

Loatlands Edition

Respect, Resilience and Curiosity



Issue 6 – Friday 9th October

www.loatlandsprimary.net



Dates for your Diary

October

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Tuesday 13 th | Parent's Evening |
| Thursday 15 th | Film Crew at School |
| Thursday 15 th | Parent's Evening |
| Friday 16 th | Pullman Class Birthday Party |
| Friday 16 th | Last day of term |

November

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Monday 2 nd | First day of term |
| Monday 2 nd | Flu immunisations |
| Friday 27 th | Lewis Class Birthday Party |
| Monday 30 th | Year 6 Bikeabilty week |

December

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Friday 18 th | Last day of term |
|-------------------------|------------------|

Parents Evening

This year we have taken the decision to conduct our Parents Evening in a virtual format using online video appointments. This system allows you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and you will receive an email confirming your appointments.

Parents evening will take place on **Tuesday 13th October from 3:30pm until 5:30pm** and **Thursday 15th October from 3:30pm until 7:30pm.**

Appointments can be booked by following this link <https://loatlands.schoolcloud.co.uk/> and completing your child's details. Appointments will be open for booking from 4pm today and will close on Thursday 15th October at 3:30pm. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office

Forest School – Year 1 and Year 3 Rowling

After the October Half term break **Year 3 Rowling class** will be accessing the Forest School provision. They will be having their sessions every Wednesday afternoon starting on Wednesday 4th November and the last session will be on Wednesday 16th December. Please send your child's forest school kit in a named bag carrier bag every Wednesday.

Year 1 children will continue Forest School sessions every fortnight on a Friday afternoon in their current groups. **Please ensure your child brings their kit into school for their session.**

Online Safety

Please can we ask parents to speak with their children regarding online safety. It has been brought to our attention that children in Years 4, 5 and 6 are playing on Roblox and some have unknown "friends" on their accounts and also use apps that are not suitable for their age group such as Twitter. Please see the internet safety posters at the end of the newsletter for more information.

Reminder - If you do not want your child to appear on the Loatlands tour video please let the school office know by Wednesday 14th Oct. Thanks

Microsoft Teams

This week your child has been introduced to Microsoft Teams.. Staff have been showing them how to communicate on this and the different functions. By the end of next week we will have also sent out a parents user guide and login details for your child. We will also send a Home Learning book with these details in for your child to use should the need arise. This is in preparation for use for any further home learning periods.

Jeffers Class Birthday Party

Jeffers class were very excited for their birthday party on Monday!! We all ate lots of tasty party food, sang Happy Birthday to everyone, and played fun party games. We loved Pass the Parcel and had lots of fun doing keepy-uppies with our balloons. Happy Birthday to Oliver Jeffers, and everyone else throughout the year!!!



Morpurgo Class Birthday Party

We celebrated everyone's birthday with lots of fun including; Pass the parcel (with dares), Musical statues, dancing, pin the tail on the bear and a quiz. 'The Flaming Stars' were the winning team with full marks. We then had caterpillar cakes and juice.



Harvest Parcels

As part of our Harvest celebrations this year, we are asking if families could possibly donate an item of food/drink that we can deliver to a local food bank. Please could we ask that donations are tinned grocery goods or dried packet goods (no fruit, vegetables or other perishable goods please). Donations can be put in either of the wooden sheds, situated by the community entrance and next to the bike rack, by Friday 16th October. Thank you



Absence

If your child is absent from school due to illness, please either ring the school office and leave a message on the absence line or send a message via the Studybugs App everyday of your child's absence (Get the app or register now (<https://studybugs.com/about/parents>))

Please can we remind parents about the rules regarding sickness and diarrhoea. If your child is suffering with sickness or diarrhoea, they cannot return to school until 48 hours after the last bout.

Please make sure you are fully aware of the below.

You must not send your child to school if:

they are displaying COVID symptoms*;

- they are awaiting COVID test results;
- anyone in the household is displaying COVID symptoms*; or
- anyone in the household is awaiting COVID test results.

