



# Holbrook C of E Primary School

## *Together we Learn*

### Upcoming dates

24.03.23 – Book Fair in the hall

27.03.23 – End of term reports out

30.03.23 – Easter Service in church

31.03.23 – Easter bonnet parade  
(9.15am) and last day of  
term

*A full lists of dates for the year can be  
found on the school website*

**Parent questionnaire:** A last reminder about our parent questionnaire which will be closing next week, to allow me time to analysis the results and share them with you before the Easter holidays. Thank you so much if you have managed to complete this. Please complete if you haven't already – it is very quick to do!

<https://forms.gle/n7GpYK9qS6EZ1PaM6>

**Easter Service:** Our Easter Service is led by our Year 5 children, with the whole school singing the Easter songs they have learned. This will be the first service of the year which our reception children will join us for. All parent/carers are invited, we would just ask that you limit attendees to a maximum of two per family. I look forward to celebrating Easter with you all.

**Book Fair:** Our book fair is running next Friday in the school hall. As usual we will open the fair in the morning, before school from about 8.30-9.00, and after school from 3.00pm. I have a long list of books which children would like for the library, collated by the school council, so please help us earn more free books with a purchase if you can! Payment will be online as usual. Please remember to bring your phone and bank card!

**School garden:** Mr and Mrs Parker, our site management team, will be running gardening sessions with all children in the summer term on a Wednesday afternoon. Over the next two weeks, teachers will be taking children out to have a good look in the school garden and come up with some design or planting ideas. We are really excited that this space is up and running and look forward to developing it further with the children's help.



**Fire Service visit:** Last week Class 2 and Class 5 had a visit from the fire service. Both classes learned about having a 'fire plan'. Class 2 found out about how to call the emergency services and Class 5 learned about some potential hazards around the home. The children listened really well and were able to tell me all about the safety information they had learned.



**Open Centre:** Year 3 and 4 visited Derby Open Centre this week, and visited a Hindu temple and Mosque as part of their RE topic. The children loved finding out about how different religions pray and celebrate and had thoughtful questions. Well done everyone!



**Online safety:** We are collating useful parent guides to games and apps on the school website, in the e-safety section. At the end of the newsletter, you will find an example of one of these, for 'Roblox'. This is a hugely popular game, and through our discussions with children seems to be one of the most played games by children at Holbrook. If your child accesses Roblox, please have a look at the information provided to help make sure they have a safe experience on this platform.

**Appeal:** There is a charity bake sale taking place in the Arkwright Hall on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2.30-4.30 to raise money for the Motor Neurone Association. Colin Roberts, a parent of ex-pupils at Holbrook, was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease in 2021 and this fund-raiser is being organised by his family and friends. Please support this good cause if you can.



**Comic relief:** Thank you for your donations for our comic relief non-uniform day. If you still need to donate, here is the link:

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?s hopid=10471>

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](http://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 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, 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.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-using-virtual-purses-for-tf>  
<https://toproblox.com/parents/>



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



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