

27th March 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I can't believe that we are almost at the Easter holidays again! This term just seems to have flown by. Today we welcomed some of our new Nursery starters into school for their first taster session with Miss Allsopp. It was lovely to see them settling in, making new friends and getting ready to start their educational journey with us. The rest of the school have had a super busy week as can be seen from the Flyer. On top of their normal work there has been the making of Easter cards and rehearsals for the Key Stage 2 Easter Service next Friday.

Our Year 4 gymnasts had a busy time with Mr. Smith on Monday. They had to perform their routines in front of Becky Lee-Turner, School Games Co-ordinator for our area, who then judged them. The children worked really hard but thoroughly enjoyed themselves leaving the session with a great haul of certificates. Well done!

Thank you to Mrs. Abbott for organising our Scholastic Book Fair. I am pleased to let you know that thanks to your generosity in buying books we have raised £459.82 to purchase new books for school.

We were pleased to welcome Mrs. Michaela Horncastle, our County Councillor, into school this week. She was visiting to present the school with some new Chromebooks which she has kindly funded for us. On behalf of the children and the school I would like to thank her for her generosity.

Newcastle Falcons have been in school for the last few weeks providing some free rugby coaching for our Key Stage 2 children. This has been a great experience for the children and this week we were surprised by a donation of rugby related equipment from the Falcons. This is very much appreciated and I would like to thank them for this kind and unexpected donation.

I am sure that you will have seen the rush of news related to children's use of social media this week, from the court case in America about the deliberately designed addictiveness of some platforms to a story yesterday from a Roblox developer advising that to keep children safe on the platform children need constant supervision and the Government advice today about recommended screen time for young children. A growing number of parents concerned about these issues are committing to a Smartphone Free Childhood. Going smartphone free can make a real difference to a child's learning, physical and mental wellbeing. Details about signing the pact can be found later in the flyer.

I would like to remind you that the school will close for the Easter holidays at 3.15pm on **Thursday 2nd April 2026**.

Well done to Year 2 with the best attendance this week: an amazing 100%.

Well done to Year 6 for the best attendance for this year: 97.9%.

I hope that you enjoy reading this flyer and you have a relaxing weekend.

Mr. A. Wheatley,

Headteacher



Attendance Matters



**ATTEND** today...  
**ACHIEVE** tomorrow...  
**ATTENDANCE** matters.

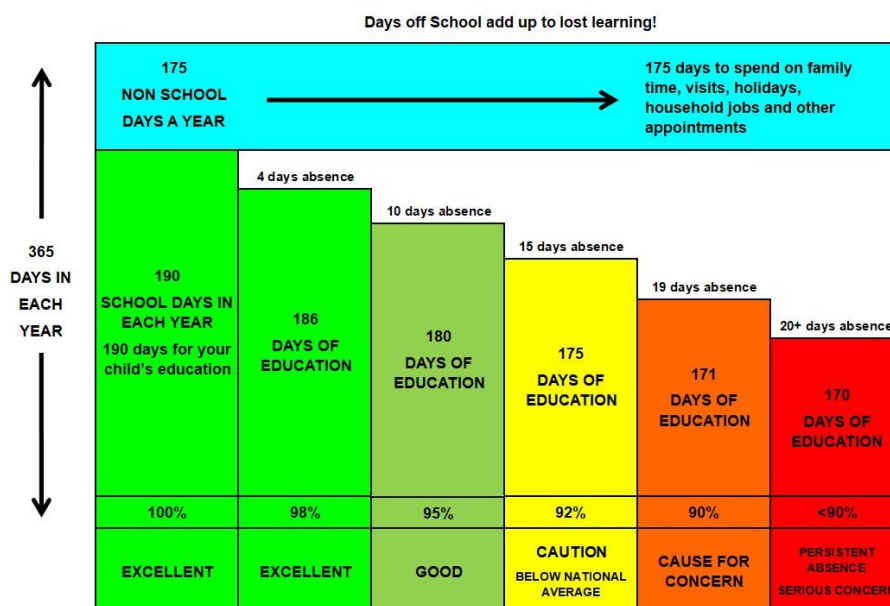


We continue to focus on attendance and punctuality so please remember that our School starts at 8.55am (9am for Nursery) and anyone arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Attendance for this week is summarised below:

Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year	Class	Attendance this week	Attendance this year
Nursery (Hedgehogs)	94.3%	96.1%	Year 3 (Gibside)	97.6%	97.3%
Reception (Owls)	94.1%	97.1%	Year 4 (Lindisfarne)	98.2%	95.8%
Year 1 (Wallington)	94.4%	96.3%	Year 5 (Bamburgh)	96.8%	97.4%
Year 2 (Cragside)	100%	97.4%	Year 6 (Dunstanburgh)	96.1%	97.9%

Please see the graphic below which shows the significant impact of absence over time .

