



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 39



Dear Families,

This week it seems the last of the Autumnal sunshine has past and the Winter weather has finally arrived. With this in mind please may I remind all our families that ALL children need suitable warm, outside clothing including a named coat, hat and gloves. We want our children to be able to enjoy our fantastic outside provision without anyone getting too cold!



Many of you have asked about the roofing project and the possible completion date. Despite a setback with the felt, which has now been rectified, the team assure me that they are on track to be complete by early January. We are even hopeful of a slightly earlier finish if the weather allows. Our project has been closely monitored by English Heritage to ensure that all work complies to the bat license that restricts works on our building. We now have a couple of new residents in our bat boxes! The next big area to be upgraded is the hall roof. The scaffold for this area will be protruding onto the carpark area. Please may I remind you that no children (either at St Mary's or at Brewood Middle Academy) should be unsupervised when close to the scaffolding. I am particularly asking our families with children who use the busses to Brewood to remind their children of the importance of staying away from the scaffold.



As we approach Advent, we look ahead to our Christmas performances in school. Cherry, Willow, Oak and Silver Birch will be performing their Nativity play on the 12th and 13th December. Both performances will start at 2pm in our school hall. AS with previous years we kindly ask that childcare is found for younger siblings. This ensures that our young performers face as few distractions as possible. To ensure that we maintain fire regulations, two tickets for each performance will be sent home to each family closer to the time. If you know you will not be using all your tickets, please could I ask that you share them with other children's families who may have more than four adults who wish to attend. Sycamore will be performing in their Christmas concert on 19th December at 2pm. Again, this will take place in the school hall and two tickets per family will be sent home closer to the time. Class teachers will be contacting you regarding costumes and supporting learning lines.



*Mrs. N R Brennan
Head Of School*

Junior Cadets'
Wednesday 29th November 2023



St Andrews Day
Can all children please wear full school uniform with something blue.

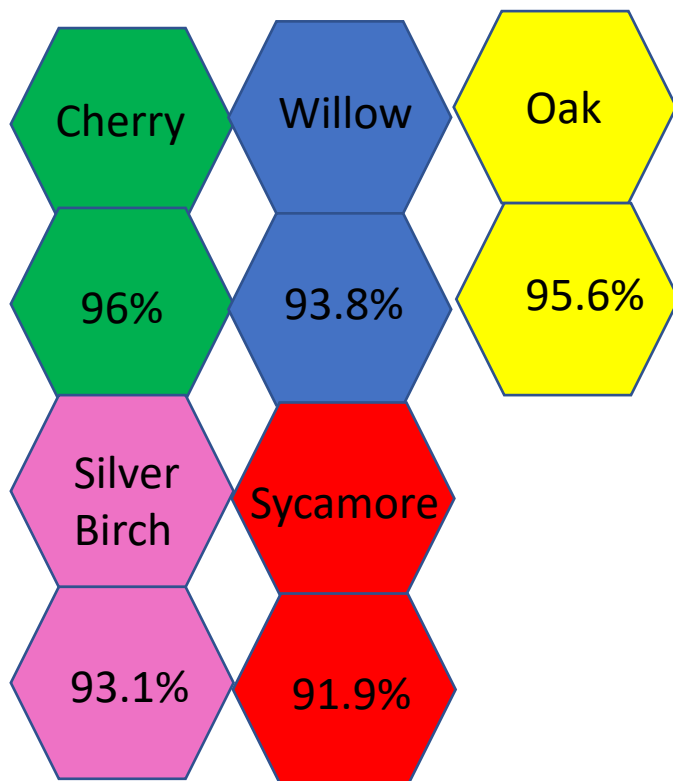
Winter Wonderland Trip
Oak and Silver Birch trip to see Santa.



Attendance Matters



29 th November	Junior cadets' year 4
30 th November	St Andrews day - All staff and children to wear something blue.
30 th November	Oak and Silver Birch trip to Wonderland.
1 st December	Sycamore leading worship - Theme Advent sycamore parents welcome 2:45pm
5 th December	Book look parents welcome 2:45pm - 3:15pm
7 th December	Rocksteady concert 2:30pm - 3pm
8 th December	Christmas Jumper day £1 donation.
12 th December	Nativity, 2pm start
13 th December	Nativity, 2pm start
13 th December	SEND Coffee morning 9am-9:30am
13 th December	Junior cadets' year 4
14 th December	Christmas lunch for children
15 th December	PTA School disco - Information to follow.
19 th December	Carol Concert KS2, 2pm start
20 th December	Junior Cadets' Year 4 award ceremony
20 th December	Let's Read Together 2:45pm



Congratulations to all our classes who have reached our government's expectation of 96% or above..

★ Star of the week ★

Class	Pupil
Cherry	Maddie
Willow	Nellie
Oak	Archie H
Silver Birch	Olivia
Sycamore	Jonah C

A massive well done to all children for all their hard work this week. We are proud to call you a part of our St Mary's Family

Free School Meals

Are you entitled?



Are you entitled to Free school meals, please use the link below.
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/Educational-awards-benefits/FreeSchoolMeals/Apply-online.aspx>



WEEK 2

Allergy information available on request

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main				
Macaroni Cheese (v)	Pork Sausage and Mashed Potatoes	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Lasagne	Fish and Chips
Vegetarian				
Mild Chickpea Coconut Curry with Rice (v)	Vegan Sausage and Mashed Potatoes (v)	Roasted Vegetable Tart with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (v)	Veggie Curry with Rice (v)	Cheese Toastie and Chips (v)
3rd Options				
Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans, Cheese, Tuna Mayo or Coleslaw
Deli				
Deli Option with Ham, Tuna Mayo, Egg Mayo or Cheese				
Vegetables				
Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables	Hot Seasonal Vegetables
Dessert				
Vegan Sweet Potato and Ginger Cake	Fruit Shortbread	Cinnamon Toast Bake	Vegan Chocolate Brownie	Fruit Jelly
Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt	Fruit/Yoghurt

Fresh seasonal salad and bread available daily. Fresh fruit and yoghurt available daily as an alternative to the dessert of the day.

6th Nov, 27th Nov, 18th Dec, 8th Jan, 29th Jan, 19th Feb, 11th Mar

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

PEGI RATING
7+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

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 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.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theweek.com/2020/7/17/2020403/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-joining-virtual-games-for-the>
<https://corporate.roblox.com/>



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