

SPECIAL SHOUTOUT

13th March 2026

Issue 12

A huge thank you to everyone that helped us celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. It was wonderful to see you all dressed in book character costumes and comfy clothes to enjoy a day of celebrating reading. We hope that you have used your World Book Day token to purchase a new story to share at home.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

20.3.26 Red Nose Day*
24.3.26 2:30pm Parent Forum
24.3.26 Spring Sing at Whitley Bay Playhouse
25.3.26 Rocksteady Concert
31.3.26 Easter Fair
1.4.26 The Den Easter Stay & Play
2.4.26 Non-Uniform for House Point Winners

**More Information to Follow*

Have Your Say

Our parents views and comments are extremely important to us. In our last bulletin we asked you to share your thoughts on your child's learning and progress. Thank you to those who responded. Please see an overview of responses at the end of this week's bulletin.



Designated Safeguarding Team



Miss Gibson
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss Martin
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead
(Maternity)



Miss Fletcher
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Miller
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Mrs Thompson
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss McEwen
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss Jones
Deputy
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead



Miss Jones Mr Jefferson Miss Heppell
Mental health first aiders

Our Connect advisor Peter is available for discussions with parents on a fortnightly basis. He will be available on the yard or gates outside of school to speak to parents and answer any mental health related queries or concerns.





The Den

Our learning journey in 'The Den' has been inspired by the nursery rhyme I'm a Little Teapot. The children have been enjoying lots of tea parties, making cups of tea for their friends and performing the actions as they sang along to the rhyme. There was lots of giggling and wonderful imagination as the children poured, served and sang together. We also had some lovely chats about what makes our carers so special and why we love them so much. The children shared such sweet thoughts and we all agreed that our carers are very kind and caring. The children showed their own kindness too as they played together, shared their tea party treats and worked together to build tall towers. Happy Mother's Day to all of the wonderful people who care for us - we hope you have a lovely day!

Nursery

This week for Tasty Tuesday, children explored a new vegetable, beetroot. There was a mixed response to who liked and who disliked beetroot but amazingly all children had at least a small bite of the beetroot. This week we have enjoyed the story of The Ugly Duckling, and we have made some great comparisons to our visiting chicks from last week. Linking to the story of the week, we enjoyed bird watching outside and we made some small nests for our school garden. Following on from last weeks careers week, we have some children training to be hairdressers in our role play.



Reception

Reception have had a very busy and exciting few weeks. As part of Careers Week, we welcomed visitors including paramedics, dentists and a sign language interpreter. The children learnt lots of new skills and thought about what they might like to be when they grow up. We were inspired by our visitors and enjoyed asking lots of curious questions. During STEM Week, we also challenged ourselves to build the tallest and strongest towers we could.

Y1

Year 1 had a fantastic time during Careers Week, meeting a range of professionals including a nurse, dentist, sports teacher, paramedic and many more. We also celebrated World Book Day and everyone looked amazing in their wonderful costumes while enjoying a day full of books and stories. During STEM Week, we discussed what makes a positive childhood, how childhood has changed over time and the kind of positive childhood we might want for our own future children. In Maths, we have been finishing our work on addition and subtraction to 20 and have now started learning about length and height. In Literacy, we have begun exploring instructions and identifying the key features that make a clear and effective set of instructions.





Y2

Year 2 have had a busy and exciting week! In Maths, we started our new topic of money, learning to recognise coins and understand pounds and pence, so please put our skills to the test at home. In Literacy, we have been reading non-fiction reports about meerkats and learning how subheadings help readers find information quickly. We also enjoyed a fantastic Careers and STEM Week, especially visiting the Teddy Bear Hospital where we learnt about looking after ourselves, brushing our teeth and eating a healthy diet. The children loved celebrating World Book Day and sharing their favourite books with the class. We also began our very first cycling sessions showing great balance and determination and enjoyed a trip to the church to learn about the Easter story.

Y3

Year 3 have had a fantastic week of learning. In DT, the children have been tasting a variety of smoothies as part of our new topic, helping them decide which fruit flavours they enjoy before designing their own fruit smoothie.

In PE, they have been practising balancing on equipment and using their bodies to create different shapes. In Maths, we have reached the end of our measurement unit, where the children have been converting measurements, adding and subtracting lengths and calculating perimeter. The class also loved celebrating World Book Day by dressing up as their favourite book characters and sharing the stories they enjoy most.



