



PARKGATE INFANTS &
NURSERY SCHOOL

21st April 2023



It's Summer!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and I hope that everyone had a lovely Easter holidays.

Rainbow Friends

Online safety is an important part of our computing curriculum. We have had a number of children in school discussing rainbow friends. I thought it would be helpful to share a little information about this game. Rainbow friends is part of Roblox and is a horror experience similar to 'Huggy Wuggy' which turns something seemingly friendly into a horror game.

I have included a picture below with the Rainbow Friends characters which are available to buy as soft toys!



I have attached a Roblox information sheet to the back of this newsletter.

Industrial action

We would like to make parents aware that the NEU have announced further strike action for next Thursday 27th April and Tuesday 2nd May. I will be emailing parents on Monday with the name of classes that will be closed to pupils so that you can make childcare arrangements for the day.

Coronation

Earlier in the week I sent out a letter which gives details of our plans to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. We will be having a street party with Parkgate Junior School and we would like children to come to school dressed as Royalty!

New Website

You may have noticed that over the Easter holidays we have starting using our new website. The website includes lots of information about the school, our curriculum and also includes a blog for each class which details what the children have been learning. There are a list of dates and events included on the website however I thought it would be useful to include a list of dates in this newsletter.

Have a lovely weekend!

Mr Pritchard

Athlete visit to our school

We had a visit this week from Darren Harris. He is a blind athlete and he did an assembly talking about how exercise and activity is good for our brains and then did a session with each class.



Booking spaces on Parkgate Pirates

Please ensure you have booked a space for your child via Arbor. If you are unable to book, that means the club is full for that day. If your child is not booked on, Parkgate Pirates are unable to accept your child.

Bookbag keyrings

Please note that your child is allowed a maximum of 1 keyring on their bookbag.

Attendance

Well done to **Squirrel class** who had this weeks best attendance!



| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Badger Class | 92.6% |
| Fox Class | 94.3% |
| Rabbit Class | 95.2% |
| Squirrel Class | 96% |
| Mole Class | 95.9% |
| Hedgehog Class | 90.5% |

WEEK 2 (w/c 24/4; 15/5; 12/6; 3/7; 11/9; 2/10)

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Caribbean Chicken with Rice or Wholemeal Pasta | Organic Beef Bolognese with Spaghetti or Diced Potatoes | Roast Pork Loin and Gravy with Roast Potatoes or Wholemeal Pasta | Quorn Hot Dog with Potato Wedges or Tricolour Pasta (V) | Crispy Coated Salmon with Oven Chips or Wholemeal Pasta |
| Veggie Burritos with Rice or Wholemeal Pasta (Ve) | Savoury Puff Roll with Diced Potatoes (Ve) | Quorn Fillet and Gravy with Roast Potatoes or Wholemeal Pasta (V) | Special Fried Rice with a Spring Roll (V) | Margherita Pizza Wrap with Oven Chips or Wholemeal Pasta (V) |
| Tuna Sandwich | Ham Roll | Chicken Mayo Wrap | Cheese Sandwich | Egg Baguette |
| Jacket Potato with Cheese | Jacket Potato with Baked Beans | Jacket Potato with Tuna | Jacket Potato with Baked Beans | Jacket Potato with Cheese |
| | | Halal Roast Chicken and Yorkshire Pudding with Roast Potatoes or Wholemeal Pasta | | |

Stars of the Week

Badger—George

Fox— Eliott

Rabbit— Jawaria

Squirrel—Khyati

Mole— Caitlin

Hedgehog—Eliza

Well done to our Stars of the Week



Learning Awards

Badger—Ivan P-W

Fox—Prisha

Rabbit—Beth

Squirrel—Lorenz

Mole—Gabriel

Hedgehog—Iqra

Well done!



DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|--|--|
| Mon 24 th April | PTA Coffee Morning at Soul Survivor |
| Thu 27 th April | Possible strike day |
| Fri 28 th April | PTA Uniform & Donut Sale |
| Mon 1 st May | Bank Holiday (no school) |
| Tue 2 nd May | Possible strike day |
| Fri 5 th May | Parkgate Day celebrating the King's Coronation |
| Mon 8 th May | Coronation Day (no school) |
| Fri 26 th May | PTA Frozen Friday—Icelolly Sale |
| 29 th May—Fri 2 nd June | Half Term |
| Mon 5 th June | Inset Day (no school for children) |
| Dates for the whole term will be available on the website in due course. | |

This week in Ducklings class.....

This week we took delivery of some eggs and an incubator. When we came in to school on Wednesday one chick had hatched. On Thursday all the chicks had hatched.



This week in Parkgate Pirates.....

This week, the children took part in St George's Day activities like crossword puzzles, listening to a story about St George and colouring pictures of dragons, horses and other characters from the mythical story about St George.

They were also very excited to be able to visit the chicks that hatched in the reception classroom this week.



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 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.



National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theweek.co.uk/2020/12/21/33343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-joining-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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FRIENDS OF PARKGATE INFANTS & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS



****UNCLAIMED RAFFLE PRIZES****

Please check the numbers on your Spring Fair Raffle Tickets, as there are lots of unclaimed Prizes.

| | | |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 30 GREEN TICKET | 492 PINK TICKET | 178 BLUE TICKET |
| 353 GREEN TICKET | 370 PINK TICKET | 206 BLUE TICKET |
| 284 GREEN TICKET | 250 PINK TICKET | 480 ORANGE TICKET |
| 336 GREEN TICKET | | |

If any of these tickets are yours please contact the PTA at friendsof@parkgateinfants.herts.sch.uk. So we can arrange for you to collect your prize. Thank you!



Hello, Parents & Guardians!

We are BeeZee Bodies, and we work with Hertfordshire Council to provide FREE (and FUN!) healthy lifestyle support for families.

We run [BeeZee Families](#) courses after school across Hertfordshire, and have new groups beginning in May.*

CLICK HERE OR SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE CAMERA TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR FAMILY'S FREE PLACE



| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
|---|---|---|---|
| WALTHAM CROSS Hurst Drive Primary EN8 8 DU 17:45 – 18:30 | ST ALBANS Camp Primary School AL1 5PL 17:30 – 19:30 | HOBDES DON St. Cuthbert's Church LN11 0PU 17:30 – 19:30 | HEMEL HEMPSTEAD Heblett's Manor Junior School HP2 5JS 17:30 – 18:30 |
| WELWYN GARDEN CITY Ridgeway Academy AL7 2AF 17:00 – 18:00 | WATFORD St Mary's Primary WD19 5BT 17:30 – 19:30 | STEVENAGE Oval Community Centre SG1 1RD 17:30 – 19:30 | BOREHAMWOOD Meryfield Primary School WD6 4PA 17:30 – 19:30 |

*To be eligible for this awesome free service, your family must live/go to a school in Hertfordshire and include one child who is above their ideal healthy weight.

April is... Stress Awareness Month



Stress is a very common human response when we are feeling overwhelmed by physical, mental or emotional pressure. It's important to try to manage our stress so that it doesn't build up and cause longer-term issues. This April is STRESS AWARENESS MONTH. We are encouraging everyone to #ACT (Action Changes Things). Choose one action that you and your family can do to support your physical, mental or emotional health and reduce your stress.

What can we do to help manage our stress?



Try taking a few deep breaths or follow a guided meditation



Enjoy a healthy, balanced diet including a wide variety of different foods



Connect with family and friends



Dance it out! Listen to your favourite music and have a boogie.



Go for a family walk



Take a social media break

Find out more at www.stress.org.uk/national-stress-awareness-month/

