



## Ark Atwood: Newsletter, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April

### \*\*\* Parents Evenings – Next Week \*\*\*

Next Week, we are holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Sessions will be run on Zoom. If you have not yet signed up for your slot, please do this as soon as possible.

School will end slightly earlier on Tuesday – details as follows:

#### **Tuesday 4th May**

End of Day Timings – normal collection points:

2.15pm – Nursery

2.20pm – Reception

2.30pm – Year 4

2.35pm – Year 3

2.40pm – Year 2 (back gate) Year 5 (front entrance)

2.45pm – Year 1 (back gate) Year 6 (front entrance)

3.00pm – Parents Evening begins

#### **Thursday 6th May**

Normal End of Day Timings

Parents Evening begins at 4.00pm

Please note: there will be no clubs next week.

Dear Parents,

Like all schools, we take E-Safety very seriously and want to ensure that children are able to use and enjoy technology safely. We have had a number of issues recently that have been linked to either specific websites or the use of mobile phones.

We strongly encourage you to be vigilant and proactive in overseeing your child's online/device activity. As well as ensuring devices are set to child settings, we also ask you, as a minimum, to:

- Monitor websites they are accessing are age appropriate (Tik Tok, for example, is for 13 year olds upwards)
- Monitor private messaging to ensure this is between known people and not strangers
- Ensure children are not making in-app purchases
- Limit screen time – for all devices - to a set period each day

There is lots of information to support you at <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides>

As a school, we run E-Safety Assemblies for children and this area is also part of our Computing curriculum. We also look to regularly share messages with parents in our newsletter – I hope you will have seen the message in last week's newsletter about safety settings on Android and iPhone devices. Alongside this, we need you to be being vigilant and proactive at home so the children can enjoy technology safely.

Have a great weekend. Remember that Monday is a bank holiday so we will see you all back at school at the usual time on Tuesday.

Best Wishes

James Evelyn  
Headteacher, Ark Atwood Primary Academy

## Key Stage One Author Visit

This week KSI were inspired by Author Diana Muendo and the Illustrator Abby Hobbs of the book the 'Big Hair Parade'. In preparation, KSI read the book, completed some creative writing and prepared some questions to ask Diana and Abby. We loved that all the characters had super powers that we could write descriptive sentences about. We also completed some fantastic artwork inspired by the illustrations in the book, 'Big Hair Parade.'

During the online video call, KSI listened to Diana read her book 'Big Hair Parade' and asked all their inspired questions: How long did it take you to write? Who inspired your book? Which picture is your favourite? What other jobs have you had? The children loved meeting a real author and illustrator who had very exciting careers and sparked our creative interests for the term ahead. Diana Muendo and Abby Hobbs' book is available to purchase and read via [www.bighairparade.com](http://www.bighairparade.com)



## Lunches: Reception, Year One & Year Two

A reminder the parents of children in Reception, Year One and Year Two to please select lunches on Wise Pay. This information is needed to enable the kitchen to prepare the correct number of meals.

## Achievement Assembly

As always on Friday, we celebrated two wonderful scholars from each class who have either personified the Atwood values or been true Atwood scholars producing great work. Congratulations to these children:

Class	Children
India	Cruz & Ibraheem
Mexico	Mia & Noah
France	Louise & Meryem
Italy	Georgie & Tala
China	Aryan & Asia
Barbados	Kai D & Ismah
Norway	Jacapo & Zahra
Belgium	Edward & Malika
Brazil	Loly & Jean-Thierry
Ghana	Ayman & Noor
Spain	Leon & Aiden
Greece	Soraya & Mourad
Canada	Mustafa Y & Indigo
Australia	Maryam & Adam E





## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# ROBLOX



With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

### No Age Rating

Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, griefers and online predators.



### Chat Functionality

Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

### In-App Purchases

Robux is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Robux can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.



### ODers

An 'ODer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'ODers' and should be avoided by children.

### Online Predators

Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.



## Advice for Parents & Carers



### Take Note of Ratings

Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.



### Set Parental Controls

Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.



### Disable Messages

It's advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.



### Block and Report

To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clearly why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.

### Encourage Creativity

It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!



### Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>  
<https://www.bbcnews.com/health/roblox-cards-games-kids-exposed-pornographic-scenes-see-act/>



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