The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)

a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)

a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Thank you for adhering to this so that we can ensure the safety of our community.

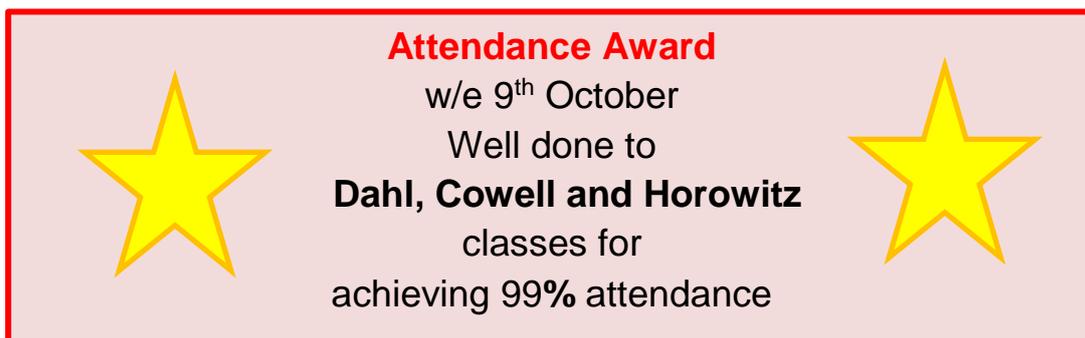
Prospective Tours

Due to the current restrictions, we are only able to run a very limited number of tours for prospective parents this year. For this reason we respectfully request that you only attend these tours if you are new to Loatlands. These tours will be limited to 5 people per tour and we ask that only one person per family attends as numbers are very limited (please no children). We also ask that you wear a mask for the length of tour (approximately 15 minutes) and you will be asked to provide contact details in order to comply with test and trace guidelines.

Under normal circumstances, we encourage parents to visit us during the school day to see the school in action and to meet some of our wonderful children. Unfortunately this year, in order to keep our staff and children safe, these tours must take place outside of normal school hours.

Tours will take place on Monday 2nd November, Tuesday 3rd November, Wednesday 4th November, Thursday 5th November and Friday 6th November. Further tours will then take place on Monday 7th December, Tuesday 8th December, Wednesday 9th December, Thursday 10th December and Friday 11th December.

All tours will take place at 4:30pm and must be pre-booked with our office on 01536 506404 or via parents@loatlandsprimary.net



Term Dates 2020-2021

Term 1

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Training Day | Tuesday 1 September 2020 |
| Training Day | Wednesday 2 September 2020 |
| Term starts | Thursday 3 September |
| Term ends | Friday 16 October |

Term 2

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Term starts | Monday 2 November |
| Term ends | Friday 18 December |
| Training Day | Monday 21 December |

Term 3

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Term starts | Monday 4 January 2021 |
| Term ends | Thursday 11 February |
| Training Day | Friday 12 February |

Term 4

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Term starts | Monday 22 February |
| Term ends | Friday 26 March |

Term 5

| | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Term starts | Monday 12 April |
| Term ends | Friday 28 May |

Term 6

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Term starts | Monday 7 June |
| Term ends | Friday 23 July |
| Training Day | Monday 26 July |

Term Dates 2021-2022

Term 1

| | |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Training Day | Wednesday 1 September 2021 |
| Term starts | Thursday 2 September |
| Term ends | Friday 15 October |

Term 2

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Training Day | Monday 1 November |
| Term starts | Tuesday 2 November |
| Term ends | Wednesday 22 December |

Term 3

| | |
|--------------|------------------------|
| Training Day | Tuesday 4 January 2022 |
| Term starts | Wednesday 5 January |
| Term ends | Friday 11 February |

Term 4

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Term starts | Monday 21 February |
| Term ends | Friday 1 April |
| Training Day | Monday 4 April |

Term 5

| | |
|-------------|------------------|
| Term starts | Tuesday 19 April |
| Term ends | Friday 27 May |

Term 6

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| Term starts | Monday 6 June |
| Term ends | Friday 22 July |
| Training Day | Monday 25 July |

Community Governor Vacancy

Could you help to support the education and personal development of local children?

