

THE FRIDAY LETTER



This Week at The Wyche

In this rainy first week back we made our usual *splash* which left us *flooded* with the endorphins of learning and *saturated* with satisfaction. (Enough rain puns, Mr Murphy!). As well as having a banging poetry slam in assembly, an inspiring Rubix Cube celebration for the whole school and competing in a dance competition (as if that wasn't enough!) Red Class drew exquisitely detailed scenes of town life in the style of LS Lowry, Yellow Class acted out, composed, wrote and decorated red-hot fire poems, Blue Class investigated the data range of the height of giraffes, Orange Class adored their coding lesson and told me all about "infinite loops" and "count-controlled loops". I was advised by one bright spark that this wasn't true infinity as the loops would end when the computer was switched off or lost power. Green Class loved a science experiment to explore the theory of natural selection using tweezers and pincers to pick up seeds and pretending they had beaks. The opposite of the Darwin Awards. Where else, but The Wyche?

Collective Worship Assemblies

This week we launched our half term on **Inspiration** and considered the Christian season of Lent, becoming inspired not just to give things up, but to do one good thing differently in life to improve ourselves and our community, whether we are people of faith or not. Some children are saying "hi" to Mrs Charles everyday, some are holding doors open for their classmates. Personally, I am emptying the dishwasher as soon as I wake up each day, but enough about me ... Christian or not, a bit of mindful reflectivity is good for you; what one good thing could you do as we run up to Easter?

Online Safety - ROBLOX

Roblox is a very popular game played by oodles of primary school children with a nice, safe PEGI-7 rating. However, **it has a surprising amount of risk** about which parents will want to be aware and take steps to reduce. Please read our handy guide on page 4 for more details on making Roblox as safe as can be for your young gamer.

We have not let rain dampen or spirits or spoil our fun this week but the bad weather does get to some people. Spring is just around the corner but if you are feeling under the weather, don't forget the helpful links on our web-page <https://www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk/mental-health-and-well-being> or come and talk to one of us in school. We're a community who should look after each other and it's okay not to be OK. Always ask for help; together we soar.

in partnership

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School *Mr Murphy.*

Lower Wyche Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 4ET

T/F: +44 (0)1684 573 205 • office@wyche.worcs.sch.uk • www.wyche.worcs.sch.uk



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In school this week:



The Great Fire Of London!

Red and Yellow Class have been creating beautiful classroom displays in anticipation of their visit from the History Man on the 5th March. Beautiful Artwork!

“They will soar on wings like eagles.” Isaiah 40:31

Malvern Wyche C of E Primary School

Together We Soar



Attendance

Lateness is still an issue for many children, with some arriving ten, fifteen minutes or more regularly. This leads to consistently missed lessons which leads to **falling behind in learning**. Coming late into a classroom is not a comfortable experience for children however warmly they are welcomed. If you need any support with getting here on time, please talk to us, but missed minutes add up to missed opportunities so can I urge families to be on time for school every day? Thank you.

Easter Arrangements /Church Improvements

Over the next few weeks All Saints Church will be undergoing building work. This will mean that there will be contractors and builders in and around the local area. They are not permitted access to the school grounds but will be parking on nearby roads. This sadly means that our Easter Celebrations will be slightly different this year. Instead an Easter Service in church, we will have a service for children in school. Regrettably we don't have capacity to invite parents to this service - we just don't have the space - so instead we would like to invite you to **Open Classroom Sessions**. The Session dates are as follows: **Red Wednesday 20th March 3pm, Yellow Monday 18th March 3pm, Blue Thursday 14th March 3pm, Orange Thursday 14th March 3pm, Green Thursday 21st March 2.45pm**. We will miss that lovely, bright, springy Easter service with you all, but will make it up to you when we see you in classrooms. Thank you for your understanding. We look forward to seeing you there!