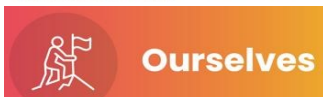


'Let all that you do be done with love'

1 Corinthians 16:14

## New Friends!

The Hedgehogs have had such a lovely week meeting their new friends, who will be joining us after Easter. You were all brilliant role models and you should all be super proud!



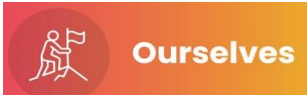
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## A Great Week Outdoors with Reception.

Reception have had a great week outside with lots of gardening including creating Easter gardens in our herb area. Well done Owls!



PIC•COLLAGE



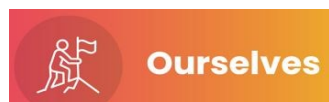
Ourselves



Learning

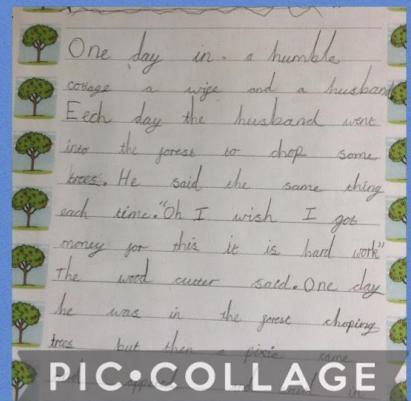
## Identifying Emotions with Year 1

This week in PSHE we were talking about our different emotions and how we might look when we feel those emotions. We also talked about the reasons why we feel different emotions and the effect that emotions can have on our bodies. We had a wonderful discussion and then tried to show each different emotion using our facial expressions.



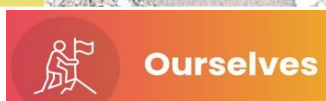


Today we all worked really hard retelling the story of the Three Wishes. We had to remember to write in sentences and to use speech marks if we could. Great work Year 2,



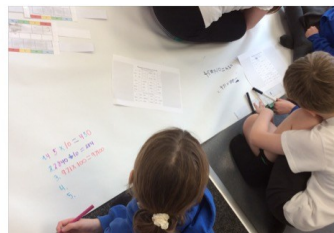
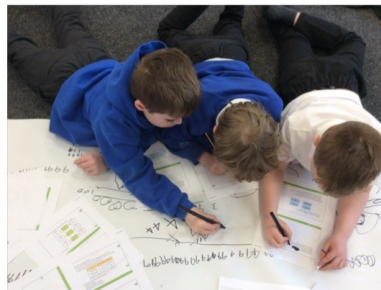
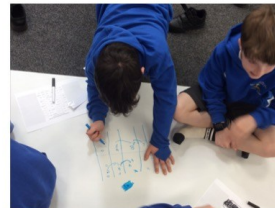
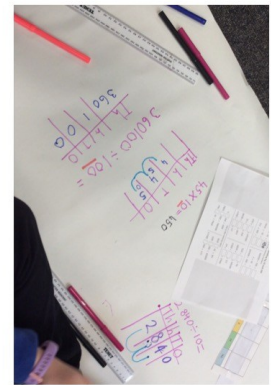
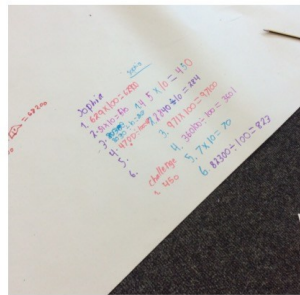
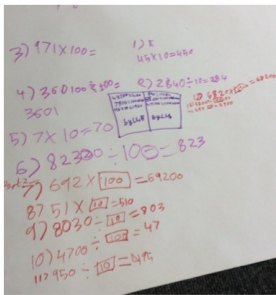
### Making our own Sandwiches with Year 3.

This week in Year 3, we made our sandwiches in Design Technology. This was based off our plan to make a healthy, savoury sandwich. It also required us to use our knife skills to cut the ingredients. We made some delicious sandwiches which was made better by doing a taste test at the end of the day!



