

## Newsletter - FRIDAY 9 September 2022

Welcome to our first fortnightly newsletter. Hopefully you will find them useful and informative but if there is anything else you would like us to include please let us know.

It's been wonderful to see all the children enjoying being in their new class.

We are looking forward to working with you this year to ensure our children have a fantastic, successful time at school.

**Have a great weekend!**

**Mrs Allen, Headteacher**

### Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns please do not hesitate to contact school and speak to either Mrs Allen, Miss Lumsden or Mrs Blakeman

### Earrings

It is school policy that all earrings and clear spacers are removed before the children come to school. Please can you check your child's ears before they come to school.

### Attendance

Well done to Miss Fisher & Miss Lumsden's class for winning the attendance bear this week with 100% attendance.

### ATTENDANCE FROM 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022

Overall attendance 93.4% Target 97%

AJS 93% RF/EL 100% SC 94% KC 98%

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Although every child receives Universal Free School Meals up to Year 2 you can still apply for income based Free School Meals. This helps school but also gives you access to additional funding when it is available.

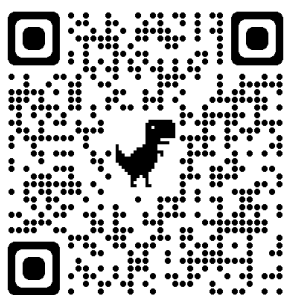
Please go to Sunderland City Council website Parent Portal to apply.

### Dates for your Diary 2022-2023

All important dates will be added here once finalised and a new 'Dates for your Diary will be emailed home and dates posted on our website and ClassDojo

## Online Payments-Pay360 Educational Payments

Any parents who require help to set up your account (you do not need a different code every time you need to pay) please contact the school office and we will be able to assist you. Once set up your account you can pay for everything trips, clubs etc. as we move forward to a cashless system. You can also scan this QR Code to take you directly to the main page



## Website

You can find all letters which are sent home via email and school events on our website. We also try to upload them on ClassDojo

## Pre-loved Uniform

We have a selection of pre-loved uniform in our school reception area. It is freshly washed and bagged. So please feel free to have a look if there is anything you need for a small contribution. If you have any good quality uniform you would like to donate please hand in to the school office.

## Uniform

Please can all parents/carers ensure that **ALL** items of their child's uniform have their child's name marked somewhere as we are not responsible for any lost items

## ClassDojo

It's fantastic to see so many parents getting involved again this year!! Please keep checking for updates in the class story and please send photos of what your child is getting up to at home, we love to see them having fun!!  
If you see a post please feel free to comment and like it on the class posts, it really means a lot to staff!!

## General Information for all Parents/Carers

**Earrings-** No earrings or clear space savers are to be worn by pupils for Health & Safety

**Batteries Recycling-** We are also still collecting any used batteries in partnership with Groundworks in our pursuit to win another recycling prize for our school.

**School Uniform and Book Bags** - just a reminder that you can order online all logoed uniform from Total Sport NE, Hendon Road, Sunderland, SR1 2JD.

**We no longer sell any uniform or book bags from the school office.**

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 [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.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 scam links or 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 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.

### 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, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

## 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 some genuine friends to 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 other people online safely.

### 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.



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Sources: <https://www.theweek.co.uk/2020/11/21/283343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-playing-virtual-parade-fortnite>  
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>



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