPACES ARE LIMITED!**

Each child will have the opportunity to work towards taking a Rambert Grades Creative Movers exam, which are a celebration of each student's progress at the end of each grade. Each child is rewarded with a bright fabric badge and a certificate (The next set of exams will be Jan-Feb 2024, following this next term). Children who move through the grades are commended on six qualities: Communication, Teamwork, Generosity, Effort, Listening and Enthusiasm.



To secure your place and process your payment, or for further information, please email [sophiemoores37@gmail.com](mailto:sophiemoores37@gmail.com).