## Marvellous Maths with Year 4

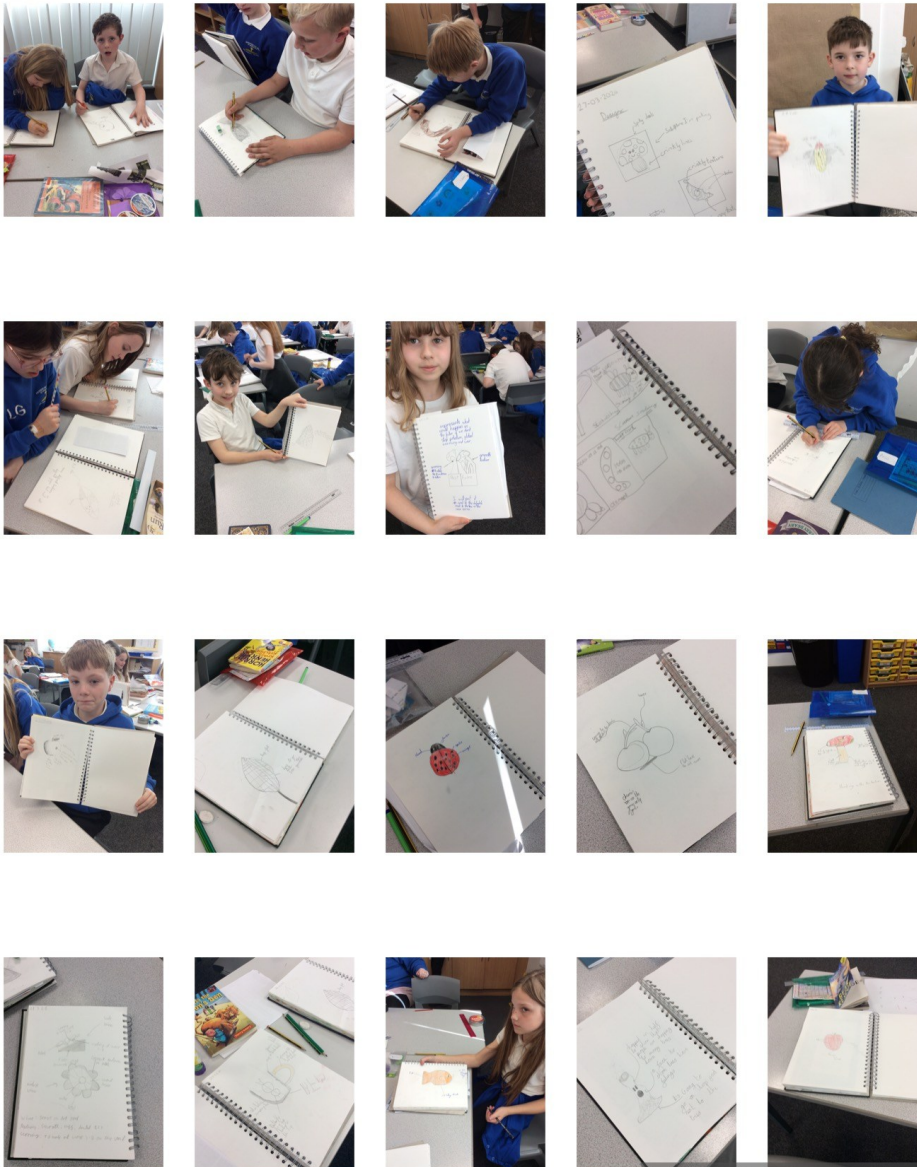
Year 4 have been working incredibly hard on revising their formal methods for the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Today, we finished the week with multiplying and dividing by 10 and 100. It was the perfect way to bridge into our upcoming topic of decimals!



PIC·COLLAGE

## Designing our Sculptures with Year 5.

This week, Year 5 explored their creativity by sketching designs for their clay sculptures. They carefully planned how different parts would join together to make strong and stable models. The children also experimented with a variety of textures, thinking about how these would bring their ideas to life. We discussed how each sculpture could enhance a setting, making it more interesting and imaginative - ready for creating with clay next week!

