WHITLEY CHAPEL C of E FIRST SCHOOL

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents,

The children have all been great this week and some fabulous work has taken place! Last night, each and every child that attended Friendship Club was a real credit to you all – They worked so well together on the activities which we planned to promote friendship and teamwork!!



The last day of school this half term is Thursday 22nd October (School is closed on Friday 23rd October).



Come along to our annual Harvest Lunch!
Wednesday 21st October @ 12pm.
All welcome!

Diary Dates

Tuesday 20th October - 2.15pm October - Harvest Festival in Church. All welcome

Wednesday 21st October - Harvest lunch

Thursday 5th November - Flu Vaccinations (NB – These are not for nursery children).

Monday 9th November 3.30pm - 5pm – Parents Evening – More details will follow next week

Friday 13th November 8.30am - 10am – Children in Need Breakfast – More information to follow after half term

Friday 27th November 6pm onwards - Wreath making for Parents in the Parish Hall

Thursday 10th December – **10.30am** - EYFS Christmas Cinema Trip

Thursday 10th December - 3pm - Christmas Fair

Tuesday 15th December - 6pm – Christmas Performance in the Parish Hall (more info to follow soon)

Wednesday 16th December -1.30pm – Carol singing (Close House)

Thursday 17th December - Christmas Jumper and Lunch and Party (PM)

After-School Clubs – Autumn 1

Our After-school Clubs are as follows... Mondays:

On Monday 7th September – Mindfulness and Lego Club until 4.30pm.
From Monday 14th September - Dance with Pip (Reception to Year 4) until 4.30pm

Tuesdays:
From Tuesday 8th September - Gymnastics Club until 4.30pm.

Wednesdays:
From Wednesday 2nd September - Forest School Club until 4.30pm.

Thursdays:
From Thursday 3rd September – Board Games Club until 4.30pm.

Fridays:
There are no clubs, however wraparound care is available until 5.30pm.
.

After-School Clubs – Autumn 2 (After Half Term)

Mondays: Christmas Crafts with Miss Ord
Tuesdays : Gymnastics with Miss Agnew
Wednesdays: Drama Club with Mr Short
Thursdays; Board Games with Miss Agnew
Fridays: There are no clubs, however wraparound care is available until 5.30pm.

As last term, there is no need to book online) If there are any clubs your child would like to attend and you haven't yet let us know, please email admin@whitleyfirst.northumberland.sch.uk to book.

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

PEGI RATING 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.

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 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

Ciare 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.

Sources: https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite
https://corp.roblox.com/parents/

National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 10.10.2022