

## Weekly Newsletter

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Focus for this  
half term - Unity

### A Note from the Headteacher

Congratulations to our Values Champions this week: Otilie, Brodhi, Daphne, Roman, Dolly, Freya and Gus!

#### Year 2



We have had a busy first week back at school in Year 2, where we have enjoyed carrying on with our learning about the Arctic and Antarctica. At the end of last half term, we enjoyed finishing our art projects after learning all about Van Gogh and his brush strokes, 'I loved seeing Van Gogh's work in the videos it was huge' - Kit W. We used his work *Starry Night*, as an inspiration for our pieces based of the Northern Lights, 'come to our classroom to see our beautiful work' says Daphne, we all agreed that we have created some truly beautiful art!

In English this week, we have started learning and performing poetry about Arctic animals. 'We have looked at lots of different styles of poems and even looked in an anthology' - Chloe. We learnt the difference between reading and performing poetry and some of us got the chance to perform in front of the whole class! 'I enjoyed performing to the class and showing the actions we had made, they were a good audience' - Darcey. Come and speak to Darcey and Esme if you want to enjoy a poem about a little Polar Bear! 'I am excited to start writing my poem, I have lots of ideas' says Edie, 'My poem is going to be about an Arctic Hare and I have already thought about the adjectives I will be using' - Erin.



Over the next couple of weeks, we are looking forward to all of the exciting opportunities we will have, like World Book Day next Thursday, where many of us have already planned our costumes! 'I can't wait to show everyone my character' - Esme. We are also looking forward to our Polar workshop next week, 'I am excited to learn more about the Poles' - Harry.

### Pupil Progress Meetings

Over the next couple of weeks class teachers will be meeting with our Senior Leadership Team for their termly pupil progress meetings. In these meetings we will be discussing every child individually, looking at their most recent assessment data, evaluating progress and identifying the next steps in teaching. This information will then be shared with you during the upcoming Parent Meetings (week beginning 15th March).

## Weekly Safeguarding Spotlight!

This week our safeguarding spotlight focuses on **Roblox**. This came up during our Safer Internet Day as a hugely popular platform among many of the children and we want to ensure that families are aware of the various risks associated with it.

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

## A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

## MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

## IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

## RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

## COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

### CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

### PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

@wake\_up\_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

© 2022 The National College. All rights reserved. For more information, visit [www.thenationalcollege.com](https://www.thenationalcollege.com)

## Safer Internet Day

Before half term we took part in Safer Internet Day to help support children and families navigate the online world and use technology safely. The children designed posters to help us remember our internet safety rules. Our Digital Leaders presented prizes for the best posters in Celebration Assembly today. Congratulations to Emilia, Aliyah, Daphne, Edie, Maia, Sienna, Evie, Thomas, Freya, Poppy, Coco and Olivia!

As part of the day, we revisited our school's online safety rules, based on the SMART with a Heart acronym:

**S** - Share: Don't share personal details online

**M** - Meet: Never meet with people you have only met online

**A** - Accepting: Ask before accepting a file, link or friend request

**R** - Reliable: Always ask, "Is this reliable?"

**T** - Tell: Tell a trusted adult if something worries you

♥ **Heart**: Be kind online

Please see the attached document 'Safer Internet Day 2026 - What We Learned From Our Pupils' which it gives a really interesting insight into our digital lives.

## World Book Day

Please remember that we will be celebrating World Book Day next **Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March**. Children are welcome to dress up as their favourite book or book character. There will be a prize for the best in each class.

To encourage more independent reading and a lifelong love of reading, The PTA will be holding a **Book Fair** in the Hall after school on Thursday. Please bring along cash and pick up a bargain!

## P.E Timetable

Please be reminded of the new P.E. timetable for this half term:

YR - Monday

Y4 - Monday

Y1 - Thursday

Y5 - Thursday

Y2 - Tuesday

Y6 - Wednesday

Y3 - Monday

## Key Dates

### March

- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> - Y4 Extra Swimming Lesson
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> - World Book Day & PTA Book Sale
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Y1 & Y2 Arctic Polar Explorers Workshop
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> - Y5 Lodge Hill Parents Meeting 3.30pm
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> - YR Trip to Washbrooks Family Farm
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> - Y5/Y6 Mexican Art Workshop
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - Y5/Y6 Mexican Day
- Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - PTA Quiz Night
- Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March - Y3/Y4/Choir Spring Concert
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 27<sup>th</sup> - Y5 Lodge Hill Residential



**Donate a Book, Share the Love of Reading!**

We are collecting good-quality books to sell at our school PTA book fair on World Book Day, 5th March.

All proceeds from the sale will go directly back to the school funding resources for our children.

We welcome children's books, adult fiction and non-fiction, cookery books and more. All genres are welcome, as long as books are in good condition.

Please drop all book donations into the School Office by Monday 2nd March.

Congratulations to the winner of this week's PTA Cake Raffle!



For future diary dates, please visit our [website's school calendar](#). Thank you.