

Milton St. John's CE Primary School Newsletter

Wednesday 11 October 2023

Remember to subscribe to the newsletter on our website to receive an electronic copy.

HARVEST

It was lovely to hold our Harvest Service at St John's Church today. Our Worship Leaders guided us through the service and each class from Year 2 upwards performed various songs and poems. The children also met our new Vicar Revd Denise Owen, who I'm sure we will see a lot more of in the future.

Thank you to everyone who donated a non-perishable item of food. All donations will be given to Mossley Food Bank.



NEXT PTA MEETING

The next PTA meeting that everyone is welcome to attend is on Wednesday 18th October on Zoom at 8pm - please email pta@milton-st-johns.tameside.sch.uk for a link to join.

We **S**how respect. We are **H**onest. We **I**nclude others. We **N**ever give up. We seek **E**xcellence in all we do.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - HOLIDAYS IN TERM TIME

You may be aware from recent items in the press that the Government are concerned about children's absence from school and they believe that it is not in a child's best interest to be away from school at any time. Therefore, an absence from school should be avoided at all costs. Here at Milton St John's we make it clear that leave will only be treated as authorised in quite exceptional circumstances. Holidays in term time are not an exceptional circumstance and will always be classed as an unauthorised absence.

Should you need any clarification on this point you can find information on the following websites:

www.gov.uk

www.tameside.gov.uk

Please be aware that unauthorised absences may lead to a Penalty Notice for irregular school attendance. If a child takes more than one holiday in term time during their school life, we are being encouraged to refer the matter to Tameside MBC's Education Welfare Service for consideration of a prosecution under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996. Parents/carers need to be aware that a conviction of an offence under Section 444(1) of the Education Act carries a fine of up to £1000.

POPPY APPEAL

Poppies will be on sale from Monday. Suggested donations start from 50p - £1.00 for various Poppy themed items.

PTA MAKE THE RULES DAY – 20.10.23

The PTA are trying really hard to raise funds to help us improve our playground and have come up with a fabulous 'Make the Rules Day' event on the last day of this half term.

The idea is that the children can choose one, or as many rules as they would like to make from the list on the poster (or essentially break) on that day for a donation of 50p per rule. As we cannot predict the number of rules the children wish to make, we are unable to add this to Schoolmoney. Therefore, please send cash into school on this day.

ONLINE SAFETY

From time to time, we will share guides that we think may be useful for parents/carers to help you navigate your way through the fast paced, ever changing online technology. Please see the poster below about Roblox.

DIARY DATES

Wed 11 October	PTA Disco 3-15 – 4-15pm KS2 - Year 3/Year 4/Year 5/Year 6
Thurs 12 October	PTA Disco 3-15 - 4-15pm Rec and KS1 - Year 1/Year 2
Tues 17 Oct 2023	Year 3 trip to Quarry Bank Mill
Wed 18 Oct 2023	Individual photographs
Wed 18 Oct 2023	Online Parents' evening
Thurs 19 Oct 2023	In person Parents' evening
Tues 31 Oct 2023	Deadline for High School applications
Thurs 19 Oct 2023	Year 6 trip to Stockport Air Raid Shelters
Tues 31 Oct 2023	Rec - Year 6 Nasal Flu Immunisations
Mon 15 Jan 2024	Deadline for Primary School applications
Fri 14 June – Mon 17 June 2024	Year 6 Kingswood Residential trip

Milton St John's CE PTA

MAKE the RULES DAY



Rules to be made include:

1. Have crazy hair or wear a hat
2. Come to school in your own clothes
3. Wear trainers
4. Bring your own snack for break time (**NO NUTS or SESAME**)
5. Wear a hoodie
6. Have a temporary tattoo
7. Have squash or juice in your water bottle
8. Wear nail varnish
9. Wear bright socks or tights

Here's how it works:

When?

Friday 20th
October

Parentkind
Member Association

For each rule made (or broken) on the day please bring 50p into school or choose every rule for £2!!

Money raised will go towards improving our playground!

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.

PEGI RATING
7+

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 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.



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#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-55333431> (Roblox: over half of us kids playing virtual parties for time); <https://www.roblox.com/parents/>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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DUKINFIELD RUGBY CLUB

DUKINFIELD RUGBY CLUB ARE A FAMILY RUGBY CLUB WITH A THRIVING JUNIOR AND SENIOR SECTION.

OUR DINKY'S SECTION CATERES FOR CHILDREN 2-6 AND WE HAVE TEAMS FROM AGE 7 TO 16

WE ARE ACTIVELY LOOKING TO RECRUIT NEW PLAYERS ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS. NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

CONTACT

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