



Newsletter

<http://www.oldparkprimary.co.uk>

Newsletter 24: 8th April 2024

Message from the headteacher

Welcome to the summer term. I hope that everyone had a lovely easter holiday and managed to spend some time together as a family, and the pupils had a rest following the completion of the spring term. As pupils return to school today I wanted to take this time to remind parents/carers of some key Old Park expectations:

1. It is important that we all continue to focus on attendance and as much as possible pupils need to be in school every day to give them the best chance of progressing with their learning.
2. The school gates open at 8:40am and it is an expectations that pupils are sat down in their classrooms by 8:55am completing their morning tasks, otherwise they risk being marked as late.
3. As well as attendance our Education Welfare Officer from the local authority also looks at the numbers of late marks that pupils receive, so it is important that they are on time and ready to learn every day.
4. All pupils must wear black shoes or trainers for school unless it is a PE day when other colours are allowed.
5. Pupils should not wear football tops on the day that they have PE.
6. Girls should not be wearing black leggings for school (there was an increase in these being worn last term especially in key stage 2 (Year 3-6)).
7. Pupils should only wear one pair of studs in their ears.

Thank you for your continued support with the items listed above, and as always please see your child's class teacher if you have any questions or problems meeting these school expectations.

Value of the half term



★ ★ Old Park expectations ★ ★

1. Kindness

2. Always try your best

3. Believe in yourself

4. Tell the truth

5. Have fun while learning

A resilient Old Park pupil never gives up, keeps going even when things are tricky, helps others to solve problems and does it all with a smile 😊.





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Diary Dates

Summer 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Monday 15th April | Year 5 swimming lessons begin (every Monday for 10 weeks) |
| Monday 6th May | Bank holiday (pupils not in school) |
| Monday 13th—Thursday 16th May | Year 6 SATS week |
| Friday 17th May | Year 6 reward trip (Town park and Sky reach) |
| Tuesday 21st May | Year 2 Great Fire of London workshop in school |
| Thursday 23rd May | Year 5 and 6 boys School Games County Finals |
| Friday 24th May | Last day of half term |
| Monday 27th—Friday 31st May | Half term |

Term dates 2023-2024

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|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 8th April 2024 | Summer term starts |
| 27th - 31st May 2024 | Half term |
| 3rd June 2024 | Staff PD day |
| Friday 19th July 2024 | Last day of term |
| Monday 22nd July 2024 | Staff PD day |





Newsletter



Telford & Wrekin
Co-operative Council

Protect, care and invest
to create a better borough



Telford and Wrekin
FAMILY HUBS

SOUTHWATER DROP IN



Every Wednesday 9.30am - 12:30pm
Southwater Library – children's section

- Advice and signposting
- Information on parenting/ courses
- Support and guidance around accessing local community activities
- Family hubs information



Provided by
Strengthening Families
and Dandelion Peer
Parent support



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.

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.

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.

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 (aka @lunawell) 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 Lunawell Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-55133343> roblox: overview of us kids playing virtual parties for kids <https://www.roblox.com/en/parents/>

