MIJS

NEWSLETTER

May 2025



KEY DATES

Mon 02/06/2025 - All MIJS Welcome back to Summer 2

Tues 03/06/2025 - Cherry Class - Ducklings Arrive

Fri 06/06/2025 - All MIJS School Uniform Order Cut Off - Please Note: This will be the last delivery before September

WC 02 & 09/06/2025 - Year 4 - Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check

WC 09/06/2025 - Year 1 - Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

Thur 12/06/2025 - All MIJS - North Norfolk News - Someone Special Messages Published

WC 16/06/2025 & 23/06/2025 - Navigating the Wild Project Weeks - Letter to follow

Thur 19/06/2025 - All MIJS - Sports Day - Join us for a picnic on the field followed by an afternoon of events and races

A Note from Mrs Carter...

What a brilliant half term it's been! As we head into the May break, we want to take a moment to celebrate what a fantastic few weeks it's been across the school. There's been a real buzz of excitement as children have thrown themselves into their learning with energy and enthusiasm. Our whole-school Bean to Bar curriculum project has continued to go from strength to strength, with classrooms full of creativity, curiosity and hands-on discovery.



It's been wonderful to see children so engaged, and we're loving watching their knowledge and confidence grow day by day. Our Year 6 children have shown tremendous focus and resilience as they've worked hard in preparation for their SATs. We're so proud of the effort and determination they've shown during this important time.

There's still lots to look forward to after the break too. We'll be trialling our brand-new curriculum projects across the school – keep an eye out for a letter with more details coming home soon. We've also got plenty of outdoor learning planned, making the most of the warmer weather and longer days to explore and learn in exciting new ways.



Learning Spotlight

This term, children across MIJS have embarked on an exciting, chocolate-filled adventure in our whole-school project From Bean to Bar. From Reception to Year 6, classrooms have been alive with curiosity, creativity and rich, purposeful learning that has spanned geography, science, history, English, design and technology.

Children began by unwrapping the journey of chocolate – from the tiny cacao bean nestled deep in tropical rainforests to the final bars on our supermarket shelves. Using maps, globes and atlases, pupils located key cacao-growing regions near the equator and explored the climates and environments that support their growth. This geography learning helped children understand the global nature of trade and where our food comes from.

Across the school, children experimented with chocolate in hands-on investigations – exploring how it melts, cools and transforms. They tested temperature changes, compared chocolate types and designed their own sweet creations, learning about ingredients, packaging and the importance of presentation. In upper key stage 2, pupils took their learning further by discussing sustainability and the environmental impact of chocolate production.

Older pupils explored the challenges faced by cacao farmers and debated fairness in the global food system. Through the lens of Fairtrade, they examined how ethical choices can support better lives and more sustainable farming.

Diary entries, debates, persuasive writing and campaign posters all showcased their deep thinking and growing sense of global citizenship.

Our English curriculum came to life with links to food, flavour and imagination. Children wrote persuasive leaflets inspired by Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, revolting recipes in the style of Roald Dahl, and thank-you letters to cacao farmers. From imaginative fiction to factual explanation, writing was rooted in real experiences and meaningful topics.

Our youngest learners in Cherry Class have had a wonderful term learning all about Growing. They planted wildflower seeds and learnt what plants need to thrive, using language like roots, stem and sprout. Alongside this, they joined in with From Bean to Bar by discovering where cacao trees grow, using globes and maps to spot rainforest regions. Their learning has laid strong foundations in science, geography and early literacy.

This term's project has been a shining example of joined-up, engaging curriculum in action. Children have explored big ideas, built important knowledge and developed a sense of their place in the wider world – all through the joy of learning. We're incredibly proud of the work produced and the thoughtful conversations shared.

FROM CURIOSITY TO CHOCOLATE, THIS HALF TERM HAS BEEN A RICH AND REWARDING JOURNEY FOR ALL.

