

# WARREN Primary School

NEWSLETTER 28 MARCH 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely to see the beginnings of Spring and some lighter, brighter mornings getting ready for school.

In March, we have also enjoyed celebrating all things “books” with World Book Day. There was room on the broom in the office and it was great to see so many children (and adults!) dressing up as characters from some of their favourite reads.

More importantly it was lovely to see children enjoying their reading and growing their love of books! Please see the [website](#) for more information.



We were very impressed by the efforts of those children submitting their “Reading Rivers” and to find out about all of the fantastic Warren readers that we have and would like to congratulate and thank everyone who took part. Whilst it was a very difficult decision we are also pleased to announce the Reading River Winners as follows: **Emilia - Hedgehogs, Liam – Rabbits, Tawana and bibians – 1M, Reuben – 1S, Natalie – 2A, Bodhi - 3B, Jennifer – 6L, April and Amelia – 6R.**

Every entrant has also received a merit mark and 10 house points for their house!

We will soon be welcoming a new parent governor Ms Ramona Mihnea to our next local governing body meeting but still have a vacancy not only for a parent governor but also a community governor. If you know anyone in the local community who may be interested in this opportunity, then please do get in contact with the school office or with Anne Turnbull ([a.turnbull.wps.gov@osborne.coop](mailto:a.turnbull.wps.gov@osborne.coop)) – Chair of our Local Governing Board.

You can watch this short video link from National Governance Association or visit their website for more information about the role and see the school [website](#) for further information.

[Interested in becoming a school governor or trustee? | National Governance Association](#)



We have also welcomed Mr Peter Jones to the school in his new role supporting Mrs Roper as Part-Time Assistant Caretaker. We hope you will say hello if you see him around the site, usually on Wednesdays.

### **New astro**

It has been great to have some all-weather additional space to us up on the field. This has been funded by our Trust (OCAT). This funding will also include the addition of sails that will provide shade.

### **21<sup>st</sup> March**

21<sup>st</sup> March proved a popular day for charities with it always being World Down Syndrome Awareness Day and this also being Red Nose Day this year. Thank you for your support with raising money for the work done by Comic Relief again this year. If you still wanted to make a donation then you can do so Just Giving. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/rnd25-warren-primary-school>

### **Football**

We are pleased to announce that the girls' football team are league winners, with an undefeated streak! All the girls have grown in confidence and skills throughout the season and Miss Belcher, Mr Ayris and Mr Roder could not be prouder.

The Boys' football team have also now made it to the league finals which take place this Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March after school at Orsett Heath Academy. The boys have had some very tough games throughout the season but have never given up and it is this that has



We are very proud of all of our children who took part in the Performance Poetry heat on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March. All of them were fabulous and we were then through to the final on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March in the Year 3/4 Individual & Year 3/4 large group categories. categories! Congratulations to Thato on second place in the individual category and also to our Year 3 group who won in their category!

Special Thanks also to Ms Lewis for all her time and hard work in preparing the performers, as well as Mrs Smith, Mrs Redmond and Mrs Gilbody for supporting the events. Well done everybody!



## Alice

Year 3 and 4 Parents and carers should now have received an email regarding tickets for their performances of Alice on Tuesday 1st April. Please only book a maximum of 2 tickets at this point in time to allow all parents/carers to see their child. If we have any remaining tickets available these will be released on a first come first served basis on Monday 31st March.



## Keeping the pavement clear please!

If you are waiting at the nursery gates in the morning, please do try to leave the pavement clear for others to pass in order that everyone can stay out of the road. Thank you.

**The PTFA committee and volunteers do a fantastic job at not only raising funds for the school but also giving great experiences to the children. Please do contact them if you have any skills they may be able to use or have any time to volunteer and help with events.**

- The PTFA volunteers will be running the Easter slide competition on Monday 31st March in the small hall.
- PTFA Meeting – More information to follow but please save the date for the next in person PTFA meeting on Monday 22nd April at 6pm in the small hall. Parents and carers of children at Warren are automatically members of the PTFA and it would be great to see some new faces (as well as the old ones!).
- Save the date for our Summer Fayre Summer Fayre – on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Shout out and celebrate!

If your child has a recent achievement or event that you would like us to share in our newsletter then please email the office





Well done to Frances Amoah who took part in national street competitions last month and came 3rd in the under 8's competing against 25 other dancers from different dance school based in London and Essex. Frances also competed in Unified on the 2nd March and she got through to the semifinals. We would like to congratulate her not only on her dancing but also that we hear that whatever happens she is loving her dancing and always walks out smiling and supports her dance friends and we hope she can "keep dancing"!

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 [nationalcollege.com](http://nationalcollege.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.

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### 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, griefers 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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

#### 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

## **End of Term**

Please remember that the last day of term for children is Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup> and children return to school for the start of the Summer Term on Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2025.