



Friday 23rd February 2024
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Welcome back to what is a very short term we now only have **4 weeks and 4 days left until the Easter holiday**. In those 24 days we have an awful lot happening so please check your app and/or the website.

On Tuesday we had a very disappointing 4 parents from years 5 & 6 attend the evening session from **PC Sparks** about awareness of gang culture and the implications for your child and preparation for secondary. The things that he talked about were even more relevant when I had to speak to a group of year 6 parents about the content of a WhatsApp group their children were involved in.

Technology, social media and mobile phones are all part of life now and we can't ignore them. Used safely they can help you in your daily life but they can also have devastating consequences if they are misused. Please monitor your child's use of mobile phones and the devices linked to the internet. We regularly post guidance on the newsletters and we have a page on our website giving tips and support.

There have been incidents, not here at MG but in other schools, linked to the game **Roblox**.

"Whilst a child was playing on a house building game, a questionnaire popped up which set a loud alarm on the child's phone. The alarm didn't stop until the questionnaire had been completed. We have been informed that the questions being asked as part of this disturbing and inappropriate for children. After this child had completed the questionnaire, the originating source was then able to gain access to the child's advice and location, as well as being able to see and hear what they were doing." Please can we ask that you monitor your child's use carefully.

On a happy note we have welcomed **11 Chicks** in the reception this week. The eggs and incubators arrived on Monday and the children have been closely monitoring them.

Apologies for having to postpone the **parent council** meeting on Tuesday. If we can reschedule the meeting for Tuesday 12th March at 9am on the north site.

Can I remind parents that teachers are not available for a chat in the morning, they start teaching as soon as the first child arrives. You can give them a letter, leave a message with the adult on the door or gate or speak to the office. This is one of the things that we will be discussing at the parent council meeting. Unless the issue is with the class teacher they should be the first point of contact to deal with issues.

Have a great weekend
Katie Jennings (Headteacher)



Mrs Islam started her yearlong sabbatical today. Some of you may know she has not been feeling very well recently so she is taking a year to focus on her health. We all wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her back with us soon.

Sport at the Grove

Well done to the year 5 and 6 boys football team who won their tournament this week. The year 3 boys did really well but missed out on a top 3 spot. Next week it is the turn of the year 3 girls to attend a competition. Year 4 are enjoying their 9 sessions at the Olympic Aquatic centre. On the 4th March year 3 will have a week of swimming at the feel good Centre.

Homework projects

It was great to see some more models from the year 2 children.

SPECIAL DATES



Friends@missiongrove

Mothers day Bundle

The PTA are organising a special bundle gift that you can purchase on parentpay.

The cost is £5 for flowers , card and chocolate. So the PTA can prepare the bundles there will be a cut off for ordering them. The deadline to book a bundle is the 1st March. Then the children will get to sign the card and bring it home for the 8th March.

Parent Governor

Thank you for taking the time to vote and I can inform you that Ramen Mauree was the winner of the votes. So he will be the third parent representative of the Governing Body.

