

Caring for each other as we live, learn and grow in God's love...

Friday 23rd September 2022

Meeting - supporting your child in Year 6

Friday 30th September 10-11am. We will be holding a meeting in school next Friday for parents / carers about how you can best support your child during Year 6.

Diary dates:

- Sacred Heart and St John Bosco Mass: 9:30am every Sunday
- Friday 30th September - Year 6 Liturgy 9am (Parents / family welcome)
- Year 6 meeting will follow mass.

Our new prayer garden

The groundwork is complete on our new prayer garden. We'll be adding a splash of colour with shrubs, flowers and a statue in the coming days.



Play-leaders

Our Year 6 play-leaders are taking their duties very seriously and are playing with children across the school. They help organise games and show the children how to play nicely together.



School Uniform

Thank you to the people who have handed in such good quality pre-worn school uniform this term. We have a good stock available at the office for people to take.

Please remember to pop in and help us to re-use and recycle these garments. It is so much better for the environment!

Earrings cannot be worn for PE. Please remove them before coming to school on PE days. If they cannot be removed as ears have recently been pierced then a modified task will be set for that child during the PE lesson concerned.

Fingernails should be of a reasonably short length. Acrylic nails, no matter how beautiful, are not permitted in school at any time as are a health and safety risk during playtimes as well as PE.

Wellbeing

If you're looking for activities to support your children's wellbeing, try some of the ideas below. They encourage children to think about their achievements, talents, relationships, diet, sleep and activity, as well as the world and people around them!

1. Have a phone, video or in-person conversation with a person you haven't spoken to in a while. Ask them how they are. What have they been doing recently? Share what you have been learning about recently and tell them about events in your life.
2. Write a letter to a friend, telling them about things that have been going well for you recently. Could you include some photos or draw a picture for them?
3. Think of a gift that you could give to somebody. Can you draw or make something that will make them smile?

NSPCC Speak out. Stay safe programme

I am pleased to tell you that this term we will be participating in the NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. online programme. This consists of an online assembly and supporting classroom based activities. Speak out. Stay safe. is a safeguarding programme available to all primary schools in the UK and Channel Islands. It aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse in a child friendly way. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a trusted adult or Childline.

In the online assembly, the Speak out. Stay safe. messages are delivered in a fun and interactive way with the help of their mascot Buddy as well as special guest appearances from Ant and Dec. We have studied the content of the materials and are extremely confident that they are appropriate for primary-school-aged children. By the end of the programme, we're convinced children will feel empowered – knowing how they can speak out and stay safe. If you would like to know more about the Speak out. Stay safe. programme you can find information on the NSPCC website:

www.nspcc.org.uk/speakout



Congratulations!



reading  plus



COMING SOON



Stars of the week!

Online safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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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Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-joining-virtual-parties-for-tnt>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>