



Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 34 16.06.2023

Another sunny week!

It has been another warm week in school this week and all of our classes have enjoyed making the most of time outside on our school field. We have welcomed our new Reception children in to school for their first visits and it has been lovely to see so many familiar faces as well as getting to know families who are new to our school.

Our Year 2 children have met their new Junior School teachers as part of their transition programme. We know that the children were all very excited to see the teachers and have the opportunity to chat to them.

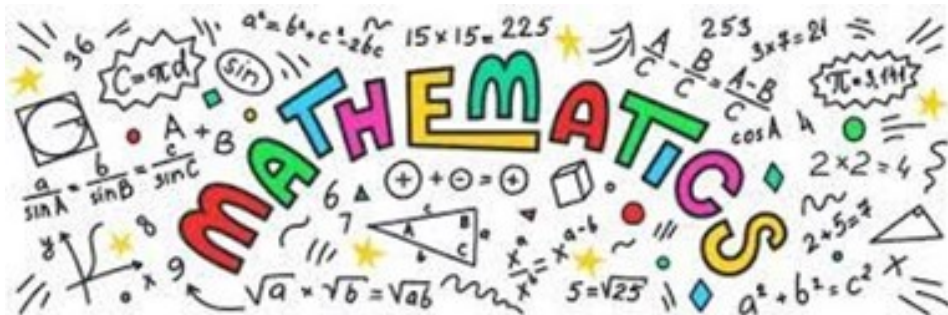


Free courses available for parents to improve their everyday numeracy skills

The Multiply scheme is offering parents across Staffordshire the opportunity to learn everyday maths skills wherever and whenever they want.

You're not alone if the thought of maths makes you anxious; but there's no such thing as someone who can or can't do maths. It's all about confidence. There are many online and in-person ways of learning through the Multiply scheme that can improve your confidence with everyday maths skills, at no cost to you. From short sessions focused on skills for work, to help the children, or more formal learning to work towards a qualification, it's all there waiting for you!

Browse the free numeracy courses available in Staffordshire at <https://bit.ly/MultiplyInStaffs> or go to <https://bit.ly/ImproveYourMathsQuiz> to find out which areas of maths you might benefit from improving on.



Argos - Barton Under Needwood - Donation

We have been very lucky in receiving a large donation from Argos which has enabled us to order new play equipment for our playground. A huge thank you goes out to Argos for their generous donation—as you can see the children are enjoying playing with the new equipment.



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.

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.

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.

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.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <http://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-joining-virtual-parties-for-the>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>





2nd August 2023

The national day for play

Date: Wednesday 2nd August 2023

Time: 11:00 am - 3.00 pm

Where: Shobnall Leisure Complex

Free activities for children including: inflatables, a Magic show, sports activities & demonstrations, many community organisations, groups & clubs to talk to. **ALL FREE** activities at Shobnall Leisure Complex.

For further information please contact:
Catherine Pendlebury- Activity & Wellbeing Officer on (01283) 372 970 extension 20603
catherinependlebury@everyoneactive.com

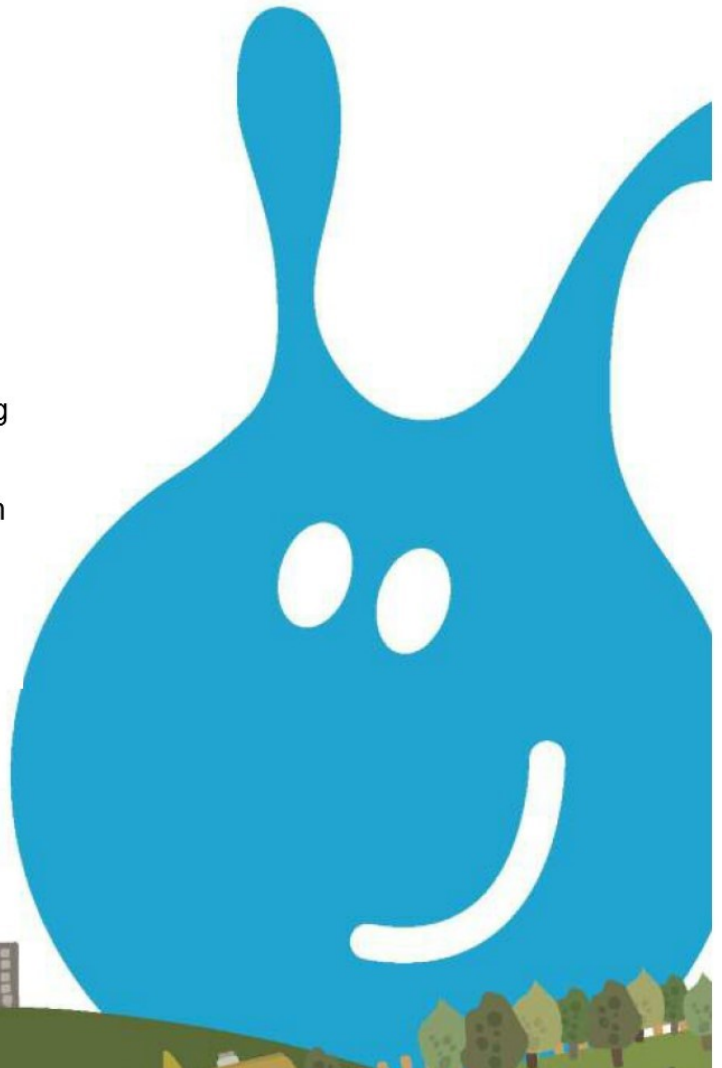


Refreshments available

EastStaffsSportsDevelopment

No Dogs are allowed except for assistance dogs. Cycle station on site

www.playday.org.uk



Stars of the Week

- RC - Charlotte for conquering the trim trail
RC - Clemmie for being a supportive and encouraging friend
RT - Rosco for sitting on the carpet well
RT - James for following instructions well
1RS - Felicity for writing a fantastic imaginative story
1RS - Amber for growing in confidence in English
1L - Francesca for asking interesting questions in History
1L - Ethan for writing an excellent story in English
2MS - Olivia for an exciting failed project story
2MS - Penny for always being ready to learn and setting a good example for others
2W - Nancy for always trying her best and for being a positive role model
2W - Charlotte for her fabulous contributions during whole class reading

Lost Property

We had two pairs of sunglasses left on the field after sports day last week. Please call into the office if you think they may be yours.

Dates for your Diary

Lunch menu from Monday 19th of June is Week 3

Thu 29 June - Y2 visit to Tamworth Castle

Fri 7 July - Inset Day—school closed to children

(Staff JTMA Training Day)

Tue 11 July - Y2 music performance pm

2MS—1.30

2W—2.00

Wed 19 July - Y2 Leavers assembly to parents
2.00pm

Thu 20 July - Leavers party 3.30pm—5.00pm

Fri 21 July - Last day of term



We hope you have a lovely weekend

Mrs Burton and Mrs Moore