

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 9

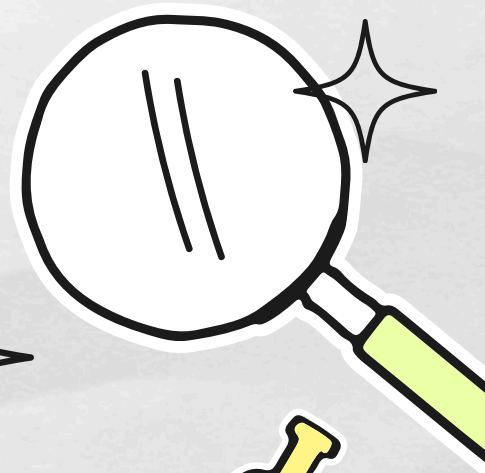
HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful October half-term filled with fun.

As we settle into the next phase of the term, we look forward to continuing our journey of learning and growth together. Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. We are excited to share more enriching experiences with your children.

Next week we have a very busy week ahead including marking Remembrance Day, Odd Socks Day and World Kindness Day all of which forms part of anti-bullying week. We are also looking forward to many of you joining us for the PTA Laser Show next Friday. This is sure to be a fantastic, fun event for all to enjoy. Safety details for the event will be shared in a separate communication next week.

I am also delighted to be able to share the news with you that last half term, we successfully recruited our second Assistant Headteacher, Mr Cannons, who will be leading teaching and learning at Boorley. Mr Cannons will be joining us in January from Colden Common Primary School. After a rigorous interview process, he will bring exceptional creativity, enthusiasm and a passion for fostering a love of learning in children. We look forward to the innovative approaches he will bring to our curriculum and the positive impact he will have on both our children and staff.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year R, we have been exploring and experimenting in all areas of our provision. Recently we have learnt how to use our deconstructed role play area which uses cardboard boxes, tubes, cable reels and open-ended resources to build and create our own role play. Our role play has been inspired by learning about different places that we can create such as restaurants, cafes, shops, houses, and vehicles. This week we have built a restaurant and acted out different roles and responsibilities. This learning develops our social and communication skills, turn taking and patience, mark making and number recognition! We love using our creativity to design our own role play areas and enjoy working together as a team to set it up.



NURTURING FUTURES

Dyslexia is a learning difficulty which primarily affects reading and writing skills. However, it does not only affect these skills. Dyslexia is actually about information processing and may cause difficulty processing and remembering information seen and heard, which can affect learning and the acquisition of literacy skills. Dyslexia can also impact other areas such as organisational skills. Children with dyslexia are supported in a variety of ways.



Further information can be found here:
<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/dyslexia/about-dyslexia>

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY



RAISE EDUCATION TRUST

Make a difference: Contribute to the development and success of one of our schools or the Trust.

Professional Development: Gain valuable experience in governance and leadership.

Networking: Connect with a range of individuals and professionals.

Community impact: Play a valuable role in shaping the future of young minds.

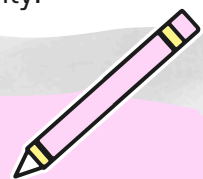
We have a range of governance vacancies within the Trust and its three schools; Deer Park School in Botley, Wildern School in Hedge End and Boorley Park School in Boorley Green, all a short drive of each other.

If you are interested and would like more information please contact Annette Towgood, the Trust's Governance Professional, at a.towgood@raiseeducationtrust.org



The Local Academy Committee for Boorley Park Primary School is excited to invite new members from our community to join us in our mission to enhance the educational experience for our children. We believe that diverse perspectives and community involvement are essential to our success and we welcome those who are passionate about education and community development. Please note that potential new members should not have children currently attending the school. To help us spread the word, we encourage you to share this information with friends and neighbours who may be interested in becoming part of our dedicated team. Your support in recruiting enthusiastic committee members will make a significant difference in our school community!

BOORLEYPARK@BOORLEYPARK.ORG



SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

Staying Safe with Online Communication

As we embrace the world of gaming, it's important to remember that many games now offer exciting online messaging features! These tools allow players to chat and connect with friends while enjoying their favourite games. However, it's essential to practice safe online communication. We encourage parents to discuss internet safety with their children, including the importance of not sharing personal information and how to report any inappropriate messages. It is also important for us to encourage our children to talk about messages they may have received that have upset them. Gaming can be a fun way to bond and develop teamwork skills, but staying safe while connecting with others is our top priority.

KEY DATES

November 2024

Monday 11th November - Remembrance Day

Monday 11th November - 15th November - Anti-bullying week

Tuesday 12th November - Odd Socks Day for Anti-bullying week

Thursday 14th November - Year 5 Trip to Winchester Science Centre

Friday 15th November - Year 3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Friday 15th November - Non-uniform day for Children in Need

Friday 15th November - PTA Laser Show, laser show begins at 6:30pm

Friday 22nd November - Year 1 Science Parent Workshop 2:30-3.15pm

Wednesday 27th November - 1:30-1:45pm-Year 5 Listen2Me Violin concert to parents

Wednesday 27th November - 2:00pm-Rocksteady concert for the parents of the children that attend Rocksteady

INSET Day - Friday 29th November - School closed to all pupils



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to interact online (including a group chat function), which could expose children to various risks. Scammers often attempt to trick young Roblox fans into exchanging their paid-for items for something which turns out to be of much lesser value – or something they never even receive. The in-game chat has some filters, but it isn't perfect: players can still send unpleasant messages, 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 – usually a one-off payment. 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 lobbies, therefore, will put children at greater 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 doesn't usually deter such people. Some player-built Roblox levels have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind, and this will not always be obvious.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some extra costs. These are usually indicated with the symbol for 'Robux' (the in-game currency). Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game using real money. People can also buy extra Robux to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and it's also possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

Advice for Parents & Educators

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 younger players, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply 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. Keep in mind that the game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If a child has friends to play Roblox with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, the player who owns the server could invite other people – who might not be child friendly – to join them. Additionally, private servers can be set up in such a way that any player on the host's friends list can join, so it's important to discuss who children are playing 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 two-factor authentication is enabled on any payment accounts also makes it harder for children to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, children must 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 okay to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger – can help them understand how to communicate more safely with other people online.

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.



The National College

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>