



St. Mary's News

"SHINE AS A LIGHT IN THE WORLD"

Matthew 5:16

Newsletter No: 44



Dear Families,

Welcome back to a new term and a very happy new year to you all. I hope you enjoyed the Christmas break, celebrating with family and friends.

As we enter 2024 many families are finding the new year a financial challenge. Please may I gently remind all of our families that, together with St Mary's church, the parish council and the Spar shop, we always have a selection of tinned and dried food available. This is freely given to anyone, no questions asked, no explanations required. If your family is in need please speak to myself, Mrs. Johnson or whichever member of the St Mary's staff you feel most comfortable with. No family needs to be hungry.



This week we have welcomed three new members of staff to the St Mary's team. Mr. Jones has returned and is now teaching Silver Birch Class full time. We also welcome Miss Harper and Mrs. Jones to our lunchtime supervisor's team which Mrs. Dade is now leading. I know they will quickly become highly valued and cared for members of the St. Mary's team.

The children have settled back into school routines and are enjoying finding out about their new topics. Class newsletters will be sent home next week enabling you to see the learning planned for this term.



Finally, many of you have asked about the roofing project. We are now in the final stages of the project with the majority of outstanding works due to be completed during February half term. The internal damage caused by leaks will also be repaired in due course.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs. N R Brennan
Head Of School



Let's Read Together

Monday 15th January - All families welcome 2:45pm - 3:15pm

Highway Safety

Wednesday 17th January Oak and Silver Birch will be learning all about road safety.

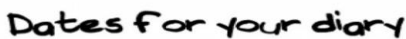


Rock Steady Concert

Thursday 18th January Families welcome 2:30pm in the school hall.

Book Look

Thursday 25th January Families welcome 2:45pm to 3:15pm to see their child's work.



Let's Read together -
Families welcome 2:45pm
- 3:15pm

Highway Safety for year 1 & 2

Rock Steady Concert
2:30pm all families
welcome

Census day Menu

Book Look - Families
welcome 2:45pm - 3:15pm

Oak, Silver birch and Sycamore trip to Chester Zoo.

Parent consultations – Information to follow.

Safer internet day

SEND Coffee morning

Chinese New Year

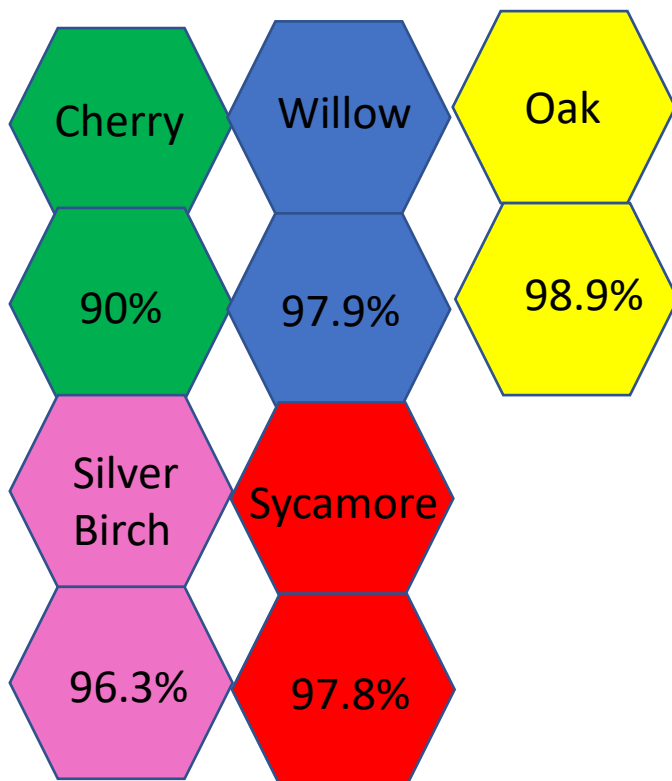
**Mother's day lunch -
Cherry, Willow and Oak
Information to follow.**

**Mother's day lunch -
Silver Birch and Sycamore
Information to follow.**

World book day

Author Sarah Griffiths to Visit St Marys

British Science week starts



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

or above..

Star of the week

Class	Pupil
Cherry	Hallie
Willow	Thomas
Oak	Layla
Silver Birch	Ted
Sycamore	Hetty

**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**

Census Day Menu

Thursday 18th January 2024

Main Menu

Margarita Pizza
Chicken goujons
Chips

Beans or Peas
or

Jacket Potato and Sandwiches
available



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 3

Allergy Information available on request

13th Nov, 4th Dec, 25th Dec, 15th Jan, 5th Feb, 26th Feb, 18th Mar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Main				
Ratatouille Pasta Bake (v)	Meat Feast Pizza	Roast of the Day with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Gyros	Fish and Chips
Vegetarian				
Korean Cauliflower with Rice (v)	Potato and Bean Calzone (v)	Vegetable Curry with Bombay Potatoes (v)	Barley and Vegetable Risotto (v)	Cheese and Tomato Pinwheel with 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, Salmon 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				
Sticky Orange Cake	Oat Fruit Slice	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Cinnamon Fruit Pudding	Chocolate Mousse
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.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX



PEGI
7+

With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

No Age Rating

Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, griefers and online predators.



In-App Purchases

Robux is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Robux can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily play for hours, or purchase a membership without realising it.



Chat Functionality

Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

OOers

An 'OOer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the Internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'OOers' and should be avoided by children.

Online Predators

Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.



Advice for Parents & Carers



Take Note of Ratings

Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will mark content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.



Set Parental Controls

Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu, where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.



Disable Messages

It's not always possible to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be blocked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child has met.



Block and Report

To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clearly why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.



Encourage Creativity

It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. We never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!



Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor for two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UK1st Gaming and UK1st Mobile. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games are built and how they work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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