

ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 14TH MARCH 2025

TAG RUGBY...

On Tuesday, a group of children in Years 5 and 6 took part in a Tag-Rugby Festival. They had an amazing time and their behaviour was superb.

YEAR 6 SATS PARENTS' MEETING...

As you may know, all Year 6 students across the country are required to participate in the Key Stage 2 SATs tests in May. These tests assess their skills and understanding in Reading, Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation, and Maths. To provide further information for parents and carers, including examples of the tests, and to offer a chance for you to ask any questions, we will be hosting a Year 6 Parents Meeting on Tuesday 18th March at 3:30 pm.

THIS GIRL CAN...

On Wednesday 19th, a group of girls in Years 3 and 4 are taking part in a This Girl Can Festival, an event aimed at increasing girls' participation in a variety of different sports. Letters have been sent home with the children who are involved.

GYMNASTICS EVENT...

On Thursday 20th, a group of children will be taking part in a Gymnastics festival. Letters have been sent home with the children who are involved.

DR BIKE...

On 20th March 2025, Jesille Ecat, a Sustrans Project Officer will be offering FREE bike safety checks for your children's bikes. They are also happy to look at parents' bikes as well. Dr Bike will be carrying out minor adjustments to bicycles, pumping tyres and possibly replacing brake cables or pads where necessary. The checks will take place throughout the day to make sure your bikes are ready for the summer.



This week's theme for the Golden Book is 'Someone who has a nice smile'

This week's winners are:

3H	Lawi
3W	Light
3/4K	Nasima
4A	Neymar
4B	Karolina
5F	Rayan
5R	Joseph
5/6B	Omar
6F	Ahmed
6Q	Milena

A huge well done to all this week's winners.



Have an amazing weekend!

Ms. Webb

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX

7+

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, griefters 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.

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, 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 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.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/11/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-joining-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>



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