



Yaxham Church of England Primary Academy
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Headteacher: Mrs Jennie Müller
 Chair of Governors: Mrs Michelle Parnell
 15th September 2022

Dear Parents,

As we are at the beginning of the new year, we thought it would be useful to share reminders about keeping children safe online. Although we teach a lot in school, many children have freedom at home to use a range of apps which are not always restricted enough to keep them safe, and, as parents, it is really difficult to keep up to date with the risks of all apps. Roblox is always a concern, as children can have contact with strangers. I am sharing parent guidance below for your information.

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

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 'Odgers' and are quite common in Roblox. An Odger 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 Odgers. 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
 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.

NOS National Online Safety

Further guidance for online safety is available from:

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and carers from the NSPCC
- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

If you ever feel you need further guidance please do ask.

Special Awards this week:



Hedgehog Class

*Flo for her careful artwork, listening
brilliantly to instructions.*



Badger Class

*Theodore for being a kind and helpful member
of class to our new children*



Fox Class

*Isla-May for having a super attitude to her
learning and always thinking about others*



Writer of the week

Harrison for really focussing and writing carefully

Book of the week

Jackson shared a great book, The Night Zoo Keeper by Joshua Davidson, Theodore had a hard job choosing between his favourite football books but chose the Manchester United Annual. Ethan and Charlie RB were chosen for next week, we look forward to seeing what books they would like to share with us.

Other Messages

School Photos

Individual/family group photographs will be taken in school on Monday morning. Please make sure your child is in full uniform.

PE Kits

Apologies for the delay in PE t-shirts this term. We have had an issue with supplies which we are trying to rectify and hope to have this sorted as soon as possible. Please make sure your child is in sensible clothing for PE, shorts/tracksuit bottoms are essential for safety reasons. Hair must be tied back and no jewellery.

Carpark

Please be reminded that this is for staff only, this includes when dropping off or collecting from clubs. Spaces are very limited and movement needs to be kept to a minimum for children's safety. Please also ensure that your children respect this as a carpark, please ensure that they do not play amongst the cars, putting them in danger, or throw objects around which are likely to cause damage.

Wishing for sunshine for our litter pickers tomorrow and a restful weekend for you all.
Best wishes,

Jennie Müller

Headteacher

Dates for your Diary:

2023

Saturday 23rd September - Sponsored Litter Pick, Dreham 10-12

Monday 25th September - School Photographs

Thursday 28th September - Northgate High School Open Evening 5.30-8.30pm

Thursday 5th October - Neatherd High School Open Evening 5-9pm

Wednesday 4th October - Harvest Festival 2.45pm St Peter's Church Yaxham Families welcome to attend

w/c 16th October - Parents meetings

Friday 20th October - End of half term

Monday 30th October - Children return to school

Tuesday 31st October - Open Day 2024 Reception intake

Friday 10th November - Remembrance Service 2.45pm Families welcome

Friday 17th November - Children in Need

Friday 1st December - Christmas Decorations Day (Children to attend in clothes suitable for messy activities)

Tuesday 5th December - Nativity Dress Rehearsal 10am

Nativity performance 2pm

Wednesday 7th December Nativity performance 2pm

W/C 18th December - Christmas Jumper Week

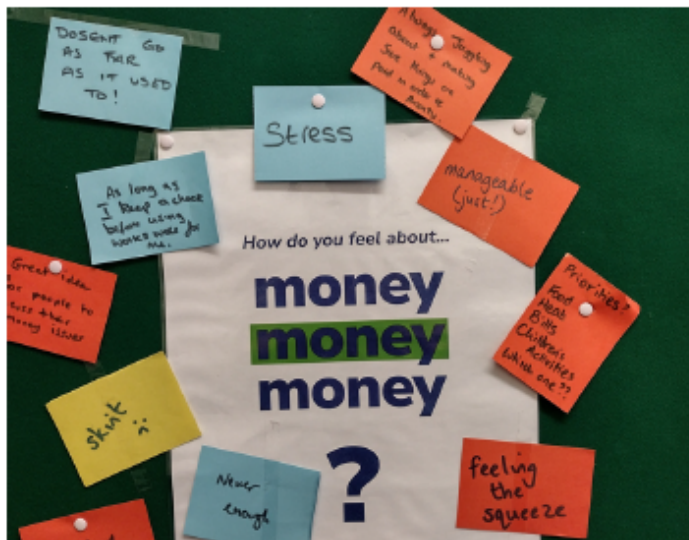
Wednesday 20th December - End of Autumn Term



Newsletter



Christians Against Poverty Debt Centre, in partnership with Dereham Baptist Church



How do you feel about money?

We asked visitors at the Dereham Windmill Teddy Zipline how they felt about money and they gave a range of responses, with many feeling that money doesn't go as far as it used to! Do you feel in control of your finances, or are you struggling? Either way the Money course is for you! Our money coach Morgan started running budgeting workshops after attending one and seeing the benefit for herself and her family. We'd love you to sign up and come along - it's free and open to everyone.

Morgan and our team of volunteer befrienders continue to work tirelessly to help others. If you're struggling with debt please get in touch as we may be able to help.

Money Course - book your free place now

The Money Course is a series of four workshops full of tips for budgeting and prioritising what you spend money on. Our next course will be held at Dereham Baptist Church and starts on Thurs 5th October, 9:30am-11:30am.

An attendee of a previous course says:

"Worried about your finances, or maybe really don't know the full picture of your finances? Do you struggle to budget and stick to a budget? Might you have debts but you really don't know the size of the problem? Even if you're confident you have all under control This Course could help you understand more about your finances and it's FREE !"

Please email
catherineweatherill@capuk.org
or phone 01362 695221 to book a place

Our debt services are free, and available for those in postcodes NR19 and NR20. There are other centres in Norfolk.

For free debt help phone 0800 328 0006. Visit capuk.org for more info

Dereham Debt Centre Newsletter Sept 2023

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Free, expert money coaching

Managing your money doesn't have to be a pain. Learn the skills to make it simple at **Dereham Baptist Church**. Best bit? It's totally free.

4 sessions, starting:

Thursday 5th October, 9.30am-11.30am

Book your free place, call 01362 695221
or email catherineweatherill@capuk.org

capuk.org/trymoneycoaching

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