



From the Head's Desk

Autumn Term 1, Week 4
Friday 29th September 2023



Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your generosity in donating Harvest Gifts. I know that your kindness will be greatly appreciated by the Food Bank and the many children, parents and families who they support.

I hope that you enjoyed our Harvest Celebration in the church this afternoon, it was lovely to see so many of you there, sharing in the children's Harvest Worship.

As ever there has been a lot of exciting learning happening in classes this week. I have been particularly impressed with how keen the children are to share their learning with me when I go into lessons. The sense of pride and growth in resilience that the children demonstrate is fantastic.

Rabbits class continue to settle well into school and have been enjoying exploring their local environment this week – they even found a toad this morning! I hope that you enjoy seeing some of the things that they have been doing this week.



Celebrations!

ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATES

Rabbit Class: Amelia

Hedgehog Class: Ellen

Badger Class: Carter

Otter Class: Harry.G

Greatest Showman: Sienna.D

Accelerated Reader: Thomas

UPCOMING DATES

Monday 2nd October

Year 5/6 trip to the River Stour (Aqualab)

Monday 16th October

Autumn Sports Event

Last Day of Term

Tuesday 17th October – Friday 18th October

School Closed to children (Staff Development Days)

Monday 23rd October – Friday 27th October

Half Term Holiday

Monday 30th October

Children return to school

Club Reminders

Breakfast club runs daily from 7:45am. Please book your child's place in advance via the office.

After School Clubs are now full, apart from a Thursday. Please ensure that children attend the full session and are collected on time at the end.

Monday - Archery
Tuesday - Hockey
Wednesday - Dodgeball
Thursday - Basketball
Friday – Running/Athletics

Attendance

As you are aware, we continue to focus on improving whole school attendance and tackling rates of persistent absence (children who have less than 90% attendance). We are monitoring attendance on a weekly basis and will be re-issuing our attendance policy so that you are all aware of the expectations around attendance.

The target for attendance is **95%**.

Our school attendance figures for the year to date are as follows:

Whole school – 93.4%

Rabbits – 97.4%

Hedgehogs – 94.7%

Badgers – 93.6%

Otters – 91%



This week in worship, we have continued our theme of growing and have been thinking of how we can flourish as individuals, but also how we can come together and flourish.

What can you do in our community to help us flourish together?



School Meals

As you are aware our school meal provider have moved over to an online ordering and payment service. As such **all** meals must be pre-booked and paid for in advance. This means that every child having a school dinner must have this booked on Blue Runner **by 9am** each day. If meals are not booked, then the kitchen will not cook a meal.

Please ensure that you read communications from the office regarding this.

Thank you for attending our harvest celebration this afternoon. We hope that you enjoyed sharing this special worship.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

School and future success starts with good attendance!



Remember - your education is important - don't miss out!

Online Safety

Following on from our theme of age ratings and gaming last week, I have shared a poster with some useful advice about the popular online gaming platform 'Roblox'. I do hope you find this useful.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

PEGI RATING
7+

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.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.



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