

# School Newsletter



Dear Parents,

What an exciting week our key stage children have had at Beam House for their residential trip. They have fully immersed themselves in the opportunity, demonstrating all our school values. They have worked together to problem solve, they have shown resilience and maturity this week and we couldn't be prouder of them. I'm sure we are all excited to hear the detail and their favourite moments when they return. It gives my great joy to hear the wonderful feedback from the team at Beam House and how highly they spoke of the children representing our school.

In assembly next week, we will be thinking about our school values 'GROWTH' what they mean to us at school and how we can show them. Our school values are Guidance, Resilience, Opportunity, Wonder, Togetherness and Health. What do our school values mean to you? How have you shown them this week?

- Small but Mighty!



# Classroom News

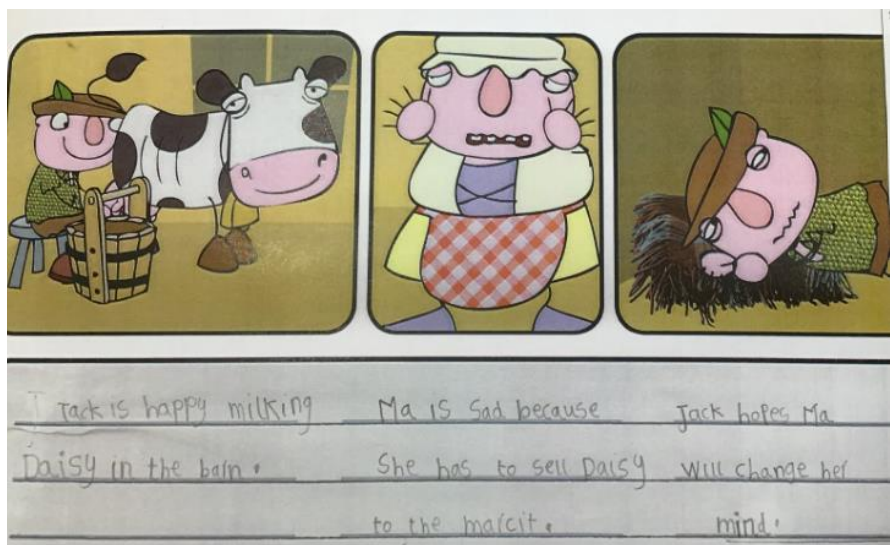
## Nursery and Reception

Last week, Stoke class explored the primary colours and which other colours they could create, worked on scissors skills by cutting out shapes to make a penguin and made their own, individual apple crumbles to take home. Yum!



## Year 1 and Year 2

In English we have been inspired by the story Jack and the Beanstalk. We have been learning how to use capital letters, full stops and question marks and really impressing Mrs Kolodynska with our incredible vocabulary when retelling parts of the story. We've been fully immersed in our Geography learning about the difference between villages, towns and cities and naming the village or town we live in. We linked our artwork to our learning in geography and created some detailed and colourful collages. In maths we have been counting backwards, recognising and spelling number names and adding one more. Year 2 have been using a range of ways to represent tens and ones for the same number using the part whole model.





## Year 3, 4, 5 and 6

This week we have been learning about the different parts of a plant and we've created our own amazing prototypes and models. We have also completed a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) challenge which was 'egg-ceptional' and took a lot of planning and perseverance. We are happy to report that most of the eggs survived their landing – great teamwork everyone!

In history, we looked at where Ancient Egypt fits into our timeline of history. We then drew our own timelines, noting the length of different historical periods and comparing British and world history.



## Forest School

Years 1/2/3 focused on leaves at forest school last week. We talked about the changing seasons and identified the different trees and leaves in our woodland area.

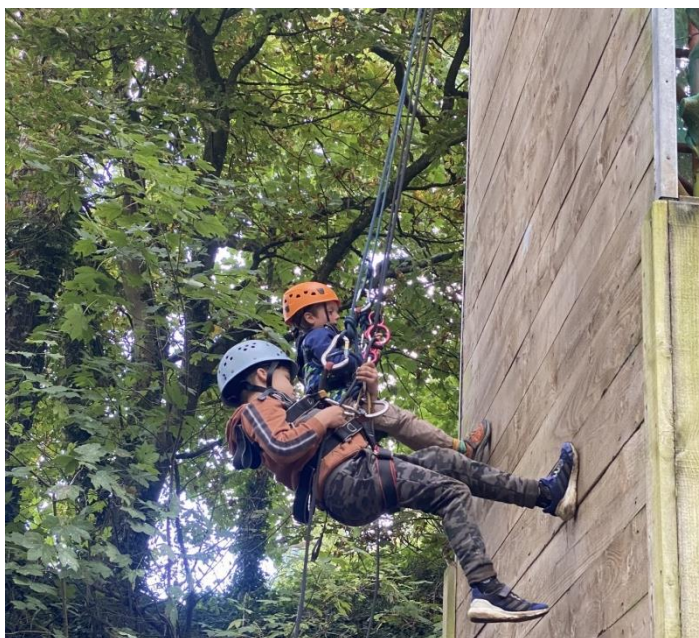
The children worked in pairs to select and classify leaves in different ways, for example, by size, type or colour, with the expectation that they could explain and justify their choices to a grown up. Fantastic teamwork, communication, and reasoning.





# Residential at Beam House

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# Attendance

Thank you for all your support with attendance and ensuring your child/ren are arriving at school before the registration window closes at 9:05.

Why is attendance at school and punctuality important? Because every second counts.

90% attendance may sound good. However, this is the equivalent of missing a half day of schooling EACH WEEK. If this continues over every five years a child spends at school, a child with 90% attendance will miss HALF A YEAR'S schooling.

A child with 80% attendance will lose A FULL YEAR of schooling over the same period.

## Attendance Ladder



## Wet Play

We had our first wet lunchtime last week and the children have asked for some new indoor games and activities to play with. If you have any children's board games or puzzles you no longer use, we would happily and gratefully take them off your hands. We'd love to include them in our wet play classroom boxes – thank you.



# Diary Dates

## Autumn Term 1

Thursday 28th September	Mothecombe Class attending Farm School
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Junior Life Skills at Ivybridge Community College (morning only)
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Parent Consultation Evenings – online booking system will be available, and you will be notified when this is 'live'.
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Ivybridge Community College meeting for Year 6 parents. 5:30pm At Holbeton School
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Wonwell Class attending Farm School
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest celebration at the church 2pm

## Autumn Term 2

Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Non pupil day
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Children in Need Day – arrangements to follow
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Christmas decoration making open morning for parents to attend 9-10
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Week beginning 11 <sup>th</sup> December TBC	KS1 Nativity KS2 Carol Service
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Children's Christmas lunch
Final week of term	No Clubs



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 [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

### 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 scam links or 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, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

## 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.theverge.com/2020/7/21/2333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-joining-virtual-parties-fortnite>  
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>



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