

Volume 4|
Issue 6

February
2024



Newsletter

Goodbye February!

I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable start to the second half of the Spring Term. It has been very busy at Grove Road, with lots of trips and workshops going on, as well as some fantastic learning going on. We have also launched our parent maths workshops this month, where parents are able to learn how to support their children at home with maths. If you are interested in joining, there are still spaces – Mrs Pires is available in the office every morning and will be able to give you more information.

We have also recently welcomed Miss Adams into Gold Class to support learning as Mr D'Souza has moved on to a position in a Secondary School. I know that the class have been very welcoming already.

We have lots coming up in March, including a Grove Road favourite – World Book Day! Information about dressing up has already been sent out to parents about our theme of 'Fantasy and Fairy Tales', who knows, you might also see the staff looking a little bit different on that day!

With thanks,

Mrs Grace Beckford
Acting Headteacher

"Our family school where all are equally valued"

EYFS Dinosaur Workshop



Red and Orange Class had a visit from a special archaeologist this month, where they were able to use tools to find dinosaur bones!

They also spent some time meeting a baby dinosaur, controlled by an expert puppeteer.



Indigo Class Tower Bridge Trip



Indigo Class had a fantastic workshop at Tower Bridge this month, where they learned about old and new technology and the history of Tower Bridge.



Dance Day

Grove Road went dance crazy this month with a whole school dance workshop. We saw performances throughout the ages, including some teachers enjoying the moves too! It was a great way to value dance as an art form together.



Safer Internet Day

Safer
Internet
Day 2024 | Tuesday
6 February

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

The whole school took part in a range of activities around online safety this month, focusing on a range of themes such as influencers, AI and what to do if you see something online that makes you feel uncomfortable.

We revisit online safety regularly through our Computing and PSHE curriculum – some additional online safety resources will be attached to this newsletter around

parental controls, other information for parents around online safety can be found here: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Second Hand Uniform – Restocked!

We are still adding lots of second-hand uniform to our shop! We have recently added a lot of Nursery uniform and some larger sizes. Please visit <https://app.uniformd.co.uk/items/grove-road-primary-school> to browse our selection and make any purchases that you would like.



Supervision Before School

Unfortunately, we are still seeing incidents happening in the morning where children are playing football or using the equipment before school whilst unsupervised. Please ensure that children wait in their class garden for the start of the school day and are supervised until they are in the building. Children may use the garden equipment provided they are supervised and following the safety rules that we have in place for use at playtimes. Children should not be playing ball games before school.

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 nationalonline.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.

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 DATING

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 ODer's. 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 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.

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/1/21263340/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-playing-it-but-parents-should-know>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://www.facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://www.instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

[@national_online_safety](https://www.tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.10.2023

NOS National Online Safety®
 #WakeUpWednesday

Class Emails

We continue to have class mailboxes for you to contact your child's class teacher. These emails are monitored daily but please allow up to 48 hours for a response. For anything urgent, including reporting your child absent, please continue to contact the school office.

Red Class: red@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Orange Class: orange@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Yellow Class: yellow@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Green Class: green@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Blue Class: blue@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Indigo Class: indigo@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Violet Class: violet@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Gold Class: gold@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Rainbow Class: rainbow@groveroad.hounslow.sch.uk

Coming up in March

- 1st – Indigo Class Special Assembly
- 4th - 8th – Gold Class Bikeability Training
- 5th & 6th – Parent's Evening
- 7th – World Book Day
- 8th – Orange Class Kew Gardens Trip
- 11th – Class Photographs
- 12th – Indigo Class Bedfont Lakes Trip
- 14th – Green Class Special Assembly
- 15th – Blue Class Thames Explorer Trip
- 15th – Indigo Class Richmond Synagogue Trip
- 18th - 22nd – Neurodiversity Week
- 25th – Holi Celebration
- 26th – Scooter and Skateboarding Workshop
- 27th – Easter Festival

28th – End of Term, 1:30pm finish

www.groveroadprimary.co.uk



@GroveRdSchool



Groveroadschool