

Beechwood Newsletter



Attendance

As we begin the New Year at Beechwood Primary School, classes across the school have embraced new resolutions focused on improving daily attendance and punctuality. Pupils and staff have worked together to develop positive plans and routines, reinforcing the importance of being in school every day and arriving on time, ready to learn.

Last week, Class 4 achieved an outstanding 100% attendance and recorded the best punctuality across the whole school, with only one child arriving late throughout the week. This is an amazing accomplishment and reflects the dedication and effort of both pupils and families in supporting excellent attendance habits.



This week, Class 9 has been shining through with the top attendance across the school, closely followed by Class 2, who achieved the best punctuality. Different classes have taken their own approaches to reaching their goals, and it has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm and teamwork throughout. Class 8 showed outstanding commitment, working together to achieve the most improved



attendance and proving how powerful collective effort can be.

As a result, all three classes enjoyed a well-earned treat of chocolate and marshmallows.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils and would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support in helping us make every school day count.

Trips, Visits and Experiences

MP visit

On Friday, we had a very exciting visit from Richard Burgon MP. He visited our school with one of our governors, Councillor John Tudor as well as Adam Ranson and Sarah Fishwick from Global Learning Leeds. Our visitors joined our whole school assembly and learned about our ongoing work on the climate curriculum and how we link with other schools regularly to share good practice. (You can see the videos of the Eco School Conference and the 'This is Our World' song on our [Climate Page](#).) They also heard the whole school sing "This is Our World" and were really impressed by our children's singing and their efforts to spread messages of hope, empowerment and climate joy. The children then listened well while MP John Burgon explained his role in government.

Following the assembly, groups of pupils met with MP Richard Burgon and our other visitors and were able to discuss the issue of climate change and the ongoing work we're doing in school as well as ask him questions about how he may support us with this important work.



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Sam the Soundman

Year 4 welcomed Sam 'The sound man' into school to help us learn about our news science topic – sound! We had a fantastic morning with him and learnt how sound is created, how it travels, all about pitch, tone and volume. It was a very interactive morning, and everyone got involved.



Year 3 Local Walk

Class 7 went on their local walk around Seacroft as part of their community topic. Matthew Bellwood gave us an amazing insight into the history of the area which was so fun and interesting. Thank you, Matthew!



M2 Running Club

M2 club have had a fantastic start, exploring how mindfulness and movement connect. We have already started building up our movement to keep moving forwards for sustained periods of time. Our goal is to complete a 5k distance, celebrating our achievement.



Mental Health and Wellbeing

This week's online safety focus is about Roblox. Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games. Millions of people in Britain use the platform, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children. Please see the link below to help parents and carers understand the risks and support you to understand how to keep your children safe. For more information, see below.

Safeguarding

If you are worried about any safeguarding situation or about your child being harmed, then you should contact Miss Roberts (Designated safeguarding lead), Mrs Giles or Mrs Ticala (Deputy designated safeguarding leads) to share your concerns.

Young Carers

For more information about Young Carers—including events, updates, and news—please visit the school website [here](#).

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Key Dates

Friday 13 th Feb	Break up for ½ Term (Normal pick-up time)
Monday 23 rd Feb	Return to school
Monday 23 rd Feb	Year 5 Bikeability (all week)

School App

Please remember to download the school App so that you don't miss any communication.
<https://www.theschool.app/>



Wrap Around- Premier Education



We are pleased to let you know that there are still places available in our Wraparound Care provision run by Premier Education.

If you are looking for a flexible, high-quality childcare before or after school, please see information below.

To secure a place for your child, please use the booking link [here](#).

Timings*

Breakfast club
7.30am - 8.45am
Includes breakfast.

After School club
3.30pm - 5pm
3.30pm - 6pm
Includes snack and light tea option.
*Exclusive timings only

Why choose Premier Education?

- **Wide Range of Activities:** From gymnastics to gardening, we offer diverse activities to enrich each child's experience.
- **Convenient Online Booking:** Our simple online booking system allows parents to book activities with ease. Receive instant email confirmations for hassle-free tracking and reduced administration.
- **Responsive Office Support:** Our dedicated office support team is available from 9am to 5pm daily to address any queries or concerns promptly.
- **Siblings Discount and Special Offers:** Enjoy increased sibling discount and exclusive offers for our valued families.



OFSTED REGISTRATION

Our wraparound clubs are registered with Ofsted, ensuring compliance with regulatory standards. This allows us to accept childcare vouchers against our provision.

Learn more about childcare vouchers at:
<http://tiny.cc/premierchilcarevouchers>

SUITABLE FOR ELIGIBLE SERVICE PERSONNEL

Eligible Service personnel (HMS/armed) can register for up to 20 hours per week, per child, term time only (39 weeks per year) of wraparound childcare funding for 4 to 10-year-old children attending before and after school childcare in the UK.

Learn more at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/childcare-for-eligible-service-personnel>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

Advice for Parents & Educators

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



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