

St. Thomas' C.E. Primary School

Newsletter

9.2.24

A note on worship...

Courage



Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go'

Joshua 1.9

This week we focused on **encouraging others** to be brave. Sometimes it takes the support of others to overcome fears and how we can enable our friends and families to have courage.



Stars of the Week



**Landon, Alex, Jack C., Elliott, Zak H., Reagan, Amelia F.,
Freddie N., Jack R., Hunter and Oliver H.**

Well done to you all!

Events for the Week

Beginning

12.02.24

Monday

Guitar Lessons

Ukulele lessons

Brass Lessons

After school Multi Games for years 3, 4, 5 and 6

After School Choir

Tuesday

Keyboard, strings and woodwind lessons

Emerald Class Linking School Project visit to Marland Hill

Share our Work Afternoon (not for Emerald class and from 2.15pm for Opal class).

After school football for years 4, 5 and 6

Wednesday

After school multi-skills for years 1 and 2

Thursday

Amethyst Class Oral Hygiene Workshop

After school dodgeball for years 3, 4, 5 and 6

From the office...

- Please ensure that **school dinners** are ordered by midnight on **Sunday** for the following week.
- **Thank you** to those who **remembered** to order school dinners this week. It is very much appreciated.
- Children taking part in **after school sports** need to bring a **PE kit to school** to change into if it is not their usual PE day.
- Please send back **emergency contact cards** to the school office

Emerald Class TT Rockstars

Children in Emerald class are busy learning their times tables in preparation for the Times Tables check in June. They are running a weekly TT Rockstars competition.

All children can access TT Rockstars at home. This online game supports in the learning of times tables. Times tables are the cornerstone to the maths curriculum as they are needed for lots of areas within maths.

1st – Oliver

2nd –Ethan

3rd - Bradley

Keeping Children Safe Online

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonline.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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.

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.

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, 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.

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FEEL THE **beat**



1

Have your child jump up and down or do jumping jacks for 1 minute.

2

Then have them sit down and place their hand on their heart.



3

Encourage them to pay attention to their breathing and how their heartbeat feels.



Young Voices



The members of the choir plus Mrs Stewards, Mrs Whittles and Mrs Williams went on the tram to the AO Arena in Manchester on Monday to take part in the first of three Young Voices concerts in Manchester.

The children spent the afternoon rehearsing ready for the concert which started at 7.00pm. The concert was electrifying – 10,000 children performing together with a live band to a capacity audience. There were guest performances from MC Grammar, Natalie Williams and Nandie Bushell.

We all had an amazing time – the children sang their hearts out. Their behaviour was exemplary. It was a very special night for us all. Photographs and videos of the event should appear on our Facebook page very soon.

Fire Station Visit

Amethyst class visited the Fire Station earlier on in the week. On their return, we received an email from James, their learning and communities officer.

This is what he had to say about the children who visited.

I just wanted to let you know what an absolute delight the children from your school were yesterday. Their behaviour was impeccable, they clearly enjoyed themselves and were honestly one of the best groups we've welcomed to the museum.

We are always very proud of the way our children behave when they are out and about. The children had a great time.

Well done, Amethyst class!

Guitar Lessons



Guitar lessons should be moving to Mondays. Please make sure your child has their guitar in school on Monday next week. Thank you

Hopwood Hall College

On Thursday we hosted 8 T-Level students from Hopwood Hall College as part of their celebration of National T-Level Day.

The students were paired up and spent the morning in four of our classes engaging in reading based activities. Everyone involved had a great time. The students really enjoyed their time at our little school and got a lot out of it and they would all like to come back!

Dates for the Diary...

Tuesday 13th February – Share our work afternoon from 2.00pm (Not Emerald class)

Tuesday 13th February – Emerald class visit to Marland Hill (Linking Schools)

Thursday 15th February – Amethyst class oral health workshop

Friday 16th February – House Point winners reward morning

Friday 16th February – Ruby class oral health workshop

Friday 16th February – school closes at 3.15pm for one week and reopens on Monday 26th February

Friday 1st March – Starchaser Rocket visits school for the day. Please use the link <https://starchaser.co.uk/> if you would like further information about Starchaser Industries.

Monday 4th March and Tuesday 5th March – Parent's evening