

# Ellwood Community Primary School

*Believe, Achieve, Belong*

Telephone: 01594 833232  
email: admin@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk  
Website: www.ellwoodschool.co.uk



**Our value this term is: Respect**

January 25th 2024

## Weekly Attendance

Our aim is to have our weekly attendance above 97% in line with the Local Authority's expectation. This week, our **whole school attendance was 95.8%**.

Well done to Oak class this week for both getting the highest attendance!

Please remember to report a child's absence before 9.30 a.m. ideally before the start of school by either phoning the school on 01594 833232 or emailing

admin@ellwood.gloucs.sch.uk

Thank you.

Oak	98.8%
Chestnut	96.4%
Beech	94.2%
Sycamore	92.4%
Willow	98.3%

We would like to make you aware of The Online Safety Bill – this new set of laws will help to protect children and adults online. It will make social media companies more responsible for their users' safety on their platforms. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-the-online-safety-bill>

The Bill will make social media companies legally responsible for keeping children and young people safe online.

It will protect children by making social media platforms:

- remove illegal content quickly or prevent it from appearing in the first place. This includes removing content promoting self harm
- prevent children from accessing harmful and age-inappropriate content
- enforce age limits and age-checking measures
- ensure the risks and dangers posed to children on the largest social media platforms are more transparent, including by publishing risk assessments
- provide parents and children with clear and accessible ways to report problems online when they do arise

The online safety laws will mean social media companies will have to keep underage children off their platforms. However, parents will need to ensure that children are not making fake accounts with an older date of birth.

## Cross Country

A massive well done to the cross country team (Jack, Stan, Alfie, Brady, Josh and Macey-Rose)!

It was a very tough 2k race however they all showed determination and resilience.

A special mention to Jack (Year 6) and James (Year 4) who both came 7th in their respective races, so will now advance to the county trials. Amazing achievement!



For the February 2024 half-term school holiday period, Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) will provide families in receipt of Free School Meals, who sign up to this offer, with 1 week of vouchers to assist with food costs during the school holidays.

The scheme is for children in reception to year 11 who receive Pupil Premium (income-related) free school meals and attend a school in Gloucestershire. **We are unable to consider college and sixth form students as well as children who receive infant free school meals (available to all children in reception to year 2); they are not eligible for this scheme.**

**Families who have signed up previously do not need to re-register** for February 2024 holiday vouchers - they will already have been included. Families that have previously signed up will need to contact us with any changes to their circumstances. To ensure we reach all those who are eligible, we are encouraging parents that have not previously signed up, to sign up as soon as they can.

If you have any updates to an existing application, please email [childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk) so that we can update your details, as this is not an automatic process.

**Applications for Holiday Free School Meal vouchers for the February 2024 half-term are open from midday 16 January until midday 30 January.** Voucher emails will be sent out week commencing 05 February. Please check your junk/spam email folders during this period as sometimes the vouchers end up there. If parents have not received their vouchers by the 07 February, please email

[childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:childrensfund@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

For more information and to sign up, please visit our website - [Holiday School Meal vouchers](#).

## RSPB Garden watch

Big Garden Birdwatch is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. Visit <https://www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch?> for more information about it and find out how you can get involved.



## Beech Class Focus

In PE we have been playing net and wall games. We have had lots of fun over the last couple of weeks developing skills and playing games like ready steady go and squash the grape. We have also learnt the importance of warming up, learnt how to be ready for a ball and receiving/sending a ball.



In computing we have been programming using 'scratch', using 'sprites' and adding sounds and exploring sound effects.





**Progressive Active Camps**  
*Be happy, healthy and active!*



**OUR ACTIVE CAMP IS BACK CINDERFORD THIS FEBRUARY HALF TERM!**

# FOREST VIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

## MONDAY 12TH FEBRUARY UNTIL FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY!

Normal day - 9.30am until 4.30pm!

Extended day - 8.30am until 5.30pm!

**20+ SPORTS  
ON OFFER!**

**OPEN TO ALL  
CHILDREN AGED  
5-13!**

**Nerf Wars,  
Glow Games  
and much  
much more!**

**FROM £20  
PER DAY!**

**BOOK ONLINE  
TODAY BELOW!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL [JAMIE ON  
J.KNIGHT@PROGRESSIVE-SPORTS.CO.UK](mailto:J.KNIGHT@PROGRESSIVE-SPORTS.CO.UK)**

**PROGRESSIVE-SPORTS-NORTH-  
GLOS.CLASSFORKIDS.IO/CAMP/55**

## 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.

AGE RATING  
PEGI  
7

### 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 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 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 2016, 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

Source: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/1/21/21333443/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-digital-partner-forbids>  
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

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## *Diary Dates*

### **JANUARY**

Friday 26th January - Whole school Cricket experience day (PE kit to be worn)

Tues 30th January - Years 3/4 Swimming

### **FEBRUARY**

Thurs 1st February - Year 5 Gymnastics  
- Follow my lead (biking) for Oak class

Monday 5th February - Safer internet day

Tuesday 6th February - 5 year old dental checks (NHS)

Thursday 8th February - Year 5 Gymnastics  
- Follow my lead (biking) for Oak class

Friday 9th February - Cake sale in aid of Little Princess Trust (donations welcome please!)

### **HALF TERM**

Monday 19th February - First day back