Do you have a few spare hours each month?

Meet new people?

Help to benefit local children and our community?

Work as part of a team?

Then Loatlands Primary School Governing Board needs you!

At Loatlands we actively seek to work in partnership with families to nurture the whole child and develop the highest standards of education for children in all that they do. We believe passionately in creating a love of learning that will allow children to become enquiring learners in all areas of our enriching curriculum.

If you would like to find out more about how you can help our local children thrive and achieve their potential, please contact Malcolm Toovey, Chair of Governors, by email chair@loatlandsprimary.net



According to the Roblox website, 'Roblox is the world's largest interactive social platform for play.' For those of you who are unfamiliar with the game, it is a multi-player online gaming platform which allows children to play and create a variety of games in a 3D world. Roblox is free to play and available on all modern smartphones, tablets, desktops, Xbox One, Oculus Rift, and HTC Vive.



AGE RESTRICTION
13+

What parents need to know about ROBLOX

ROBLOX STUDIO
The Roblox Studio allows users to create their own games and 'worlds' for others to play on the platform. As the games are user generated, it gives users the freedom to potentially include things you do not want your child to be exposed to, for example, weapons, violence and even pornographic content. There are no age restrictions on the games created in the Roblox Studio and to remove games from the platform Roblox relies on people reporting negative/violent content.

CHATTING & FRIEND REQUESTS
Whilst the games in Roblox are aimed at 8 to 18-year-olds, there are currently no age restrictions for signing up. This means that both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other and send friend requests through the platform. Once a friend request is accepted, this means that they can communicate with each other outside of gameplay.

ROBUX ONLINE PAYMENTS
When a user creates a game, they earn something called 'Robux,' which works as a currency within the platform and enables the purchase of upgrades and memberships. If the created game is of good quality and attracts multiple players and in-game adverts, children have the ability to earn a lot of 'Robux.' Once a user has earned a certain amount of Robux, they can convert this to real cash and withdraw it to a PayPal account. To withdraw money, users need to be over 13, have a PayPal account and have paid for the Roblox premium subscription.



Top Tips for Parents

ALERT!
Tell your children to be careful and to think twice before they click any random advert or popup. There a lot of phishing scams that advertise free roblox etc. with the intent of stealing your child's personal information.

UNLIST SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
Make sure your child's social media accounts are not listed in the settings/account information. If they are, advise them to set them to private or remove them from their account. This will ensure that nobody will be able to find and contact them on their social media platforms outside of Roblox.

CHECK SHARED INFORMATION
In the account settings, check that your child is not giving away any personal information in their bio/profile. For example, their full name, phone number or snapchat name. If you see that they have, explain why this is potentially dangerous and remove immediately.

2-STEP VERIFICATION
Roblox has a great two-step verification security feature which we recommend you enable to add an extra layer of security to your child's account.

HAVE A CHAT ABOUT 'GRIEFING'
Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player in a game. This can be done by setting traps, damaging or stealing something from another player, intentionally killing them and generally doing something in the game to spoil their gameplay. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating and upsetting for players.

RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS
Roblox is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional in-game purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to restrict spending, we suggest using a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will enable you to restrict how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

DISABLE IN-GAME CHAT
Roblox is great for children to play together and chat to each other. However, if you want to completely turn off in-game chat for your child (meaning they cannot contact anyone, including their friends) you can do so by following these steps: When logged in, go to the Account Settings page by clicking on the gear icon at the top right corner of the page, then click Settings. Next, click on the Privacy tab and under 'Who can chat with me in game?' select 'No one' and this will disable in-game chat.