Y4

Year 4 have had wonderful visits to Segedunum Roman Fort and the Laing Art Gallery, we have been very busy gaining cultural experiences linking to our Art, History and Geography curriculum. In Literacy, we finished our Journey Tales and are now taking on the role of Hadrian Park journalists as we begin to learn about Newspapers. In Maths, we are continuing to make links between Fractions and Decimals. It would be amazing to see more children utilising Times Tables Rockstars to boost their multiplication fluency at home. Put us to the test with times tables at home.

Y5

Children in Year 5 have made a fantastic start to their weekly bike rides, exploring the Rising Sun and showing fantastic enthusiasm with this. In

Literacy, children have produced some wonderful writing around a 'Wishing Tale', where we have heavily focused on the use of language and sentence structure through figurative language and relative clauses. In Maths, children are working hard during our Fractions topic, adding and subtracting fractions by finding a common denominator. Finally, we have continued our Earth and Space unit in Science. Children have shown a huge interest in our solar system and the wonders around this.



Y6

Year 6 had a fantastic Careers and STEM Week last week and really enjoyed meeting a range of visitors who spoke about different jobs and career paths. The children asked thoughtful questions and showed great curiosity about the opportunities available to them in the future. We are also looking forward to welcoming the Navy into school next week to work with the children. In Literacy, we have been developing tension and anticipation in our chase scene writing, using a range of language techniques to build suspense. In Maths, we have been learning about algebra and have been very impressed with the children's progress and confidence with this topic.



WHAT ELSE DO WE OFFER?

Hedgehogs

We have been getting our brains active and our bodies moving by playing musical chairs. The children listened carefully to the music and had to think quickly about finding a seat when it stopped.

It was a great way to practise listening skills, quick reactions and teamwork while having lots of fun with our friends. There were plenty of smiles, laughter and a little friendly competition too.



Clubs

We're delighted to see our fantastic range of after-school clubs continuing to thrive this term. With a variety of fun, creative and active opportunities available. It's been wonderful to see so many children getting involved, developing new skills and enjoying time with their friends after the school day. If your child hasn't yet signed up and would like to join a club, please contact the school office to check current spaces and availability.

Cycling

Our Cycling Curriculum is a current focus for both Year 5 and Year 2. Year 5 have showed wonderful efforts so far, completing a cycle ride around the Rising Sun. We have some exciting rides planned over the rest of the half term, with potential visits to the Sun Dial, NUFC Training Ground and North Shields Marina.

Year 2 children have impressed class adults with their enthusiasm towards learning how to cycle. Children have used balance bikes to learn how to 'Stride and Glide' and have also started to use their pedals on the bigger bikes. We are so proud of their efforts and determination with this.



GETTING INVOLVED

Parent Forum

Our parent forum is a great way to have your voice heard and shape developments to our school in the future. Our next Spring Term date is below and we would love to welcome you into school to hear your feedback.



Tuesday 24th March @ 2:30pm

WE ASKED

- My child does well at this school.
- When I have raised concerns with the school about my child's progress, they have been dealt with properly.
- I feel well informed about how my child is doing with their learning.

YOU REPLIED

- 85% of respondents felt their child does well at this school.
- 92% of respondents felt their concerns regarding progress are listened to and dealt with.
- 92% of respondents felt they are well informed about their child's progress.

YOU VALUE

- Extra-curriculum clubs and opportunities
- Relationships with classroom adults
- Support for pupils with SEND, interventions and forward planning to support.
- Support pupils receive outside of academic progress eg, friendships, well-being, regulation



Parking Outside of School

We kindly remind all families to park safely and responsibly around the school. Hadrian Wynd is a designated School Street, which means no traffic is permitted between 8:15-9:15am and 3:00-4:00pm. Please ensure you avoid driving through or parking on this street during these times.

For everyone's safety, please obey all double yellow lines and zig-zag markings around school, as these must not be used for stopping, dropping off or waiting.

We also ask all parents to take extra care when parking nearby and to be mindful of pedestrians—especially children—who need clear and safe access to pavements.

Staffing Update

We were delighted to give a very warm welcome back from maternity leave to Mrs Miller, who returned WB 9.3.26 as our SENDCO across school and EYFS lead. Unfortunately we have had to say a sooner than expected farewell to Miss Loizou who has had to commence her maternity leave 2 weeks earlier than expected. We wish her every success in welcoming her beautiful baby when they arrive. Please rest assured that prior to this a full SEND handover was completed.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGible.



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