CHERRY CLASS



This term in Cherry Class, the children have been fully immersed in our exciting topic: Growing! It has been a hands-on, engaging experience that has sparked curiosity and a love for nature.

To kick off our learning, the children planted some wildflower seeds. They've shown wonderful responsibility by remembering to water their pots regularly and checking on their progress. There was great excitement as the first green shoots started to appear. The children have been observing and talking about the changes they see, using language like "roots," "stem," and "sprout." It's been a fantastic way to learn about plant life cycles in a very real and tangible way.

We've also enjoyed a range of lovely books that support our growing theme, including Jack and the Beanstalk, The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle and Oliver's Vegetables. These stories have helped us understand more about how things grow and they've inspired us to create our own drawings and write sentences during Drawing Club.







In our creative area, we've used paints and collage to make colourful flower pictures, and we've measured plants using cubes in maths. We've also had lots of discussions about what plants need to grow and how we can help look after living things.

As part of the whole-school From Bean to Bar project, we've also been learning about where chocolate comes from. We used globes and maps to find out where cacao trees grow and talked about the hot, wet weather they need to survive. The children were fascinated to discover that chocolate starts as a bean growing inside a pod on a tree!

We're so proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been—and we can't wait to see our wildflowers bloom in full!

WILLOW CLASS

From Bean to Bar or as the children have decided from chocolate to tummies!

What a busy but fun few weeks we've had since coming back after the Easter holidays!

For the past three weeks we have been learning all about chocolate – not just eating it, but finding out where it comes from! To develop our learning, we became young cacao farmers, discovering that chocolate begins with the cacao tree which takes between 4-6 years to grow! We tapped into our drama skills to act out the cacao bean trees growing, the farmers tending and harvesting the bean pods and selling the chocolate as shopkeepers.Using our senses, we touched and smelled real cacao, discovered the best ways to melt chocolate and made maps to show where it grows. This project made us appreciate the hard work that goes into our favourite chocolates which led us to creating thank you cards for the cacao bean farmers.

Our English lessons have been intriguing and food based too. We've been reading Roald Dahl and writing our own revolting recipes, just like the ones in his books - although we have learnt we do prefer a classic chocolate cake! We used our imagination and drawing skills to invent the most disgusting chocolate recipes you can imagine.

We've had such a lovely start to the term and we're so proud of how hard everyone is working. We can't wait to see what adventures the next few weeks will bring!







MAPLE CLASS



What a fantastic start to the term Maple class have had!
Over the past few weeks, our class has been diving into the delicious world of chocolate — not just tasting it, but exploring where it comes from and how it's made. Our project, 'From Bean to Bar' has taken us on a global and sensory journey.

We became cacao farmers, learning that chocolate starts its life on the cacao tree, which can take 4–6 years to grow. Through role play and drama, we acted out the stages of the chocolate-making process — from growing and harvesting the cacao pods to selling the final product in shops. We even got to touch and smell real cacao beans!



We used our geography skills to map out where cacao grows around the world, and we carried out science investigations to discover the best ways to melt chocolate. This hands-on learning helped us understand just how much effort goes into producing our favourite sweet treats. Inspired by this, we created thank-you cards for the hardworking cacao farmers.



In English, we've been taking inspiration from Roald Dahl's 'revolting recipes' and used them to create our own chocolate recipe. During this, we've practised writing skills, expanded our vocabularies, and let our imaginations run wild.