IS YOUR CHILD UNDER 13?
Unfortunately, there are hundreds of YouTube videos showing children how to change their age settings on Roblox, so firstly, you should talk to your child to set up some rules/agreement. There are additional safety features for children under 13, for example having their posts and chats filtered for inappropriate content and behaviour, so it is worth checking that your child has set up their account with the correct age. You can find this in their account settings.



AGE RESTRICTION
13+



Twitter is a social networking site where users can post 'tweets' or short messages, photos and videos publicly. They can also share 'tweets' written by others to their followers. Twitter is popular with young people, as it allows them to interact with celebrities, stay up to date with news, trends and current social relevance.



What parents need to know about

Twitter

TWITTER TROLLS

A 'troll' is somebody who deliberately posts negative or offensive comments online in a bid to provoke an individual for a reaction. Trolling, can include bullying, harassment, stalking, virtual mobbing and much more; it is very common on Twitter. The motive may be that the 'troll' wishes to promote an opinion or make people laugh, however, the pragmatics of what they post could be much more damaging, posting anything from racial, homophobic to sexist hate. Trolling can lead to devastating consequences for some victims.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Twitter gives users the opportunity and freedom to post their personal thoughts and opinions, meaning they can pretty much post anything they want despite restrictions on the platform. Swearing and inappropriate language is allowed if it does not violate the rules. If your child sees any inappropriate content, they might feel the need to replicate it at home or amongst their peers. Additionally, there are also a number of unofficial pornographic profiles on the platform that can easily be found and viewed without restrictions.

FAKE PROFILES

Fake Twitter accounts are made to impersonate a person, celebrity or public figure. As the accounts are not endorsed by the person they are pretending to be, they can often be used to scam or take advantage of young people who think that they're the real deal.

FAKE NEWS

The speed in which 'tweets' are shared on Twitter can be unbelievably fast, meaning that fake news can often be circulated across the platform very quickly. Fake news articles and posts can often be harmful and upsetting to young people and those associated with the fake news. In addition to this, it's very easy for people to quickly and unexpectedly retweet a tweet posted by your child, meaning there is no going back.

HIJACKED HASHTAGS

One of the most commonly used aspects of Twitter is the hashtag (#) - these allow users to easily search for specific trends, topics or subjects. However, due to the astronomical number of Twitter users, many hashtags can have different intentions. One person may use a seemingly innocent hashtag, and before you know it, hundreds of people could be using the same hashtag for something inappropriate or dangerous that your child shouldn't be exposed to. This is common with 'trending' tweets, as people know that their tweet will be seen by a greater number of people.

MEMES NORMALISING RACISM, SEXISM AND HOMOPHOBIA

Twitter is a popular platform for sharing internet memes, helping to make concepts or ideas go viral across the internet. However, despite most memes being innocent and harmless, some often include sexist, racist or homophobic messages. Although they are typically sent as a joke, this type of content is contributing to the normalisation of topics including racism, sexism and homophobia.

PROPAGANDA, EXTREMISM & RADICALISATION

Social media offers a continuous stream of real-time coverage of extremist activity. Twitter is one of the many platforms that is exploited by extremist groups to help promote violence, radicalise and recruit people to support their cause. These groups cleverly target vulnerable victims, often young people, and find a way to manipulate them into supporting their beliefs.

EVERYONE HAS ACCESS

Twitter has over 335 million monthly active users across all age groups. When a user signs up, tweets are public by default, meaning anyone can view and interact with posts instantly. Your child may change their mind about a tweet they have posted but even if they delete it, there's always a chance that someone can screenshot, retweet it or post it onto another platform.

Top Tips for Parents

CHECK ACCOUNT SETTINGS

We strongly advise that you thoroughly check your child's privacy settings. To take away some of the fear of your child's tweets being shared by anyone, you can always make their account protected. This means that anyone who wants to view what your child has posted, it requires approval from them. In addition to this, you can change the settings so that they cannot receive 'direct' messages from anyone on the platform and that their location is not shared.

