



St Leonard's CE Primary Academy

Living and Learning Together with God's Help

18th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and welcome to a new edition of the school's newsletter!

It's been a busy couple of weeks here, so much has been packed into the first few weeks of term 4. The best way to find out about what's happening here at St Leonard's is by following us on Instagram. As we become better acquainted with the benefits of our social media account, we will endeavour to share more of the St Leonard's CE Primary experience and celebrate our links with the community.

Take care,

Mr Beadnell

Values Cup

The value for the term is Justice and we have been talking about fairness in assembly. Our winners of the Values Cup were Kailyn, Javan, Annie and Alfie – what a fantastic achievement!

PE Days Term 4

Monday – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6

Tuesday – Years 5 and 6

Wednesday – EYFS and Year 1

Thursday – Years 1, 2 and 3

Friday – Y4 swimming

Lent and visit From Reverend Phil

The school prides itself with its close links to St Leonard's church and some of our year 6 children have been attending Lent Lunches. The food was absolutely fantastic and was much appreciated by the children. Huge thanks to all involved for inviting us.

Reverend Phil joined us for an assembly on St Patrick's day where he shared a story about the qualities of Ireland's famous patron Saint. All finished up with a song! Thank you reverend for visiting us and we look forward to your next assembly with an Easter theme.

World Book Day

World Book Day was another great day here at St Leonard's which culminated in a fashion show during the afternoon assembly. This was followed by a visit from the travelling book fair which was also extremely popular. Thank you to our parents and families for your continued support.

St Leonard's PTA

The mighty St Leonard's PTA managed to raise a total of £277 from their inter-house coin collection competition. This money will be used to help fund the new outdoor classroom. Thanks to our PTA for their help and dedication to supporting the school.

Junior Voice Festival

We were very proud of members of the St Leonard's Choir who represented the school brilliantly in the Junior Voice Festival at the Wyvern. I understand they were in full voice and really enjoyed themselves. A massive thank you to Ms Bruch, Mrs Welch and Mr Harmer for organizing and accompanying the children.

Outdoor Classroom



The outdoor classroom continues to take shape. Thanks to the PTA who have been working hard to help fund this project. We'd also like to thank the Prestbury Trust, a charity set up to benefit the church/village of Blunsdon for their help with funding. Once completed we will have to have a grand opening. Watch this space!

It's a Boy!

Congratulations to Mrs Johnson whose baby boy was born last week. Mother and son doing well and we wish them and the family all the best for the future!

School Dinner Price increase from April 2025

A reminder that our food supplier, Dolce has written to inform us that the cost of school meals will be increasing from 1st April 2025. From this date, the cost of a school meal will rise to £3.19. Blue Kite will be looking at school meal provision for 25/26 and we have asked that St Leonard's is included in that process.

Upcoming TD Days

Monday 2nd June

Other dates to remember:

18th and 19th March – parents meetings, details to follow

21st March – Red Nose Day. Non-uniform, theme is red

Week beginning 31st March – Easter activities starting

First day back of Term 5 will be 22nd April.

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, griefer and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect: players can still send harmful messages to others – such as scam links or 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, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

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.



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Sources: <https://www.eweek.com/2020/07/20/334331/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-playing-roblox-games-for-us>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>



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