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Dear Parents / Carers,



As we head towards the final week of the first half-term we still have so many more opportunities to learn and enjoy, as part of our curriculum offer.

This week, more classes have visited Wickersley Library, who have again been wonderful hosts to our children, staff and volunteers. It has also been really lovely to meet Mr Hedgehog who visited our Early Years classes. Our children showed immense curiosity and prepared some interesting questions for the rescue team. Children told me that they loved how Mr Hedgehog moved and explored their classrooms.

The last round of RWI phonic assessment has been taking place before half term which has excited children across school. I've been so impressed and proud of the way children have supported and celebrated the progress and success of one another, which they are very keen to tell me about!

Next week looks to be a fun round-up to the half term with Class 6, 7 and 8 on their Geography fieldtrip around the local area, Class 5 and 6 have a Superhero Celebration Assembly, KS1 will engage in anti-bullying workshops and we are looking forward to our whole-school end of half term disco!

Don't forget to spread the word about our Early Years Open Event on Monday 21st October 15:30-16:30pm!

Flu immunisations are scheduled on the last day – Friday 25th October.

Thank you, for your continued support.

Warmest wishes,

Mrs S Searson
Head Teacher

Attendance

A reminder of The Department for Education's new updates to attendance.

<https://www.rotherham.gov.uk/education-2/school-attendance>
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>



Please also be reminded that any late arrival (after registers have closed) is now recorded and classed as an 'Unauthorised Absence'

so please make every effort to arrive at school before the registers are closed at **9:15am**.

Attendance this week (whole school) is: 96.5



Year group winner this week is: Year 2 with 97.86% **WELL DONE!**

We respectfully encourage all families to take all holidays out of term time.

Reporting Illnesses

When deciding if your child is well enough for school, please consult the NHS link below:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Thank you for communicating any absence, appointments and late arrivals via the school office. This is much appreciated. Please be reminded that we need a reason for any absence for our records.



PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS CHANGING

1 FIRST OFFENCE
The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:
£60 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days
reduced to £30 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

2 SECOND OFFENCE (WITHIN 3 YEARS)
The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:
£120 per parent, per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.

3 THIRD OFFENCE AND ANY FURTHER OFFENCES (WITHIN 3 YEARS)
The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found guilty in Magistrates' Court can show on a Parents future CRB certificate, due to failure to safeguard a child's education.

10 SESSIONS (5 DAYS) OF UNAUTHORISED ABSENCE IN A 10-WEEK PERIOD
Penalty Notice Fines will be considered when there has been 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period.

Please follow the link for the Publication that will start from 19th August 2024.
www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance

Communication

Our website is under development. In the meantime, we will be providing more whole school communication via Dojo School/Class Story and Arbor. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can help in any way.

Breakfast Club £4

07:45-08:30am

Breakfast club is available every day to all children. During this session children can enjoy a varied choice of breakfast food and drink as well as access a gymnastics session on a Friday morning. Breakfast club starts at 07.45am. Places are available to book for the whole year. The daily cost includes a choice of food and drinks. During this special time before school children enjoy games, crafts and sports with their friends and are well supported by our happy, caring adults. Please book your child's place and make payment using Arbor.

After School Clubs £3

15:00-16:10pm

Monday – **World Cup Football Skills and Matches**

Wednesday – **Hot Shots Basketball Skills and Games**

07:45am – 8:30am

Friday – **Gymnastics**

Places are available to book as a half term block using Arbor.

These clubs are delivered by sports professionals 'Live & Learn'.



NEW CLUBS COMING FOR NEXT HALF TERM!



Early Years Foundation Stage

Please be informed that we have our last few places available in our FS1/Nursery PM and FS2/Reception classes for this school year. For further details please call the school office or Admissions on 01709 823777. Please also see the attached information flyer regarding our forthcoming Open Events.

Family Learning



We warmly welcome you into school on the afternoon of Wednesday the 13th November 2024 at 13.00pm for the 'Dangerous Dinosaurs' free creative family learning workshop.

This session is all about designing and making a 3D dinosaur.

The workshop is open to the whole school but there are only 15 places available at each session. Each child must be supported by one adult for the session which will last all afternoon. Please follow the link to the E-Form for the Family Learning Workshop to sign up. The first 15 names will be allocated a place. Places will be notified prior to the session. **Please note: No other siblings or children should be brought to this session.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/a4KJ4STnNk> We look forward to seeing you!



We warmly welcome you into school on the morning of Friday the 22nd November 2024 at 09.00am for family learning, where you will explore light on the project 'Watts Up'.

