



We are very happy to begin the Summer Term at St John's and have so much to look forward to. Children have been working very hard as usual and there has been a lot of excitement as each class begins their new Topic theme. Reception have produced amazing artwork inspired by the work of Henry Matisse, Year 1 have used their drama and oracy skills to act out scenes from the text 'Grandad's Island' and Year 2 have been on a school site walk to make a sense map for Geography. In Year 3, children became the teachers at our Come & Share when they taught their families the art skills they learnt in the Spring Term. Year 4 achieved their CREST Awards (<https://www.crestawards.org/>) by accomplishing a range of challenges in outdoor learning over recent weeks and Year 5 have also been super scientists by investigating which materials are soluble. Year 6 explored the Gospel section of the Big Frieze in RE, searching for the symbolism in the artwork and then creating their own joint artwork about Jesus' ministry. As a whole school, we relaunched our house point system and we will have a fortnightly focus with all school staff watching out for children trying their hardest. Our first school challenge is all about showing good manners and we collected lots of ideas in Monday's worship about how we can shine by saying thank you, please and sorry, and being courteous and polite to others. We will reveal the winning houses in the newsletter each week and we are already impressed with the teamwork we can see.

Congratulations to our Maths, Reading and Star of the Week award winners this week!



Congratulations to Seren, Alaia, Harry, Caiden, Harry, Evanee, Evelyn, Nathaniel, Livia, Sunni, Reuben, Aaryan, Emmy, Esther, Ella, Jack, Harper, Holt, Edison, Elizabeth, Elijah, Bube, Duke, Nathan, Annie, Martha, Emma, Imogen, Lucy, James and Sebastian. We are all so proud of you!



Dates for your diaries

Monday 15 th April	
Tuesday 16 th April	
Wednesday 17 th April	
Thursday 18 th April	7.30pm: PA meeting at school – new members are very welcome to come along and hear more about joining the PA or about volunteering to support fundraising and events.
Friday 19 th April	CCFC celebration day! Wear Sky Blue or non-uniform if you would like to. 9.00: Celebration Worship – please join us to celebrate together 10.00: Mental Health in Schools Team coffee morning – Anxiety
Monday 22 nd April	
Tuesday 23 rd April	9.00: Year 3 leading values worship – Teamwork
Wednesday 24 th April	Book Fair delivered to St John's for one week – available after school
Thursday 25 th April	
Friday 26 th April	9.00: Celebration Worship – please join us to celebrate together
Monday 29 th April	
Tuesday 30 th April	Pm: Year 4 Relaxation session led by NHS
Wednesday 1 st May	
Thursday 2 nd May	
Friday 3 rd May	9.00: Celebration Worship – please join us to celebrate together
Monday 6 th May	May Day Bank Holiday – school closed
Tuesday 7 th May	
Wednesday 8 th May	
Thursday 9 th May	
Friday 10 th May	9.00: Celebration Worship – please join us to celebrate together
Monday 13 th May	Year 6 SATs week begins



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 nationalcollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

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, grieblers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others - such as general hostility - while predators can reach out to children directly.

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.

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.

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, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

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 genuine friends who they 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 others safely in the digital world.

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-70-of-us-kids-are-playing-virtual-parades-for-kids>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

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