

St Martin's Newsletter



SPRING TERM - Friday 1st March

Attendance

Well done everybody! This week whole school attendance is 94% 😊.

Assembly

Assembly next week will be led by Reception class. Parent's and carers are invited to join us.

Online Safety

This week's guide focuses on Roblox <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/roblox-2022>. It highlights a number of risks such as online daters, in-app purchases and contact with strangers. Click the link or see the attached guide for more information.



St Martin's Stars

Well done to everyone who got a certificate this week.

Purple Tie certificates are given for children who embody our rules of being Kind Respectful and Responsible.

Pre-School – Everleigh J

Year R – Alex C

Isla S

Year 1 – Harry A & Marley MP

Addison H

Year 2 – Jamie B & Layton MR

Louis T

Year 3 – Isaac T & Tyler J

Amelia F

Year 4 – Hollie P & Joaquin V

Penelope G

Year 5 – Darcy K & Erin H

Roman B

Year 6 – Lilly D & Ben A

Phoebe T

Family Learning Workshops

We have two family learning workshops coming up **Family fun** for **Pre-school, Reception and KS1** on Wednesday 13th March, 2024 at 1.30-3.00pm.
Online wellbeing for **Year 4, 5& 6** on Wednesday 27th March, 2024 at 1.30 – 3.00 pm.
These are available to book on using the school spider app.

World Book Day

On **Thursday** children can come dressed up as the following:
EYFS - (preschool and reception) can come in their pyjamas with their favourite bedtime story and teddy
Y1 & Y2 -Fairytale
Y3 - Egyptians / Stone age
Y4 - A character from the book 'Leon and The Place Between'
Y5 – Dress up as their 'hero' remembering not all heros wear capes
Y6 - Baddies i.e. Miss Trunchbull, Medusa

Attendance

Year R - 96% 2 Lates

Year 1 - 96% 9 Lates

Year 2 - 91%

Year 3 - 96% 3 Lates

Year 4 - 94%

Year 5 - 95% 7 Lates

Year 6 - 92%

4 Classes with less than 10 lates

Well done to year 6, this weeks Dojo Champs

Anyone who comes into school after 8:50am is marked as late. Please try to be an attendance



World Book Week

A reminder that next week is **world book week**.

Here is what we have planned

Monday – competition launch – during the week children will be making 'reading rivers'

Tuesday – book fair begins after school 3.25-4pm The book fair will be on from Tuesday until Friday. You are able to use world book day tokens towards books.

Wednesday – We are Readers day – children will look at how and when we like to read.

Thursday – world book day; Dress up (see above) Author Sally Nicholls will be visiting **Friday** – Stay and Read. Parents are invited to stay for tea/coffee and cake sale while sharing a book with your children.

Parents are invited to attend the following stay and read sessions 9.45am Reception and Tiny Steps parents 10.15am Year 1 and 2 parents 10.45am Year 3 and 4 11.15am Year 5 and 6

Parents with children in more than one year group can attend whichever session suits best and siblings can join in.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

AGE RATING
PEGI
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, 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.

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 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.



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Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21339431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parade-for-into>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

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