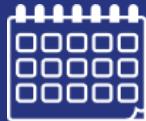


Dates for Your

## DIARY



28th January

N, R, Y1, Y2 Phonics Workshop 9:00-9:30

6th February

Year 3/4 bikeability level 1

10th February

Safer Internet Day

12th February—3:15-4:00—EYFS/KS1, 4:15-5:00—KS2

Valentine's Disco (Payable on MCAS)

5th March

World Book Day—letter to follow

6th—15th March

Science Week

16th March 2:00pm-3:00pm

Mother's Day Event

18th March 3:30pm—6:00pm

Parents' Evening (bookable on MCAS)

w/c 23rd March

Entries for Easter competition to be bought in

24th March 2:30pm

Rocksteady Concert

26th March 9:15am

Easter Service at St Barnabas' Church

27th March 9:15am

EYFS Easter bonnet parade

# NEWSLETTER

A message from the

## PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents,

January seems to be flying by, how are we approaching the end of the month already!

The children have settled really well this half term and have enjoyed all of the experiences that have enhanced their curriculum.

The term started with lots of snow (which will hopefully be our fill for the year) and we wish to thank you for your patience whilst we navigated the site checks and decisions each day. Should the Academy need to close for any reason, this will be communicated via Class Dojo and MCAS.

All main communication will be sent via MCAS along with charges for trips, dinners and Care Club. If anyone is struggling with their log on,

please contact the office to arrange a time to meet me.

I would like to thank all of the parents that have reviewed any outstanding debt and ensured that their accounts are in credit. This means there is no additional cost to the academy and we are able to continue with trips and visitors.

We are really looking forward to sharing our events with you in the Spring term. Please refer to the dojo calendar and dates at the side of the newsletter.

*Laura Niemczyk*

**Co-Principal**





# Safeguarding

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 [nationalonlinesafety.com](https://nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

### 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.

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.

AGE RATING

PEGI 7



#### 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 players 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.



**National Online Safety®**  
#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.thes verge.com/2020/7/20/2133303/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-for-real>  
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

