

Dear Parents/Carers,

Good afternoon and welcome to this week's parent bulletin. The children have been very busy, and their current learning will be shared in next week's bulletin. This week we have a range of wider information to share.

ePraise and Arbor Update

As you will be aware from the letter sent out before Christmas we are moving our school management system to a platform called Arbor. This means you will be unable to see your child's demerits and interventions on ePraise as these are being recorded in Arbor. We will be rolling out an Arbor parent app in due course. We are also aware that the timetables have disappeared from ePraise. Our IT team is working on getting this working again. Please bear with us whilst we adjust to a new system.

School Lunches

We have received feedback that some pupils are not getting the meals that they have ordered, especially if they are towards the back of the line. We believe this is due to a combination of pupils not always ordering and pupils changing their minds when they arrive in the lunch hall. We are urgently looking at an alternative system for managing this so pupils get the meal they order in the morning.

Food from Home

As you know Emmanuel operates a "no nuts, no sesame and no kiwi policy" which means that children must not bring products that contain whole or part nuts, sesame or kiwi into school. We appreciate that this may well impact pupils' normal routines, however I am sure you can understand the need for your support in adhering to this very important medical need.

Important Information about Extra Curricular Activities

Further to the extra curricular list being sent out last week and the clubs opening for places to be secured, please be aware that we are unable to add pupils to clubs that are already full. Maximum numbers are given for many different reasons including space and equipment availability or manageable numbers for staff for that particular activity.

To ensure that spaces at clubs are fully utilised, if a child does not attend a club for 2 consecutive weeks they will be removed to free up the space for another child (you will be informed by ParentMail that they have been removed). Likewise, if your child no longer wants to attend the club please can you remove them from it.

Mental Health in Schools Team

This week we welcomed ladies from the Mental Health in Schools Team who ran a parent workshop for us focusing on anxiety. A copy of their presentation will be shared with this bulletin on ParentMail. They shared information and strategies on how you as parents and carers can support your children, it was wonderful to see so many join us from both Verwood First and Emmanuel Middle - If you are worried about your child's mental health please do contact your child's tutor / class teacher in the first instance who will then bring this to the attention of the pastoral teams.

You may also find some of these websites of use for information and resources:

<https://camhsdorset.org/about-camhs/mental-health-support-teams-mhsts>

<https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/school-nursing/chathealth>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

<https://www.kooth.com/>

<https://www.annafreud.org/>

<https://www.camhs-resources.co.uk/>

Dorset Max Card

Did you know that if your child:

1. Is disabled, and registered with The Xchange OR
2. Is a young carer, child in care or some care leavers OR
3. Is part of the: Ukraine Family Visa Scheme; Homes for Ukraine; UK Resettlement Programme

then they may be eligible for the Dorset Max Card.

This entitles your child and one other person (such as you or a friend) to free or discounted access or benefits at a range of: leisure activities; activity venues; shops and cafes; country parks; museums and galleries; organisations.

Follow the link to find out more:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/dorset-max-card#Eligibility>

Roblox Safeguarding Alert

We are sharing some concerning information regarding potential child grooming activities occurring within the online gaming platform, Roblox. Please note that the majority of Roblox users are under the age of 13.

Kelly Overhill - the Safeguarding Lead for Initio Trust has asked us to share that there have been two recent cases of potential grooming by an older male within a group chat on Roblox, and that due to parents' vigilance; these incidents have been highlighted with one being reported to the police. This highlights a concerning trend of these individuals using Roblox to initiate contact with young people.

A significant concern is that these individuals often try to transition the conversation to other platforms like Snapchat, where they then instruct children on how to hide their chats and further conceal their interactions, this has been the case for one of the students involved.

Roblox is a gaming platform where players can create and publish their own games. The platform can be a great educational tool to help teach children new skills like coding. However, there are also some risks. Roblox allows players to build and publish their own games. This means that other users could build games that contain adult or inappropriate themes that children might see. Players can use the communication features of Roblox to talk to one other while they are playing. This means that there is a risk of cyberbullying or unwanted contact.

Please find attached at the end of this bulletin "What Parents & Educators Need to Know about Roblox" guide from national college, which provides valuable information on the platform's risks and safety features

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/online-grooming/>

KS3 Sparx Reader

Well done to everyone who completed their Sparx reader homework on the first week back - it put us in the top 5% nationally for completion. The challenge is now to sustain this - we look for everyone to complete all their homework each week - where this is a challenge please discuss with your tutor how home routines and can help to achieve this.