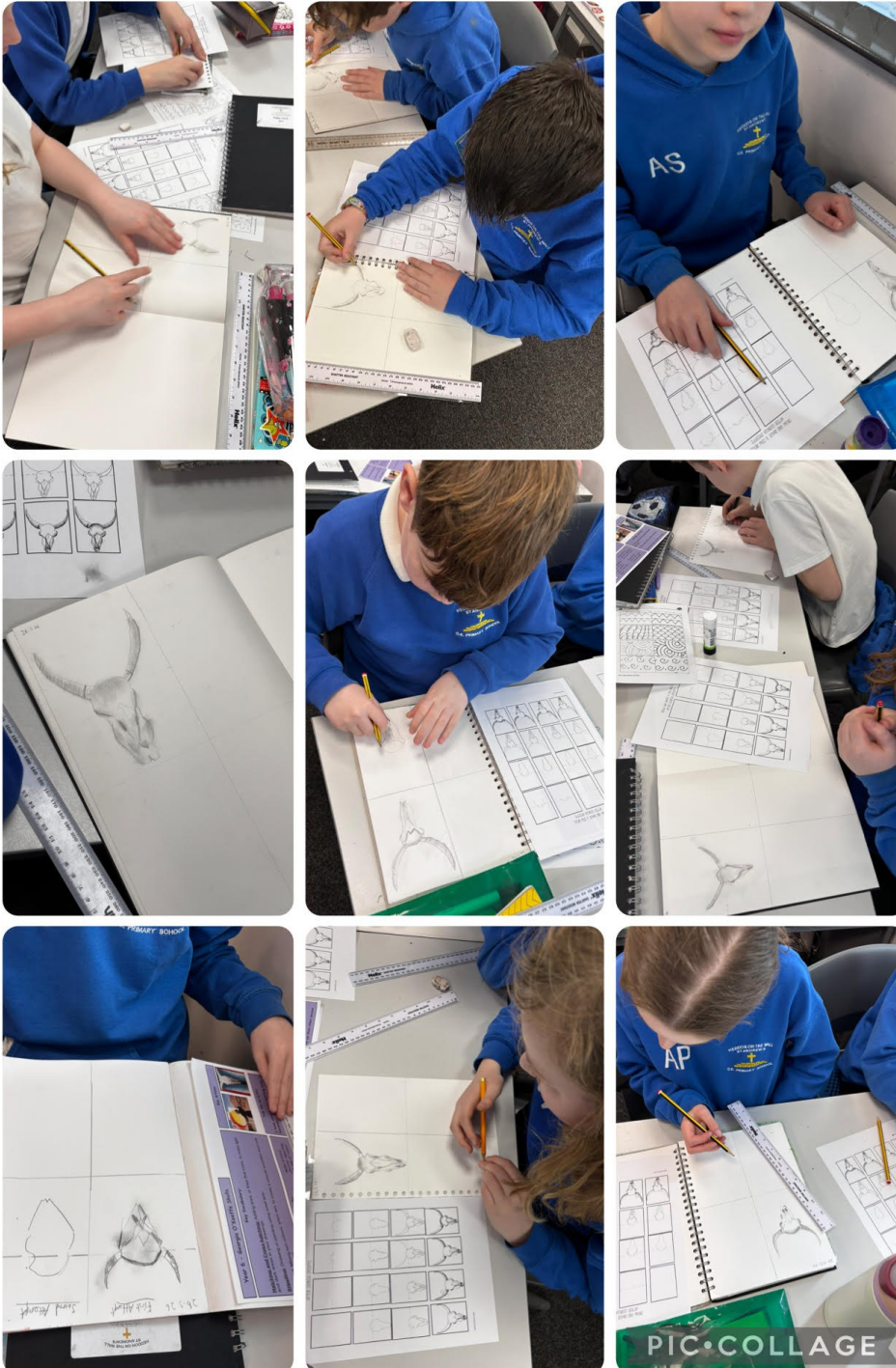


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## Exploring the Art of Georgia O'Keeffe with Year 6.

We have been looking at the artwork of Georgia O'Keeffe this week. To begin our work, we looked at O'Keeffe's drawings of skulls. We attempted to draw our own version, using different shading techniques to bring them to life.



## Wonderlicious!

Last week saw the Golden Ticket winners having lunch with a teacher of their choice. There was lots of great conversation and big smiles!

Thank you all for your support for the Friends of Heddon School by buying their Wonderlicious Chocolate Bars!



## Year 4 Gymnastics



The Year 4 Gymnasts took part in the RISE Competition. They performed fantastic small ball and floor routines in front of the Becky Lee– Turner, our local School Games Organiser.