 @natonlinesafety

 /NationalOnlineSafety

 @nationalonlinesafety

 @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

# Trips so far....

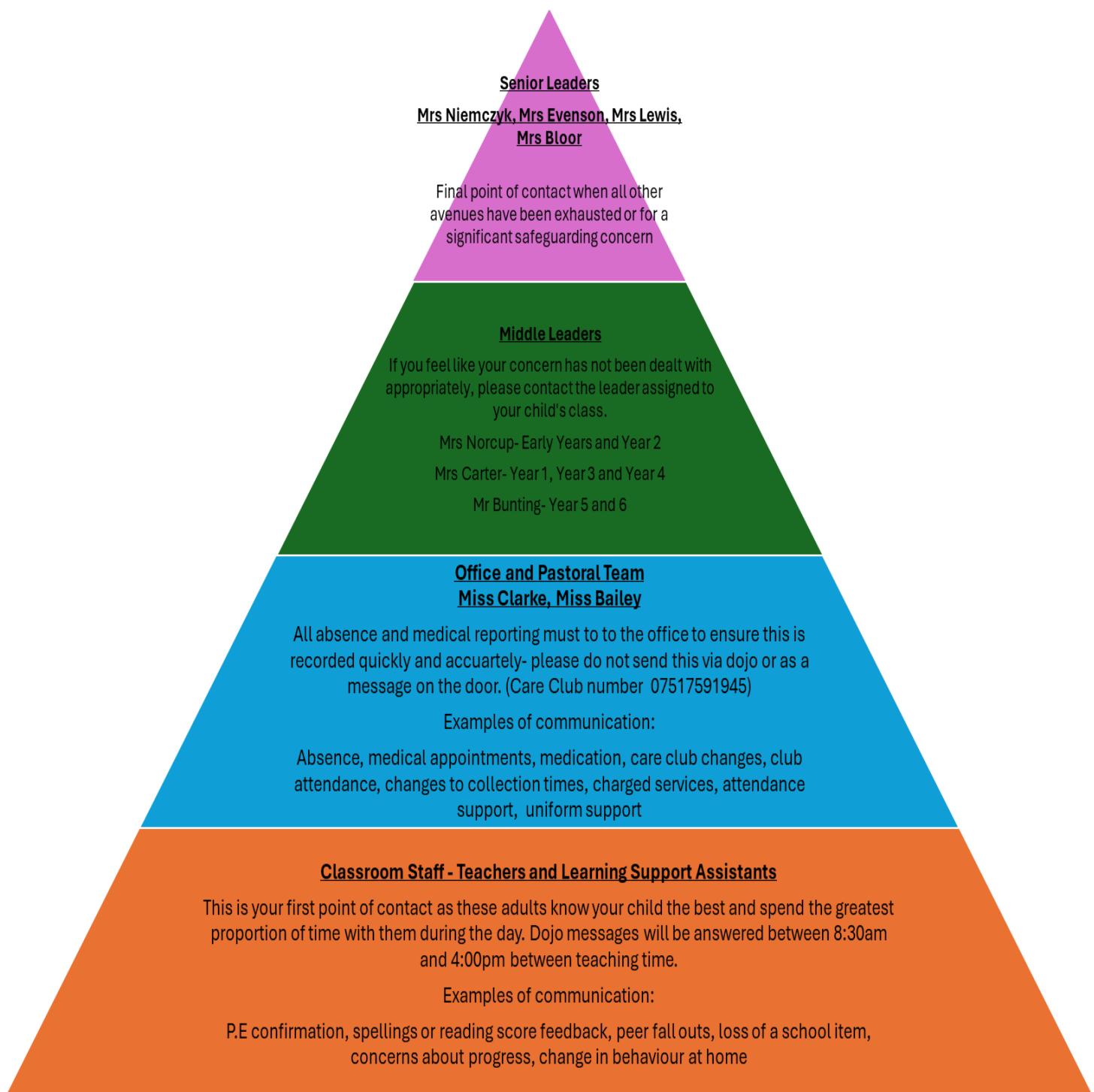


*The curriculum experience have started already. The academy has been buzzing with the feedback from pupils and staff!*

*We are looking forward to the upcoming visits and visitors for the rest of the term.*

# Communication Pyramid

Following parents view taken within the autumn term, we have created the communication pyramid to support parents and staff when communicating about school issues. Communication can be sent to staff via class dojo. This will be checked before school starts (8:30am) and after school (3:30pm-4:00pm) and where staff can throughout the day whilst not interrupting their teaching. We expect staff to respond within 24 hours of the message, even if they cannot resolve this immediately. If you require a meeting with a staff member, please book this via the school office. Mrs Lewis is now the safeguarding lead within the academy.



# Uniform

A reminder of our uniform expectations:

- Shirt and tie for Y5/6 only
- White polo shirt for N-Y4
- Grey trousers, shorts, pinafore, skirt
- Grey tights or white/grey socks
- School jumper/cardigan with logo
- Black shoes (no trainers)

P.E kit

- School hoodie, jumper or cardigan
- Black/blue shorts or joggers (plain)
- Trainers

Incorrect uniform will result in a change of clothing or footwear from the academy uniform bank.

We offer a uniform swap shop for any parents that may need to change uniform throughout the year. We also welcome any well-loved clothes that children may have grown out of.

# Attendance

A huge thank you to all of the children and parents for their support with attendance so far this year. We know it has been difficult with the sickness outbreak and the impact that this has had on pupils' attendance.

Please continue to report absence to the office daily, unless advised by Miss Clarke of a longer absence period (e.g. 48 hours for sickness)

We have now reverted back to authorising absence as per Public Health general guidance as the outbreak window is now over.

**Current attendance— 93.3%**