February

27th Year 3 Girls Football competition

29th Last day of swimming for year 4

1 year 5 class ice skating

March

1st St Davids Day

1st Waxwing Assembly

5th Year 1 Zoo trip

4th—8th Year 3 swimming

6thyear 4 Science museum

7th World Book Day

1 year 5 class ice skating

Wagtail Hackney Farm

8th PTA mother's day event

Woodpecker Hackney Farm

Grouse Assembly

11th—15th STEM week –parent workshops happening

Big Walk and Wheel week

12th Wren Hackney Farm

14th 1 year 5 ice skating

15th Red Nose Day

Waxwing Hackney Farm

Goldcrest class assembly

17th St Patrick's day

21st Parents Evening

Governors

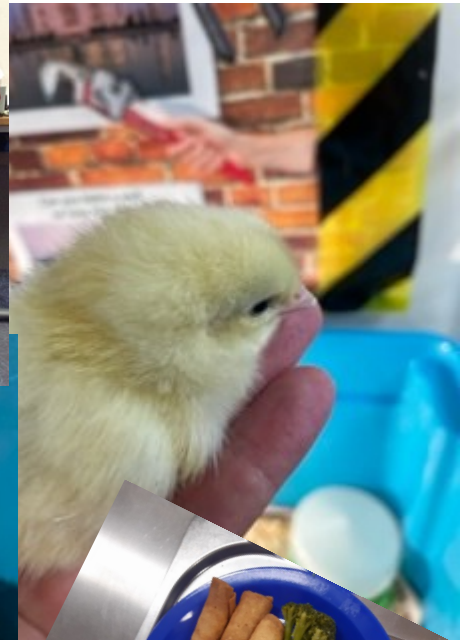


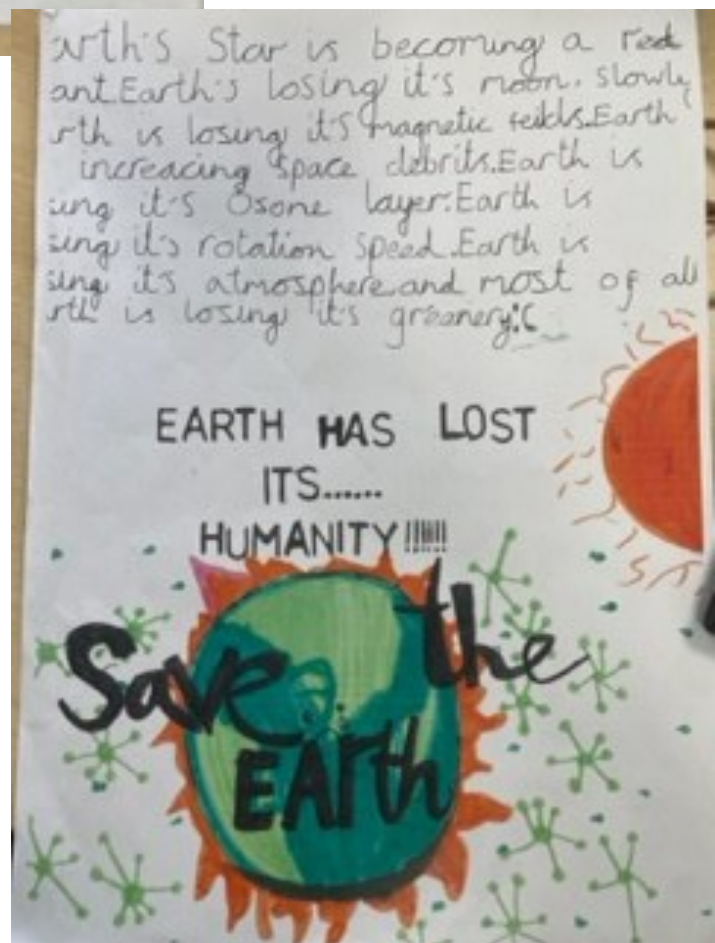
Red Nose day

Friday 15th March

We will be selling red noses- the price has gone back down to £2. The school council will be meeting the first week back to talk about fun events .

This week in pictures





What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION

16+

In UK and Europe:
rest of the world 13+

...MSG ME...

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With more than two billion active users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls, WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service. Its end-to-end encryption only allows messages to be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp itself can read them. This privacy issue has been in the spotlight recently, as the UK's Online Safety Bill proposes to end such encryption on private messaging; WhatsApp is unwilling to do so and has reportedly considered withdrawing its service in the UK should this legislation go ahead.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency'. Plus a scam where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then (posing as WhatsApp) call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS

To start a chat, someone only needs the mobile number of the WhatsApp user that they want to message. If your child has ever given their number out to someone they don't know, that person could then contact them via WhatsApp. It's also possible that your child might be added to a group chat (by one of their friends, for example) containing other people that they don't know.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original... and might not be entirely factual, either.

'VIEW ONCE' CONTENT

The facility to send images or messages that can only be viewed once has led to some WhatsApp users sharing inappropriate images or abusive texts, knowing that the recipient can't re-open them later to use as evidence of misconduct. People used to be able to screenshot this 'disappearing' content – but a recently added WhatsApp feature now blocks this, citing increased privacy.

CHAT LOCK

Another new option allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. The risk here is that this function creates the potential for young people to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of (such as age-inappropriate material).

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, anyone in your child's contacts list or in a mutual group chat can also track their location – potentially letting strangers identify a child's home address or journeys that they make regularly.

Advice for Parents & Carers ...TYPING...

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage your child to treat unexpected messages with caution: get them to consider, for example, whether the message sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.



THINKING BEFORE SHARING

Help your child to understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content to then be shared more widely (even publicly on social media). Encourage your child to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change your child's WhatsApp settings (go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups') to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval; you can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if your child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.



CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Some parents like to check in with their child about how they're using WhatsApp, explaining that it will help to keep them safe. If you spot a 'locked chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of chats that are in there, who they're with and why your child wants to keep them hidden. Also, if your child has sent any 'view once' content, you could discuss their reasons for using this feature.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



...HEY OSCAR...



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://blog.whatsapp.com/an-open-letter> | <https://iaq.whatsapp.com/10770/8839582332> | https://iaq.whatsapp.com/361065896189245/?helpref=hc_fnav
<https://www.whatsapp.com/security> | <https://blog.whatsapp.com/chat-lock-making-your-most-intimate-conversations-even-more-private>
<https://www.ausa.com/learn/whatsapp-scams>



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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.

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/2020/7/21/21333403/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-for-trio>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>