

## Headlines

As we begin the new term and school year, one of the lovely features of our school is the relationship that the oldest children in Year 6 and the pupils in Reception class. Each young child has one or two 'buddies', who comes to visit them and spend time getting to know them. They will come to read each week too. Below you can see just a few of the photos of this – we look forward to them becoming close friends over the year.

There have been after school clubs starting this week and the children have enjoyed trying new activities and getting back into action in their favourites like gymnastics, football and drama.

Today, we have welcomed Helen Goodman from *Theatre on the River* with many pupils beginning sessions in speech and drama, Helen had a great first day and said, "Years 1, 2 and 3 children explored various characters from Roald Dahl's 'Fantastic Mr Fox' and the C.S Lewis classic 'The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe.' We looked at how to use our face, voice and body language to convey various emotions during performances. Year 4 explored some scenes from 'Evacuee,' Year 5 looked at 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and Year 6 delved into duologues from 'His Dark Materials.' Years 4 to 6 explore character in quite a lot of detail for their Speech and Drama course, so this was a wonderful start to the new LAMDA year." We certainly look forward to hearing about their progress this term.

In assemblies and class time, we have talked about this historic week that we are living through as we mourn the passing of our queen and look ahead to the reign of King Charles III – we even sang our new national anthem today. There has been so much going on and it is fascinating to hear the children's views and thoughts as we follow these historic events. Finally on Monday, we will all have the opportunity to see the Queen's funeral at Westminster Abbey as we participate in the public holiday. We wish all our families the very best for the coming days.

Mr Leigh Hardie, Head

## Stars of the Week



Squirrels – Zaha

Woodpeckers – Olufewa

Owls – Amelie

Ash – William

Maple – Christina

Birch – Aarav

Oak – Imogen

Drama – Emilian Music – Gabriel

Swimming – Julia Sport – Verity & Kushbu

French – Gabrielle, Bubbles, Dylan



House winners

Haig





Back to Walcouthians for football



Pokemon crazy



Year 6 with their buddies



Assembly for Early Years



Reading with buddies



LAMDA coaching begins this week



Fruit art in Year 2



Lego Robotics club



Story Club is back



Year 5 science





## Dates for diaries

(updates in red)

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September Reception Parents Welcome (6pm)**

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September – U9 football and netball matches against Oakwood away (ko 2pm)

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September - Macmillan Coffee afternoon (3.15pm)

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October – Year 2 Ecology Visit**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Year 3 class assembly (8.50pm)**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Year 4 trip to Battle Abbey**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Year 4 class assembly (8.50pm)**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Year 4 Viking day

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Year 5/6 Science Museum trip

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival Holy Trinity Church (1pm)

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Break up – Half term returning Monday 31<sup>st</sup>**

**Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November - Flu inoculations – 9am - 12pm**

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November - U11 football vs Danesfield Manor away (ko 2.30pm)

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Individual School Photos

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Year 2 class assembly (8.50pm)**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Year 4 trip to Natural History Museum

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November – ILG U11 Netball Tournament

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November – U11 football and netball vs Oakwood away (ko 2pm)

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November – Parents' Evening

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Year 6 class assembly (8.50pm)**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Parents' Evening

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Year 1 class assembly (8.50pm)**

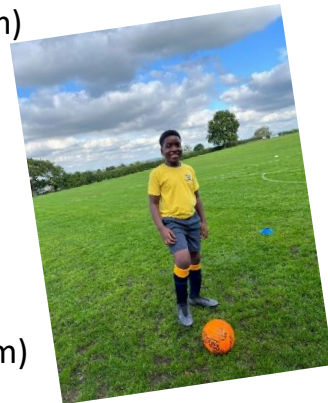
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Music Soloists Concert

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Year 5 class assembly (8.50pm)**

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> & Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – KS1 Christmas production (2.30pm)

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December – PSA Christmas Fair**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Carol Service





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

PEGI RATING  
**7+**

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

## CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as scam links or general hostility – 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. 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 games and servers, therefore, will put children more at 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 usually doesn't deter Oders. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

## IN-APP PURCHASES

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

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### 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 your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the 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. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

### PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game 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 you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

### DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to 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 OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

## 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.



**National Online Safety**

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/2133343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>  
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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