This session is to build a 3D motorised scribble bot with light up nose!

The workshop is open to the whole school but there are only 15 places available at each session. Each child must be supported by one adult for the session which will last all afternoon.

Please follow the link to E-Form for the Family Learning Workshop to sign up. The first 15 names will be allocated a place. Places will be notified prior to the session. **Please note: No other siblings or children should be brought to this session.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/1jKZKddZD2> We look forward to seeing you!

End of Half Term Disco

We look forward to enjoying the end of half term disco together!

Food and drink will be provided. There will be further snacks and novelties on sale. Dress-up is optional.

Please purchase tickets on Arbor and see the letter sent out for further details.



End of Term Disco
Wednesday 23rd October 2024
£3.00 per child
Prices includes
Dress
Dancing 1 hour time
Hot Dog
Unlimited snacks & beverages drink
Lunch help row
Refreshments on sale all prices in 30p
crazy sweets and chocolate
Novelty party items on sale
2.50 £3.00



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Please find attached some ESafety information.

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 scam links or 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, 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

Claire 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: <http://www.theweek.co.uk/7270334/roblox-over-half-of-us-children-play-it-when-online>
<http://www.roblox.com/parents/>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 07.09.2022

Diary Dates Term 1 2024

Monday 21 st October	EYFS Open Event (for prospective parents/families) 15:30-16:30pm
Tuesday 22 nd October	Superhero Curriculum Celebration for parents of children in Class 5, 6 and 10
Wednesday 23 rd October	Geography Field Trip in the local community for Class 6, 7 and 8
Wednesday 23 rd October	End of Half Term Disco – information to follow
Friday 25 th October	Flu Vaccinations
Friday 25 th October	Last day of autumn 1 half term
Monday 4 th November	Inset Day (Children not in school)
Tuesday 5 th November	Children back to school for autumn 2 half term
Friday 8 th November	School Photographs – Individual
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week – information to follow
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th November	World Nursery Rhyme Week – information to follow
Monday 11 th November	Remembrance Day
Tuesday 12 th November	Wickersley Library visit school – EYFS all
Wednesday 13 th November	Family Learning session – ‘Dangerous Dinosaurs’
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need – information to follow
Monday 25 th November	EYFS Open Event (for prospective parents/families) 15:30-16:30pm
Wednesday 20 th – 25 th November	Scholastic Book Fair
Thursday 21 st November	Parent Consultations – information to follow
Friday 22 nd November	Family Learning session – ‘Watts Up!’
Monday 2 nd December	KS1 Visit to Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime at Doncaster, CAST (PM) arrive back approx.. 16:20pm
Tuesday 3 rd December	Jack and the Beanstalk performance for EYFS at school (AM)
Wednesday 4 th December	FS1/Nursery Christmas Performance
Thursday 5 th December	FS2/Reception Christmas Performance – PM
Friday 6 th December	FS2/Reception Christmas Performance – AM
Tuesday 10 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance AM & PM
Wednesday 11 th December	KS1 Christmas Performance AM & PM
Thursday 12 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 11 th December	EYFS Open Event (for prospective parents/families) 15:30-16:30pm
Monday 16 th December	Christmas Celebrations at St. Francis Church – information to follow
Friday 20 th December	Last day of school
Monday 6 th January	Return to school
Friday 10 th January	EYFS Open Event (for prospective parents/families) 15:30-16:30pm

**Subject to change. **More dates will be added in due course to enhance our curriculum and keep you well informed.*

Term Dates for 2024

2nd September – 25th October 2024

5th November – 20th December 2024

6th January – 14th February 2025

25th February – 28th March 2025

14th April – 17th April 2025 (Easter weekend 18th-21st)

22nd April – 1st May 2025 (5th May, May day)

6th May – 23rd May 2025

2nd June – 23rd July 2025

Inset Days 2024/2025

Monday 2nd September 2024

Monday 4th November 2024

Monday 24th February 2025

Friday 2nd May 2025

Friday 27th June 2025

FS1 and FS2 September 2025



****SAVE THE DATE****

We are pleased to share the dates of our open events for children and families (FS1 & FS2) wishing to join our wonderful school in September 2025.

Sessions will be held in our Foundation Unit between 3.30pm – 4.30pm, please use the entrance on Linden Avenue.

Monday 21st October 2024

Monday 25th November 2024

Wednesday 11th December 2024

Friday 10th January 2024

Please contact the school office on 01709 543061 to book your place or for further information.

We look forward to meeting you and sharing in your child's learning journey.