

Slaley First School



Friday 10th October 2025



Dear Parents,

We have had the most wonderful week in school and have been pushing forward with our 'Little Hands, Big Flowers' project. The children thoroughly enjoyed visiting the Halls of Heddon Garden Centre on Tuesday where they saw the most beautiful flowers. We came back from the trip with some daffodil bulbs, some of which we planted today outside.

Thank you so much to all of the parents who have helped us plant our daffodil bulbs today: Andy Bayly, Tori Strong, Dan Herdman, Emily Beattie, Gordon Foster, Claire Hart, Nicole Dean, Nicola Shipley and thank you also to Gwen Foster for supplying the biscuits!



Please can I also extend a huge thank you to Dan Herdman for bringing his digger to school and for making what would have been a really tricky job much easier! Kayleigh Herdman has also helped with the sourcing of more bulbs which we will plant when they arrive!

Clubs

Monday KS1 & 2 3.30pm - 4.30pm Multiskills with Mr Ure
Tuesday (KS1 & 2 3.30pm - 4.30pm) Tennis with Mr Geary
Wednesday (3.30pm - 4.30pm) Batting and field games with Mr Midgley

Praise Assembly

Our next Praise Assembly will be on **Thursday 16th October**. All parents with a child in Pine Class will be welcome to join us at 2.45pm



This year we are celebrating Halloween in school with a twist! We will be exploring a Halloween pumpkin trail and will be doing some Halloween crafts, enjoying some spooky games and a Halloween Buffet!

Tickets are £10 and any funds leftover will go towards our outdoor cabin which we are hoping to purchase soon!

(Children to bring their own pumpkin)



Dates for the Diary

Harvest Festival

Wednesday 22nd October – 9.15am and 2.15pm
Please let us know which performance you will be attending if you haven't already.

Halloween Party

Thursday 23rd October – (3pm–6pm)

SCHOOL IS CLOSED ON FRIDAY 24th OCTOBER
(Inset Day for staff)

Parents' Evening (More information to follow)
Thursday 13th November

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 7

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ONLINE PLAY RISKS

Because Roblox connects random players across the world, it can put younger players into an environment with anonymous users who could use the platform for nefarious reasons. For example, some role-play games are used for online dates and mature role play, which could expose youngsters to inappropriate messages in the public chat box.

MATURE CONTENT

Content is difficult to moderate throughout Roblox, due to the number of games available. This is particularly notable on smaller games and experiences, but in summary, some of the games and experiences offered on the platform contain age-inappropriate content that could easily be seen by young players.

IN-GAME SPENDING

The majority of games within Roblox have extensive monetisation options, usually through season passes or microtransactions. Purchases can range in value from a few pennies up to much larger sums of money. While some games offer a lot of content via purchases, others can offer very little for real world money, causing younger players to end up out of pocket.

ANONYMOUS PLAYERS

The anonymity of users can leave players vulnerable to bullying, harassment, and predatory behaviour. Without the right parental controls or monitoring, users can connect with each other via personal messages or friend requests, and it is very difficult to know who's behind a username in this vast online world.

RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox games can feature rewarding or satisfying mechanics that keep players coming back – or persuade them to stay logged-in for much longer. Like most games, they focus on interactivity, with constant rewards via in-game unlocks and currencies, which can sometimes lead to an addictive need to remain online for long periods of time.

SCAMS

Many of the games on Roblox feature collectible items, pets, or characters. These objects, while digital, are worth a lot of real money on certain online markets. Scammers will attempt to trade with younger users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money, manipulating the child into handing them over, usually via misleading information.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MONITOR THE CONTENT

While Roblox does implement plenty of moderation tools and parental controls, it's up to parents and guardians to monitor the types of games a child or impressionable player is experiencing. If a youngster wants to play Roblox, be sure to check out which specific games they want to play within it, and get a good idea of their content.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF TOOLS

Use the parental controls within the game itself and teach youngsters how to report and block other players. Knowing the powers within their reach will make Roblox a safer, happier experience. You can set age ranges for who's allowed to contact you, close public chat boxes, block spending, and even make your Roblox profile completely private. All these options are helpful in cutting off bad actors from engaging with children.

PLAY TOGETHER

Consider playing Roblox with the children in your care. There are few more effective ways to see how monetisation works, gauge whether the game could lead to addictive behaviours, or even witness how interaction between players works, than sitting down and trying the game for yourself. This should help you figure out whether it's suitable for particular children.

TEACH ONLINE BEHAVIOURS

Have an open conversation about the risks of online play and how to spend money wisely. By being honest and giving tips on how a younger user can protect themselves, you can empower them to not only take care of themselves, but others too. Any user can be reported to Roblox moderators by other players for behaving inappropriately. With this knowledge, younger players can be aware of what to look for and help prevent it.

Meet Our Expert

Dan Lipscombe is a videogame journalist and author of over 20 books on gaming, including books on Minecraft, Fortnite, Roblox, and more. For 15 years he has been writing about his passion for gaming. When he's not playing games, he's talking about them at GAMINGbible.



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