

Welcome Back

Start of Term 5 Newsletter

Welcome Back from the Easter Break!

We hope you had a wonderful Easter break filled with joy and relaxation. As we return to school, we are excited to welcome you and your children back for what promises to be an enriching and productive Term 5.

Term 5 brings with it a wealth of exciting learning opportunities for our children. From engaging lessons in the classroom to school trips. It also brings the statutory assessment period for Year 2 and Year 6. The well-being of our children remains a top priority during this time.

Online Safety

In today's digital age, where the internet is an integral part of our lives, ensuring online safety for our children is paramount. Parents play a crucial role in guiding their children through the complexities of the online world. It's imperative that parents engage in open discussions with their children about safe internet practices from an early age. These conversations should cover topics such as the importance of safeguarding personal information, identifying and avoiding online risks, and understanding the implications of online behaviour- all of which we discuss in School. Equally important is the need for parents to actively monitor their child's online activities. By staying informed about the websites they visit, the people they interact with, and the content they consume, parents can better protect their children from potential dangers such as cyberbullying and inappropriate content.

As a School we try to support parents with our online safety page with guides on the most popular games and apps <https://lenham.kent.sch.uk/about-us/online-safety/>



Up and coming dates

This Term:

17.4.24– Class Photos

19.4.24– Year 1 Trip

24.2.24– Year R Trip

29.4.24– Year R vision and hearing checks

3.5.24– Class 1 assembly

15.5.24 Class 4 assembly

16.5.24 Year 3 Trip

Term 6:

7.6.24 Safety in action Year 6

28.6.24 Sports Day (weather permitting)

2.7.24 Big dance for Year 1 and 2

10.7.24 Big sing for Year 1 and 2

10.7.24 Year 6 residential

12.7.24 INSET Day

15.7.24 Move on up week

Next academic Year

INSET 2nd and 3rd September

If you have any questions please contact the office and we will happily help– office@lenham.kent.sch.uk

Mrs McCluskey



ONLINE FAIR PLAY

The Dos and Don'ts of Online Conduct

Alongside individual skill, impressive teamwork and some truly epic matches, one of the most enjoyable things about this summer's European football championships has been the sense of sportsmanship and fair play. Players have competed fiercely, but they've (mostly) remembered that they're representing their country – and that bad behaviour, dangerous play or outright cheating tends to last in people's memories for a long time after tournaments are over. The same is true of how we act online – one error of judgement or loss of control might only take a second, but can have results that are difficult to forget. Instead, just like the heroes of the Euros, we should aim for people to see us and feel proud and inspired. So, in a five-a-side line-up (with five "dos" and five "don'ts"), here are our top tips for playing fair online.



FAIR PLAY



1 Organise your defence

Use strong passwords to protect your personal information, accounts and data. A trusted adult, like a teacher or a relative, can help you choose one that's easy for you to remember but hard for anyone else to guess.



2 Keep possession

Only share personal information online with people you know well, like friends and family. A trusted adult will be able to help you change your online privacy settings so strangers can't find things out about you.



3 Use teamwork

Before you use a device or the first time or download a new app, always check with a trusted adult. They'll be able to check if it's safe for you to use and make sure the privacy settings are right for you.



4 Be respectful

Treat people online like you would treat them in real life. Remember your manners and be polite and kind in your posts, comments and messages.



5 Catch attackers offside

If someone is trying to bully you online, a trusted adult can help you to gather evidence and report that person to the authorities. You should also tell a trusted adult if you see anything online that makes you feel worried, upset, frightened or sad.



FOUL PLAY



1 Don't ignore possible danger

Never accept a friend request from a stranger. If somebody you don't know tries to contact you online, tell a trusted adult straight away.



2 Don't lose control & retaliate

Although it can be tempting, it's best not to respond if someone attempts to bully you online or sends you hurtful messages. Tell a trusted adult what happened, and then block the person from contacting you again in future.



3 Don't hurt people deliberately

It's important to behave online just like you would in real life. Don't post anything that can make you look like a bad person, because the things we put online can stay there for a long time.



4 Don't cheat your way to victory

Don't copy another person's work that you found online or pretend that it's yours. This is called plagiarism and can get you into a lot of trouble.



5 Don't play for extra time

It can be easy to spend too much time online. Instead, take a break to go outside for some fresh air and exercise. Not using your device just before bed will also help you get a good night's sleep so you can be fresh and focused the next day.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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NationalOnlineSafety



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Most of this guide is at the discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 01.07.2021

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, griefers 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.



#WakeUpWednesday

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