The UV “Snow Ball“

The children should have brought home an invitation inviting them to the Snow Ball on Friday 1st March. KS1 are invited to attend 4.30pm - 5.30pm, KS2 5.45pm - 7.00pm. Tickets are £2.50 per child. There will be a tuck shop and UV face painting on offer, 50p per treat. The event will use UV lighting so children are encouraged to **wear white or neon clothing** however this is not essential. If you have missed the invitation please pop into the office for another. Please advise if you can 'help out' at the event, the PTA are looking for some parent volunteers

World Book Day - Bedtime Stories

We are looking forward to World Book Day which is happening this year on Thursday 7th March. We love reading, stories and books and know that one of the best time to read is at bedtime. So we are asking children this year to bring in their favourite bed time story and to **wear their pyjamas** (onesies, dressing-gowns and nighties are all good!). We will be listening to staff's favourite bedtime stories and there may even be some hot chocolate on offer! Please see Mrs Charles if you have any questions.

Music Lesson Invoices

We are still waiting for some outstanding payments for music lessons taken in the Autumn Term (September to December). All payments can be made direct to the office by cash or cheque - cheques made payable to Worcester County Council. Sadly we are unable to accept bank transfer. Many Thanks

By living and learning together through our Christian values of *Safety, Trust, Respect, Inspiration, Value, & Engagement*, with God's help, we will support each other to “soar”, lifting hearts and broadening horizons, so that by giving our best today, the world may be better tomorrow.

Stars of the Week

It is always a delight to award a Star of the Week award to a child who has demonstrated the STRIVE values in classwork. This week's award-winning superstars are:



Red class

Harry Husband
Theo Wilsdon

Yellow Class

Bella Morris
Daniel Tucker

Blue Class

Lucas Downes
Jasper Rogers

Orange Class

Sasha Palagina
Catherine Munford

Green Class

Ford Macdonald
Billy Preece

HOUSEPOINTS

Beacon took the title again this week with an astonishing 107 housepoints. Everyone's a winner when we award points for **Safety, Trust, Respect, Inspiration, Value & Engagement**.

Together We Soar!

Strive the Eagle:
Runner up: “Britain's Got Talons”.



FRIDAY 9TH FEBRUARY
WHAT'S ON ?

Mon 26th February: Brass Lessons
Guitar/Ukelele Lesson
Netball Club afterschool until 4.15pm
Dance Club afterschool until 4.15pm

Tues 27th February: Under 9 Football Festival @ The Downs 4.30pm finish (Choir Club afterschool until 4.15pm)

Weds 28th February: Woodwind Lessons
Drum Lessons
FAME for Blue Class
Colouring Club (Lunchtimes)

Thurs 29th February: Piano Lessons
Multi Games Club afterschool until 4.30pm
Cross Country Finals @Top Barn Farm

Friday 1st March: Orange Class 7th Swim
No Film Society afterschool
Netball Tournament @ The Chase 5.30pm finish
SNOWBALL!

Dates for your Diary

- Tuesday 5th March History Man Visit KS1
- World Book Day Thursday 7th March (Pyjama Day!)
- Easter Open Classroom Sessions (See Above)



Half Term Poetry Slam!

Thursdays **inspiration** assembly gave an opportunity for this half term's Poetry Slam winners to perform in front of the rest of the school. We had fantastic performances by our winners: Morgan & Rowan Red in Class, Monty and Beatrice in Yellow Class, Bea, Jocelyn & Susie in Blue Class, Elsie & George in Orange Class and Billy and Sebastian in Green Class. A huge "well done" to all who took part!



The Rubix Cubers - Inspiration!

Thursdays assembly also provided a forum for those who had been practising their Rubix Cubes to showcase their talents - inspiring others to have a try, either at "cubing" as it is called, or another absorbing and tricky hobby which brings joy and satisfaction.

CONTACT US: 01684 573205 / OFFICE@WYCHE.WORCS.SCH.UK / WWW.WYCHE.WORCS.SCH.UK

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, 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 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 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.



Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/2133343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>