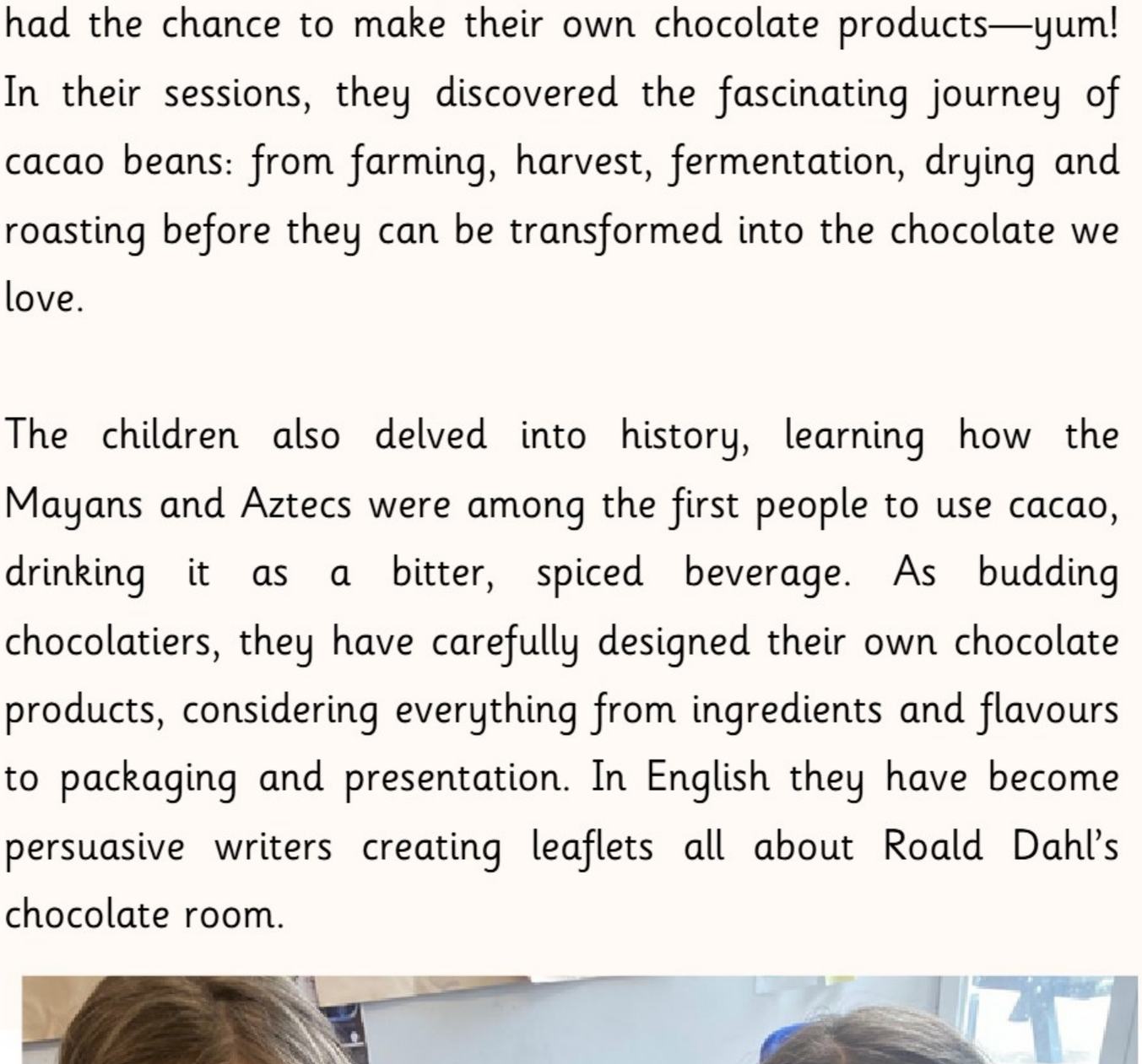
It's been a busy few weeks full of curiosity, creativity, and collaboration. We're incredibly proud of how engaged and enthusiastic the children have been, and we're looking forward to exploring our next topic!

OAK
CLASS

Oak class has been on a delicious adventure, exploring the science behind chocolate! They've been learning about the factors that impact the speed at which chocolate sets and even had the chance to make their own chocolate products—yum! In their sessions, they discovered the fascinating journey of cacao beans: from farming, harvest, fermentation, drying and roasting before they can be transformed into the chocolate we love.