The girls have worked tirelessly in after-school clubs and at home to perfect their routines

They came away full of smiles and certificates — achieving an amazing:



6 Gold

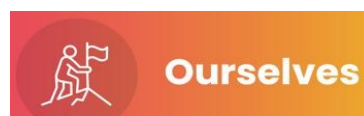


2 Silver



2 Bronze

Well done to every single one of them!



## Tesco Stronger Start Programme

We have been informed that our involvement in the Tesco Stronger Starts programme has been extended. We now have until Sunday 26th April 2026 to collect tokens. If you shop at Tesco we would very much appreciate you choosing us for your tokens. Any funds raised will go towards OPAL play. Thank you.

### Vote for Our School in the Tesco Stronger Starts Programme!

#### How to Vote

- 1. Shop at Tesco**  
Make a purchase of any value at a participating store.
- 2. Get a blue token**  
You will receive one token per transaction at the checkout.
- 3. Cast your vote**  
Place your token in our project's designated slot before you leave.

#### When & Where to Vote

Voting is open from mid-January to the end of March 2026.

You can vote at these 3 Tesco stores:

- Kingston Park (NE3 2FP)
- Newcastle West Road (NE15 6PQ)
- Chapel Park (NE5 1DR)

Others

NotebookLM

## West Northumberland Family Hubs

What's On in the **EASTER** Holidays 2026



### Prudhoe Family Hub

**Tuesday 7th April**

**Baby Stay and Play**  
(ages 0-18 months)  
10-11am

**Thursday 9th April**

**Family Stay and Play**  
(All ages) 10-11am

**Tuesday 14th April**

**Baby Stay and Play**  
(ages 0-18 months)  
10-11am

**SEND Safe Space**  
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)  
1-3pm

**Thursday 16th April**

**Family Stay and Play**  
(All ages) 10-11am

### Hexham Family Hub

**Wed 8th April**

**Family Stay and Play**  
(All ages) 10-11am

**Tuesday 14th April**

**Calm Family Stay and Play**  
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)  
1.15-2.15pm

**Wed 15th April**

**Family Stay and Play**  
(All ages) 10-11am

**Thursday 16th April**

**SEND Safe Space**  
(All ages, additional needs and disabilities)  
10am-12pm

### Haltwhistle Family Hub

**Friday 10th April**

**Family Stay and Play**  
(All ages) 10-11.30am

**Monday 13th April**

**Sensory Stay & Play**  
(ages 0-18 months)  
10-11am

**Tuesday 14th April**

**Family Stay and Play**  
(All ages) 1-2pm

**Friday 17th April**

**Go Outside & Play at Walltown Country Park**  
Greenhead, CA8 7HZ  
(All ages) 10.30am-2pm

### Bellingham Family Hub

Over the Easter break our team are focusing on moving to the new Family Hub in Bellingham! We'll be working hard to get this ready to welcome families soon!



**Become a Family Hub Member!**  
Scan the QR code or visit  
[nland.cc/fhreg](https://nland.cc/fhreg)



**Find us online!**  
Scan the QR code or visit  
[nland.cc/familyhubs](https://nland.cc/familyhubs)



Find us on Facebook & Instagram  
**@WestFamilyHubs**

Please get in touch for more information about our groups, sessions & digital offer



Sign up for a group or session



Online Notice Board



### Parent Support & Skills

*Workshops and discussions helping parents and carers strengthen relationships and support their children's wellbeing.*

#### Navigating Parenthood

Information & ideas to help parents and carers navigate parenting older children & teens

#### Dad Pad

The essential guide for new dads developed with the NHS

#### Dad Talk

Online workshop for dads, during pregnancy and beyond

#### Healthy Relationships

Support to reduce conflict and improve everyone's lives.

#### Togetherness

Free digital programme providing tools to support parents/carers & young people at each developmental stage: <https://togetherness.co.uk>: access code - HADRIAN

#### Sleep Workshop

Support & guidance available from trained sleep awareness practitioners

### Additional Needs &/or Disabilities

*Supportive sessions for children and young people with additional needs, and their families, to connect, relax, and share experiences.*

#### Safe Space

A welcoming, safe space where you can make the most of our Family Hub facilities.

