PARK END PRIMARY SCHOOL
Safeguarding
NEWSLETTER

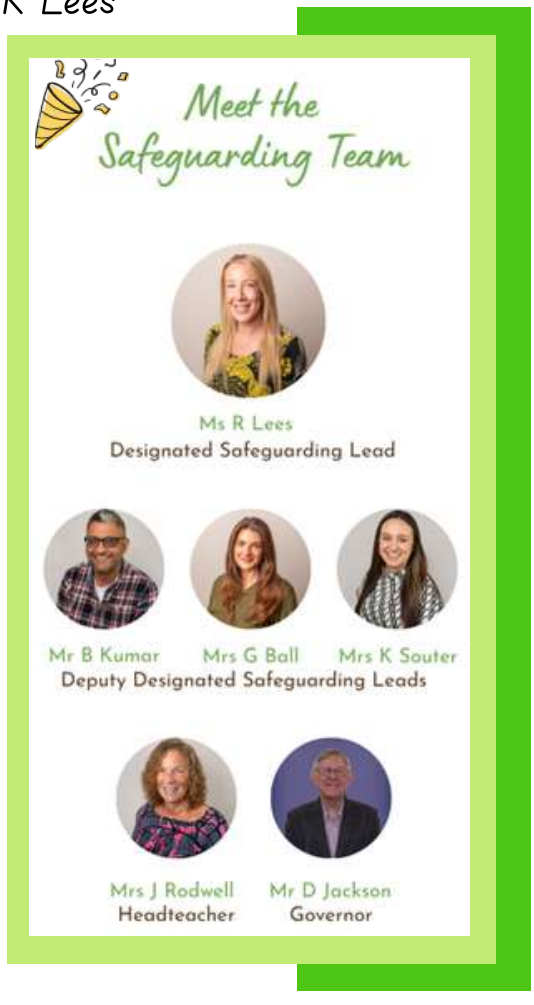
Autumn Term 2026

WELCOME BACK TO AUTUMN 2

We hope you and your family enjoyed the half-term break. Welcome back to all our children, parents and carers! As the evenings get darker and Bonfire Night approaches, this edition shares practical ways to keep children safe outdoors and online.

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. Robox offers a huge amount of creative freedom but see below for guidance on how to avoid potential hazards such as in-app purchasing and contact with strangers.

Ms R Lees





At this time of year, I always like to remind everyone about the vulnerability of children near our roads. Below are my Top 5 Tips on how to Be Bright and Be Seen.

1. Brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing shows up well in daylight and at dusk when you're heading to and from school.

2. If you're out about when it's dark, wear reflective gear to make sure you can be seen in car headlights. Reflective vests, sashes or wristbands work well. Remember, fluorescent clothing doesn't work after dark!

3. Don't forget to accessorise! Even small items, such as clip-on reflectors, armbads and stickers on your outfit or school bag are a great way to improve your visibility.

4. If you like to cycle, remember that it's the law to have clean and working lights at night (white at the front, red at the back), as well as a rear reflector. It's good to fit spoke reflectors too.

5. Of course, 'Being Bright' isn't the only way to stay safe. If you're out at night, choose routes and crossing places that are well lit.

PARK END PRIMARY SCHOOL

FIREWORK SAFETY

Enjoy the sparkle. Keep your family safe.

Choose a professionally organised display where possible.
Keep children close and follow the organisers' safety instructions.

01 Stand well back

Stay behind safety barriers and supervise children around fireworks and bonfires.

02 Leave fireworks to adults

Only adults should handle or light fireworks. At home, follow the instructions on each firework.

03 Never go back

Never return to a firework after it has been lit, even if it has not gone off.

04 Sparklers need care

No sparklers for under-fives. Supervise older children closely and make sure they wear gloves.

05 Cool used sparklers safely

Put finished sparklers into a bucket of cold water. Never hold a baby while holding a sparkler.

Read these reminders together before heading out.

Advice: RoSPA Firework Safety • rospa.com/home-safety/Fireworks-Safety

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 for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

PEGI RATING 7+

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 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 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.

Sources: https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite
https://corp.roblox.com/parents/

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