The children also delved into history, learning how the Mayans and Aztecs were among the first people to use cacao, drinking it as a bitter, spiced beverage. As budding chocolatiers, they have carefully designed their own chocolate products, considering everything from ingredients and flavours to packaging and presentation. In English they have become persuasive writers creating leaflets all about Roald Dahl's chocolate room.













ROWAN CLASS

Rowan Class has had a truly term exploring all things chocolate! From discovering where chocolate comes from to designing their very own sweet creations, the children have immersed themselves in a rich, cross-curricular project that has been both educational and delicious!

Our journey began with a deep dive into the origins of chocolate. The class learned about the fascinating life cycle of the cacao bean—starting as a tiny seed, growing into a majestic cacao tree, and producing bitter pods that are eventually transformed into the smooth, sweet chocolate we know and love. We explored the geography of where cacao is grown, the science behind chocolate production, and the history of how chocolate became a global treat. The children were captivated by each stage of the process and asked fantastic questions throughout!



As part of the project, every child created two exciting pieces of work. One focused on sharing their knowledge and understanding of chocolate's journey, which included diagrams, research, and creative presentations. The second allowed them to let their imaginations run wild as they designed, made, and enjoyed their own marvellous chocolate creations—there were chocolates, tantalisingly tasty toppings, and even themed packaging and advertising ideas!

We also made strong links to our English work. The children used persuasive writing techniques to create vibrant, imaginative leaflets encouraging people to visit Willy Wonka's magical Chocolate Factory. They thought carefully about audience, language, and presentation, producing some truly eye-catching and convincing work.





This chocolate-themed project has been a brilliant way to combine learning across subjects while keeping things fun and hands-on. Rowan Class has shown fantastic curiosity, creativity, and teamwork throughout—and, of course, we've all enjoyed a few well-earned chocolatey treats along the way!

LARCH CLASS

Larch Class have been diving deep into their brilliant project, From Bean to Bar. In the first week, the children explored where chocolate comes from, who grows it, and the importance of choosing Fairtrade chocolate. They were fascinated to learn how Fairtrade supports cocoa farmers, ensuring they are paid fairly and can provide better lives for their families.

In the second week, the class split into groups to take their learning further. Each group took on different creative and thoughtful tasks, including creating a Fair Chocolate Code, researching a real Fairtrade chocolate brand and writing a fact file about their business practices, and designing an eye-catching Fairtrade chocolate wrapper that would appeal to customers.





