



29th September 2023

Weekly Updates

Our children have had a very busy first few weeks at school.

If you would like more information about what your child has been learning, each week our teachers write a 'Weekly Updates' for their year group summarising what has been learnt in class and how you can help with their learning at home.

These are uploaded by the end of the day every Friday on our school website under the 'Our Learning Tab' where there is a separate page for each year group.

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Spotlight On.... Our Library

A huge THANK YOU! to the PTA for their kind contribution of funds towards buying books for our school library at the end of last term.

The children were very eager to visit the library on their return to school at the start of this year and took great delight in the exciting new titles they could choose to borrow. They were keen to share the books with each other, discussing the things they enjoyed about their choice whilst recommending them to each other.



We hope you have also enjoyed sharing these books with your children at home too. At Boorley Park we believe in fostering the love of reading in every child. With this in mind, we will continue to invest in the growth of our library, sparking imagination, curiosity and enjoyment in all of our children. Look out for our Book Fair in November and other book-related events we are planning for later in the year.

All classes have a weekly library visit where they can exchange their books. It is really important that books are returned or rescanned on time, as a book not returned is unable to be enjoyed by other children and depletes our stock. Polite reminders will be sent for overdue books allowing a reasonable time for return. However, if the book is lost or deliberately damaged, a charge will need to be made to replace the book.

We thank you for your continued support in reading at home with your children, sharing your enthusiasm and excitement for reading—it's contagious.

"Everyone's a reader; some just haven't found the right book yet".

Our Assembly Theme This Week

In assembly on Monday, we introduced the children to the 'Walktober' initiative being run by Hampshire County Council, encouraging all pupils, parents and staff to get moving to help improve our wellbeing, our community and our planet.

We explored how active and sustainable travel can help our wellbeing, improve our community and support the planet—the children shared lots of good ideas for the positive differences walking, scooting and cycling can all have.



There are four challenges - one for each week in October and a bonus challenge for the last two days - for the children to complete. Paper copies of the challenge card were sent home with the children this week. The aim is for pupils to complete the challenge card, showing what they did to achieve each challenge. All completed challenge cards will be entered into the county-wide competition to win a range of prizes. You can either complete the paper copy of the challenge card and return it to the school office by Friday 10th November or fill it in online at myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober. Further information was included in the email sent out on Thursday morning.

Individual Photographs

You will have received a proof of your child's individual photograph this week. Please follow the instructions on the card to order directly from our photographer.

Cycling and Scooting

Please can we ask that all adults and children dismount from scooters and bicycles when entering the school grounds and walk around to classrooms.

The path alongside the kitchen for KS1 and KS2 is very narrow and we have had a number of near misses with both adults and children riding scooters and bicycles on the school grounds.

We are aware there is a lot of congestion at the back of the school—we are exploring ways that this can be eased as the school continues to grow.



Year 4 Dodgeball Festival

On Tuesday, six of our Year 4s attended the first sports event of the school year. It was an exciting event where the children showcased their teamwork and determination. They played with great enthusiasm and managed to win two games, which filled them with pride. As a school, we can't wait for more children to have the chance to compete in future sporting events.



The PTA would like to thank you all for supporting our Bag2School fundraising event this morning.

We raised £479.50 towards school funds.

BOORLEY PARK PTA PRESENTS

KS2 MOVIE NIGHT

Thursday 12th October 4.30pm - 6.15pm

£3.50 per child - includes a Hot Dog, Drink and Popcorn.

Payments are made via Parentpay and the last date for payment is Monday 9th October.

The next PTA Meeting is on Wednesday 4 October, online at 8pm.

Everyone is welcome, whether you're an existing PTA member, interested in joining the PTA, or just want to find out what we've got planned for the year.

Please contact boorleyparkpta@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Thank you,
Jade (PTA Secretary)

Dates for Your Diaries—2023-2024

Whole School

Autumn Term 2023

- Friday 29th September—Bag-2-School for the PTA (non uniform day)
- Monday 2nd October—Flu Vaccines
- Thursday 12th October—4:30pm-6:15pm—PTA Film Night for KS2 Pupils
- Friday 13th October—INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
- Monday 16th October—3:30pm—7pm-Parents' Evening
- Thursday 19th October—3:30pm—5:30pm—Parents' Evening
- Friday 20th October—Last Day of Autumn 1 Half Term
- Monday 23rd—Friday 27th October—Half Term
- Monday 30th October—First Day of Autumn 2 Half Term
- Wednesday 15th—Monday 20th November – Book Fayre in School
- Friday 17th November—Children in Need (Non-Uniform Day)
- Friday 24th November—INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
- Saturday 25th November—PTA Christmas Event
- Wednesday 6th December—Open Box Pantomime in school for all pupils
- Thursday 14th December—PTA Christmas Neon Disco (Year R and Year 1 4:15pm—5pm; Years 2-4 5:15pm-6:15pm)
- Friday 15th December—Last Day of Autumn 2 Half Term



Year R

- Monday 6th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Year R Christmas Play—Tuesday 12th December—2:15pm
- Year R Christmas Play —Thursday 14th December—9:15am

Year 1

- Wednesday 4th October—Geography trip to walk around the estate
- Wednesday 18th October—2:50pm—Art Exhibition to parents
- Tuesday 7th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Wednesday 22nd November—2:45pm—Parent Event—Science Workshop
- KS1 Christmas Play—Tuesday 5th December—9:15am
- KS1 Christmas Play—Thursday 7th December—2:15pm

Upcoming Events and Reminders

Year 2

- Thursday 5th October—Assembly with Reverend Gregg (linked to RE)
- Friday 20th October—2:45pm—Parent Event—sharing stories
- Wednesday 8th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Thursday 23rd November—2:45pm—Parent Event—Car Workshop
- KS1 Christmas Play—Tuesday 5th December—9:15am
- KS1 Christmas Play—Thursday 7th December—2:15pm

Year 3

- Tuesday 10th October—2:50pm—Cave Painting Gallery for Parents
- Thursday 9th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Friday 17th November—Year 3 and 4 trip to Butser Ancient Farm—**note change of date**
- **Deer Class** Wednesday 29th November—2:30pm—Fossil Painting Workshop with parents
- **Mouse Class** Thursday 30th November—2:30pm—Fossil Painting Workshop with parents

Year 4

- Monday 9th October—2:45pm—Parent Workshop (The Romans)
- Thursday 9th November—Maths Presentation and Workshop—9:15am
- Friday 17th November—Year 3 and 4 trip to Butser Ancient Farm—**note change of date**
- Tuesday 28th November—2:45pm—Parent Workshop (Science)

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

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.

PEGI RATING
7+

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.

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, 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, so 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.



Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/11/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>



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