#### Empowering Parents

Supportive wellbeing group for parents/carers of children with additional needs and/or disabilities

#### SEND Family Chill Out

Regular relaxed after school sessions

#### Calm Stay & Play

Weekly calm & fun sessions, with no booking required

### Early Learning & Play

*Fun and engaging sessions helping you support your children's learning and development through everyday activities.*

#### Brilliant Babies

Specially designed supportive groups for families with young babies

#### Terrific Toddlers

Meet other families with toddlers at these social sessions with topical themes

#### Ready Steady School

Encourage your little one's independent skills with these fun, friendly sessions

#### Early communicators

For children between 15-36 months who are experiencing some difficulties with their understanding and/or use of language

#### Stay & Play

Regular fun sessions, with no booking required

### Baby Support & Early Parenting

*Friendly sessions for new and expectant parents to connect, learn, and explore their baby's growth and development together.*

#### Building a Brain

A bitesize online workshop exploring brain development

#### Preparation for Parenthood

Develop a healthy lifestyle for you and your baby, support for expectant mums and dads.

#### Feeding Friends

NHS partner support with breastfeeding and more

#### Starting Solids

A guide to starting solid foods with your little one

#### Toilet Training Workshop

Practical advice for parents and carers beginning the toilet training journey

#### Wellbeing Service

Tailored support for Mums or Dads living in Northumberland who are expecting a baby or have a child under 2 years of age.



# THE PARENT PACT

**Want to wait to give your child a smartphone  
but don't want them to be the odd one out?**

## **You're not alone!**

There's a growing movement of parents across Britain who are choosing to wait to give their children smartphones, and it's simple to get involved.

The Parent Pact is a way to join together with other families in your school to agree to delay getting your child a smartphone until at least 14 (when they're a bit older and more able to deal with everything the online world brings).

It's all about strength in numbers – if your child knows that other kids in their class won't be getting a smartphone for a few years either, the peer pressure dissolves. Over 100,000 families have signed already, and it's growing fast.

It takes 30 seconds to sign the Parent Pact – and you can see how many others in your child's class, school and county have signed on the live leaderboards.



## **Sign the PARENT PACT**

Or find out more on our website

[SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG](https://SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD.ORG)

[@SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD](https://twitter.com/SMARTPHONEFREECHILDHOOD)



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](https://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 Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

### ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

### MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

### RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

### IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

### SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

### PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

### TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

### TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

### Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGBible.



## Dates for your Diary - Spring Term



Thursday 2nd April 2026	Key Stage 2 Easter Service at St. Andrew's Church - 9.30am
Thursday 2nd April 2026	Year 2 visit to Alnwick Castle
<b>Friday 3rd April 2026</b>	<b>GOOD FRIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
<b>w/c Monday 5th April 2026</b>	<b>EASTER HOLIDAYS</b>
<b>Monday 4th May 2026</b>	<b>MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY - SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
w/c Monday 11th May 2026	Key Stage 2 SATS Week
<b>w/c Monday 25th May 2026</b>	<b>HALF TERM HOLIDAYS</b>
w/c Monday 1st June 2026	Made in the North East Week
Monday 1st June 2026	Reception visit to Red Hemmel Farm
Monday 1st June 2026	Year 5 visit to Woodhorn Museum
Tuesday 2nd June 2026	Year 6 visit to Sunderland Maritime Centre
Tuesday 2nd June 2026	Year 2 visit to the Discovery Museum
Wednesday 3rd June 2026	Year 1 visit to Newcastle Quayside
Wednesday 3rd June 2026	Year 3 visit to Prudhoe Castle

## Dates for your Diary - Summer Term



Thursday 4th June 2026	Nursery visit to Whitehouse Farm
Wednesday 10th June 2026	School Photographs (Class photos)
Tuesday 16th June 2026	Year 6 Diocesan Leavers Service at St. Nicholas' Cathedral
Wednesday 24th June 2026 - Sunday 28th June 2026	Year 6 Trip to France
Monday 29th June 2026	Sports Day
Friday 3rd July 2026	School Summer Fair
Monday 6th July 2026	Year 6 Visit to St. James' Park
Thursday 9th July 2026	Music and Drama Summer Showcase at 4.30pm in School Hall
Friday 10th July 2026	Rocksteady Concert for Parents in School Hall at 10am
Monday 13th July 2026	Moving Up Morning
Monday 13th July 2026	Heddon's Got Talent Finals (Children only)
Thursday 16th July 2026	Year 6 Leavers Assembly at 2pm in School Hall
<b>w/c Monday 20th July 2026</b>	<b>SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b>