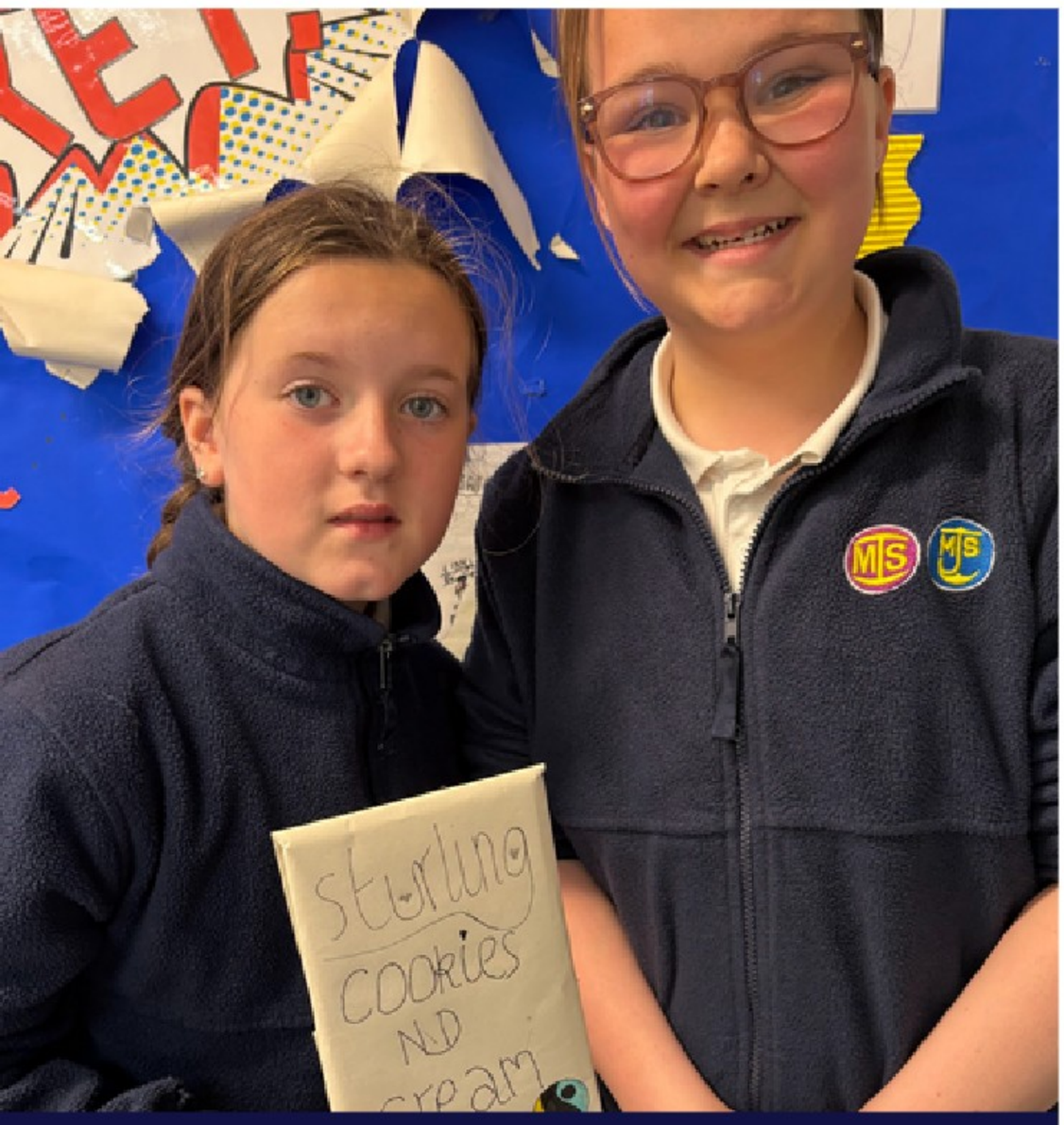
This final week has seen the children working independently, with projects that have focused on citizenship, independence, and collaboration. They've created campaign posters, written debate scripts, plotted timelines showing the journey of a cacao bean from farm to factory, written diary entries from the perspective of a cacao farmer, performed role-play interviews, and even planned a Fair Chocolate Awareness Day. Larch Class have really enjoyed this topic and have learned a great deal along the way —well done to all!



We also want to take a moment to recognise how incredibly hard our Year 6 pupils have worked in preparation for their SATs. Miss Hedge is so proud of every single one of you—not just for the effort you've put in this year, but for everything you've achieved over the past six years at MIJS. Your determination, resilience and positivity have been outstanding.

It's important to remember that SATs can only measure a small part of who you are. They don't capture creativity, kindness, imagination, ability to be a supportive friend, or your sense of humour—and in all these things, you shine brightly. Whatever the outcome, you are already brilliant, and you should be very proud of yourselves.

REDWOOD CLASS



In Redwood Class, we've been having a blast with our "From Bean to Bar" project! In the first week, we kicked things off by exploring where chocolate comes from, who grows it, and why choosing Fairtrade chocolate really matters. The class was fascinated to learn about how Fairtrade supports cocoa farmers, helping them get paid fairly and improve their lives and their families' futures.

In week two, the class worked in groups to take their learning to the next level. They got creative, designing a Fair Chocolate Code, researching a Fairtrade chocolate brand and putting together a fact file about its business practices, and even creating their own chocolate wrappers to attract customers!

