



Newsletter No. 3

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been a delightful few weeks watching the children make such good progress since we came back from the summer. I would like to thank you for your support in this, including reading at home every night and supporting with spellings. The year started really positively for attendance with the school percentage way over 96%. Please keep this up! We know the impact good attendance has on children achieving well and being happy at school. If you feel you need support with attendance or punctuality, please speak to your child's class teacher. On Monday, children will be having a Harvest celebration led by Reverend Waite and the children from gardening club will be showing their home-made bread from the wheat they grew in the school allotment.

Parking

Please could I remind all families about the need to park considerately outside school and in the local area. The school has received a number of complaints about anti-social parking. Please ensure you are staying off the school zig-zags and are not parking in private spaces. We have close contact with Cambridgeshire's road safety teams and they will send wardens and enforcement officials if they continue to receive complaints.

Website

This week, we have added lots of new information to our website and tried to make it more useful for parents/carers and visitors who look at it. With this in mind, we have updated the calendar tab with this year's events and have added additional information for you to look at. We will continue to add further information to the website as the weeks move forward. If you have any ideas about what you would like added to the website, please let us know by emailing the school office.

School Council and House Captains:

Congratulations to all our new House Captains and School Councillors. We are looking forward to seeing them get started representing the school and solving the big issues! The school councillors have already had their first meeting with Mrs Osborn and have already suggested some great ideas.

Online Safety:

In the next few newsletters, we will be sending out some online safety information. It is really important that adults around children know how to keep them safe online and are aware of what children are watching and playing. Page 3 of this newsletter will focus on a key area for online safety each week. This week there is some information about what parents and carers need to know about Roblox.

Key dates for your diary:

Event	Date
Harvest Assembly (Just children)	Monday 14 th October
Individual and Sibling Photos	Wednesday 16 th October
Parent Consultations (In Person)	Tuesday 22 nd October (8am – 11am)
Parent Consultations (Zoom)	Thursday 24 th October (3:30pm – 7:00pm)
Half Term	28 th October – 1 st November
Year 4 Class Assembly	Friday 22 nd November @ 9:15am
Staff Professional Day (School closed to children)	Friday 29 th November
Reception Nativity Performance	Tuesday 10 th and Wednesday 11 th December Times TBC
Christmas Service at St. Mary's Church (Parents/Carers Invited)	Tuesday 17 th December Yr6 + Reception – 9.30 – 10am Yr1, Y2 + Doves – 10.30 – 11am Swallows, Yr4 + yr5 – 1.30 – 2pm
Year 5 Class Assembly	Thursday 13 th February @ 9:15am
Year 3 Class Assembly	Thursday 27 th March @ 9:15am
Year 1 Class Assembly	Wednesday 21 st May @ 9:15am
Year 2 Class Assembly	Tuesday 8 th July @ 9:15am

Have a wonderful weekend,



Mr Matt Brough
Interim Headteacher

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RATING
PEGI
7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to interact online (including a group chat function), which could expose children to various risks. Scammers often attempt to trick young Roblox fans into exchanging their paid-for items for something which turns out to be of much lesser value – or something they never even receive. The in-game chat has some filters, but it isn't perfect: players can still send unpleasant messages, while predators can reach out to children directly.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money – usually a one-off payment. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some lobbies, therefore, will put children at greater risk of contact from strangers than others.

ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODER is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this doesn't usually deter such people. Some player-built Roblox levels have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind, and this will not always be obvious.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some extra costs. These are usually indicated with the symbol for 'Robux' (the in-game currency). Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game using real money. People can also buy extra Robux to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and it's also possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for younger players, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. Keep in mind that the game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If a child has friends to play Roblox with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, the player who owns the server could invite other people – who might not be child friendly – to join them. Additionally, private servers can be set up in such a way that any player on the host's friends list can join, so it's important to discuss who children are playing with.

MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that two-factor authentication is enabled on any payment accounts also makes it harder for children to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, children must learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's okay to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger – can help them understand how to communicate more safely with other people online.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (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.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College