BLOCKING & REPORTING

If a particular account is causing your child trouble on Twitter, whether it's cyberbullying or upsetting content, you can simply block and report them. Blocking them will help to prevent them from viewing, messaging or following your child, and vice versa. Reporting an account will alert Twitter to investigate the profile.

MUTING ACCOUNTS

The 'mute' feature allows your child to remove an account's tweets from their timeline without unfollowing or blocking them. This means your child will stop getting notifications about a particular conversation but can still view it in their timeline. This can be useful if they are friends with someone but don't really like what they share. The other user will not know that they have been banned.

TWITTER TROLLS & THE LAW

From 2016, the CPS were able to exercise new laws that could see those who create 'derogatory hashtags' or post 'humiliating' photoshopped images jailed. They also announced the launch of a hate crime consultation, issuing a series of public policy statements centred on combating crimes against disabled people, as well as racial, religious, homophobic and transphobic hate crime. It's important your child knows about building a positive online reputation, as well as showing respect for others online and offline.

SENSITIVE CONTENT

By default, if Twitter has found a tweet that 'may contain sensitive content', Twitter will hide the content in the news feed and you will be shown a warning that states the content is sensitive. You then have the option to view it or not. This gives a chance for you to moderate potentially harmful images/videos before your child sees them. Unfortunately, some content may slip through the cracks and will be shown in the news feed. So, if you do see any sensitive content, you can report it. Twitter should then inspect the tweet and decide whether they deem it to be 'sensitive'.

MUTE HASHTAGS & PHRASES

Within the account settings, you have the ability to block certain words, hashtags or phrases from your child's timeline or notifications (e.g. swear words, inappropriate phrases, emojis, etc.)

TURN OFF VIDEO AUTOPLAY

'Autoplay' is a feature that automatically starts playing a new video seconds after another one ends on the platform. To avoid your child going from watching something innocent and harmless to something much more graphic or disturbing, you can turn this feature off in the settings and easily moderate the videos your child watches before they see them.

CONVERSATION & MONITORING

We always promote that you have regular open conversation with your child about their online activity, ensuring that they understand what healthy relationships are, what respect is, and how to be sensitive towards others' feelings. It's also important to monitor what they're doing online, including what they use the platform for, who they are talking to, and if they are viewing/taking part in anything that they shouldn't be. Discuss the dangers of the online world, such as fake news and online bullying - why do people involve themselves in these activities and what your child can do to prevent them.

TWITTER LISTS

Twitter lists allow your child to create other feeds besides the main timeline that only include certain accounts - this is a great way to segment followers based on common topics and interests.

SOURCES: Sources: <https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/blocking-and-unblocking-accounts> | <https://help.twitter.com/en/safety-and-security/twitter-location-services-for-mobile> | <https://help.twitter.com/en/managing-your-account/two-factor-authentication> | <https://help.twitter.com/en/using-twitter/advanced-twitter-mutepolicies> | <https://help.twitter.com/en/safety-and-security/how-to-make-twitter-private-and-public> | <https://help.twitter.com/en/safety-and-security/public-and-protected-tweets> | <https://www.statista.com/statistics/493795/twitter-most-retweeted-posts/> | [Smallbiztrends.com: 'What is Hashtag Hijacking?'](https://smallbiztrends.com/2013/08/what-is-hashtag-hijacking-2.html) | <https://smallbiztrends.com/2013/08/what-is-hashtag-hijacking-2.html> | [Christidedman.com: '5 Things you should know about hashtags and your kids'](https://smallbiztrends.com/2013/08/what-is-hashtag-hijacking-2.html) | <http://christidedman.com/5-things-you-should-know-about-hashtags-your-kids/>



National Online Safety

A whole school community approach to online safety
www.nationalonlinesafety.com

Email us at hello@nationalonlinesafety.com or call us on 0800 368 8061