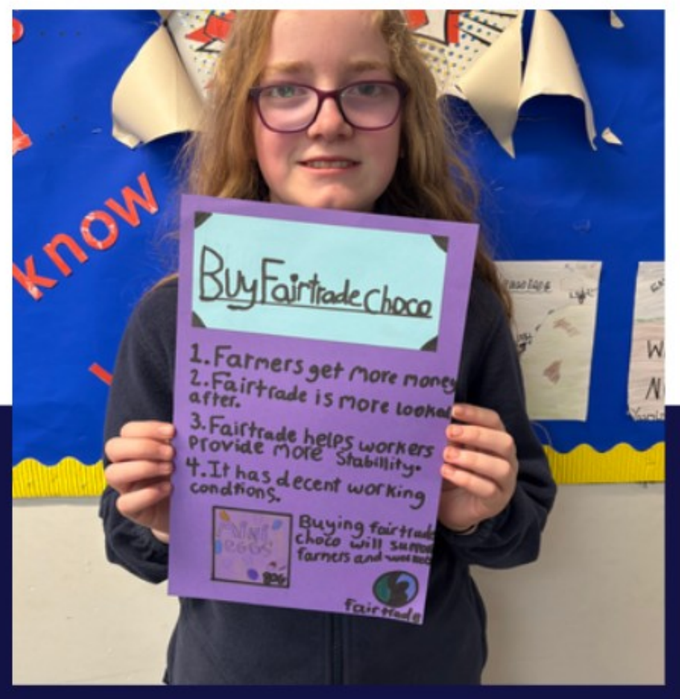
This week, they've really put their skills to the test, working independently on projects focused on citizenship, independence, and collaboration. From creating campaign posters, writing debate scripts, and plotting the journey of a cacao bean from farm to factory, to writing diary entries from the perspective of a cacao farmer, performing role-play interviews, and planning a Fair Chocolate Awareness Day—Redwood Class have really gone above and beyond. They've enjoyed every minute of it and learned a lot too—well done, everyone!

We also want to shout out to our Year 6s, who've worked so hard in preparation for their SATs. We are super proud of every single one of you, not just for the effort you've put in this year, but for everything you've accomplished over the last six years. Your hard work, resilience, and positive attitude have been amazing.









Together We Celebrate

World Day for Cultural Diversity is a time to celebrate the many ways people live, speak, eat, dress, tell stories and come together as families and communities.

Every one of us brings something unique to the world around us. Our traditions, beliefs, languages and daily routines may be different – but all are important, and all deserve to be respected.

This day reminds us how powerful it is when we listen, learn from each other and take pride in who we are.

You might like to talk about at home:

- Something that's special or meaningful to your family – it could be a food, celebration, language or memory
- How we show respect when someone does something differently to us
- Why it's good to ask questions and be curious about the world
- What makes your family feel proud or connected

When children grow up understanding that difference is something to be valued, they become more thoughtful, open and kind.

If your family would like to share something special in a future newsletter or school celebration, we'd love to hear from you – just speak to your class teacher or the office.





Online Safety

Helping you stay informed about what your child might be accessing online

As children grow more confident with technology, they often become curious about games and apps that older siblings or friends are using. One of the most commonly mentioned platforms among primary-aged children at the moment is Roblox.

Roblox is a hugely popular online game platform where users can play and create games. While many of the games appear colourful and child-friendly, the platform is not designed specifically for young children and does carry some risks if not used with the right settings in place.

Things to be aware of:

- In-game chat: Children can talk to others while playing, including strangers, unless chat settings are restricted
- User-created content: Games are made by other players, and not all are age-appropriate
- Purchases and pressure: Children may be encouraged to spend Robux (the platform's currency) on upgrades, items or status

Tips for safer use at home:

- Set up a parent-controlled account: Use your child's correct age so safety features are applied automatically
- Turn off the chat: This can be done in the settings to avoid unknown contact
- Play together when possible: This gives you a clearer sense of what they're seeing and how it works
- Talk regularly: Make sure your child knows they can come to you if something worries or confuses them online