Year 8 Personal Development events this term

Apprenticeship Assembly

The Dorset Careers Hub have once again funded the middle school Apprenticeship Awareness assembly, provided by Joanne Small from the Dorset and Somerset Training Providers' Network (DSTPN). Pupils learnt what an apprenticeship is and how they can access more information about them. If you would like to investigate further at home. Amazing Apprenticeships is a great website to start. <https://www.amazingapprenticeships.com/#>

Arson Courtroom Drama

Year 8 had great fun today acting out a mock trial and taking on the roles of the courtroom (such as judge, the defence, accused, etc). The more serious message which we hope they took away with them is that the wildlife on our local heathlands is precious and the consequences of heathland fires is that we may lose endangered wildlife. Arson is against the law and anybody who starts a fire on the heath can risk getting a criminal record.

House News

This week was the start of the sports hall inter House competitions. Each tutor group has an allocated lunch time session, where they are split into their Houses and work their way around four activities. Basketball shots, badminton, dodgeball and penalty kicks, in which they score points for their House. We started with 8NS and 8MR this week and the number of pupils participating was fantastic!!! Well done to all of them.

Cross Country

A group of pupils from Year 8 competed at King's Park for a cross country race yesterday. It was a county competition and there were around 150 pupils in each race. They all ran extremely well and should be very proud of themselves. A special mention to Jacob H who came 17th and Imogen T who came 39th. Well done everyone.



Key Stage 2 Netball

On Monday a group of Year 5 and 6 netball players took part in the second round of the East Dorset qualifiers. They played 9 games in total and were able to put all of their hard work during training into practice. It was a tough competition with only the top 2 teams qualifying, but they all did really well and had great fun at the same time! A massive well done also to the sports leaders who came along to help umpire the games.



Rippa Rugby

We have been fortunate again this week to have Rippa rugby coaches come into school and work with pupils during their PE lessons. They will be coming in and running coaching sessions starting on Tuesday 28th January. More information will be sent out if your child is interested.



Year 5 Art

Year 5 Appreciating French Artist Henri Rousseau. Unpicking The Surprise painting. Here are some examples of their sketchbook notes and drawings - used to start their Spring Term Art project of Jungles.

More photos on instagram
[@emmanuelmiddleschoolart](#)

We wish you all a great weekend and look forward to seeing everyone back on Monday morning.

Mr Rob Christopher and Mr Alister Barker



At The National College, our **WakeUpWednesday** guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX



Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a "sandbox" title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with RobloxStudio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to interact online (including a group chat function), which could expose children to various risks. Scammers often attempt to trick young Roblox fans into exchanging their paid-for items for something which turns out to be of much lesser value – or something they never even receive. The in-game chat has some filters, but it isn't perfect: players can still send unpleasant messages, 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 doesn't usually deter such people. Some player-built Roblox levels have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind, and this will not always be obvious.

PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money – usually a one-off payment. 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 lobbies, therefore, will put children at greater risk of contact from strangers than others.

IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some extra costs. These are usually indicated with the symbol for "Robux" (the in-game currency). Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game using real money. People can also buy extra Robux to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and it's also possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

Advice for Parents & Educators

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 younger players, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply 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. Keep in mind that the game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your account.

PRIVATE SERVERS

If a child has friends to play Roblox with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, the player who owns the server could invite other people – who might not be child friendly – to join them. Additionally, private servers can be set up in such a way that any player on the host's friends list can join, so it's important to discuss who children are playing 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 two-factor authentication is enabled on any payment accounts also makes it harder for children to spend money inadvertently.

DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, children must 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 okay to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger – can help them understand how to communicate more safely with other people online.

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.



Sources: <https://www.roblox.com/press/2020/07/2020-04-8-roblox-developers-claim-more-than-half-of-us-children-have-played-it>
<https://www.pewresearch.org/january-2019/03/roblox/>



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Together with Trussell

Serving Ringwood, Fordingbridge & Verwood areas

Struggling to make ends meet?

Your local foodbank provides food and support for individuals and families in financial crisis.

Foodbank referrals are available from the following agencies:

- Your Health Visitor or Family Support Worker
- Dorset County Council service providers
- Your child's school
- Your GP or Social Prescriber at the doctor's surgery
- Local church: ctverwood@gmail.com
- Citizens Advice East Dorset: 0800 1448848
- Verwood and West Moors Town Council Offices
- Other organisations recognised as Trussell referral agents

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