June 2025

St. Mary's CofE Primary School

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'Within the love of God, working together, growing together, for all to flourish.'

Upcoming Events

Wb 9th June and Wb 16th June – Dahl swimming

Thursday 19th June – Sports Day (Reserve date – Thursday 3rd July)

Friday 11th July – Final church service at St. Mary's Church. 11.00am

Rights Respecting Focus -
ARTICLE 14 – Freedom of Thought and Religion

Children can choose their own thoughts, opinions and religion, but this should not stop other people from enjoying their rights. Parents can guide children so that as they grow up, they learn to properly use this right.

Welcome back to the final half term of the school year. This is a very busy term as it always is, so please keep checking emails and letters for dates and information about upcoming events.

As always, your continued support is very much appreciated.

Keep in Touch

admin@stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk

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Football Tournament

You may recall from a previous newsletter that our Y3/4 girls football team had been successful at a local football tournament at Ivybridge Community College earlier in the year. They won that event against other local schools and this result progressed them to the Devon Finals.

We recently went along to the finals and took part in this next stage of the competition against some very tough opposition that had come from all parts of Devon, including places as far away as Ilfracombe.

The team played really well and gave 100% to every game in some warm conditions. Although we didn't make it to the final match, the girls deserve our congratulations for getting to this stage of the Devon competition. Well done to all of them.

Holiday Club – Achieve4All

Thank you to everyone who booked into the trial holiday club with the Achieve4All coaches at half term. We have had some positive feedback from the trial and A4A are now able to advertise their summer holiday sessions.

These are the current dates available for booking and further details will follow if you are interested in booking a space. You can log in to book spaces straight away so follow the link below.

30, 31 Jul (Wed, Thu)

5, 6, 7 Aug (Tue, Wed, Thu)

14 Aug (Thu)

19, 20, 21 Aug (Tue, Wed, Thu)

26, 27, 28 Aug (Tue, Wed, Thu)

https://achieve4all.co.uk/holiday-camps/

Events and dates

Wb Monday 9th June	Dahl swimming – week 1
Wb Monday 16th June	Dahl swimming – week 2
Thursday 19th June	Sports Day & FOBS Colour Run
Wb 23rd June	Bikeability Training (Y6)
Monday 23rd June	Class Photo Day
Tuesday 1st July	KS2 Trip to Bodmin Jail
Thursday 3rd July	Reserve Sports Day (if needed)
Friday 11th July	Final church service of the year (11.00am)
Monday 21st – Wednesday 23rd July	Y6 Skern Lodge residential
Thursday 24th July	Final day of the term

Don't forget that school term dates for the rest of this year and next year, can be found on the school website, especially if you are looking to book holidays and need to know when the school is closed.

https://stmarys-brixton.devon.sch.uk/parent-zone/calendar/

Christian Value

Our new Christian Value for this half term is 'Thankfulness'.

As we approach the end of a school year it is always a good time to reflect on the year and think about all of the things we have achieved and the support that we have had along the way from everyone. When you look at the news stories from around the world, it is also important to remember that we all have a lot to be thankful for in our own lives, despite the ups and downs that we all face from time to time.

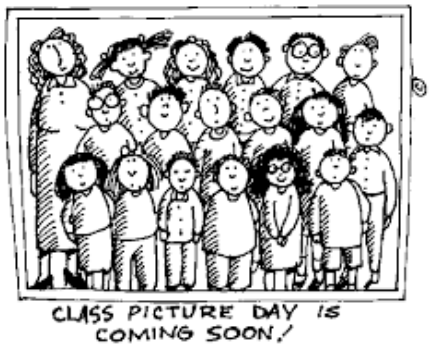
Scooters and Bikes

We would like to remind those who scooter and ride bikes to school to remember to wear helmets and to walk their bikes and scooters in and around the school site.

Mental Health – Joyful June

Why not think about some of these daily activities to make your June a joyful one!

Class Photos



This year, the whole class photos will be taken on Monday 23rd June. Please make sure that your children are wearing their full school uniform on the day, even if it is normally a PE kit day.

FOBs Colour Run

This year, instead of a summer fair, FOBS will be running a Colour Run at the school on **Thursday 19th June** straight after school (and sports day!). 3.30-5.00pm-ish.

Note: There will likely be a short wait on the playground between 3.15-3.30 to allow for set up, before then going down onto the field for 3.30 and start the event.

A colour run involves a basic obstacle course which children will complete on the school field. Whilst running they get sprinkled with coloured powders at various intervals by parents, carers, friends and teachers. By wearing a plain white t-shirt, they will watch it turn into a rainbow tie dye style t-shirt as a great memento. All powders are eco-friendly and non-toxic, created specifically for the purpose of colour run events. It is advisable for the children to wear old clothing, a white t-shirt and some goggles or sunglasses.

There will be music and FOBS will have a couple of stall available too including a tombola stall.

Tickets will cost **£8 per child** and support us in continuing to raise funds for the school. Tickets are now on sale. For each ticket purchased a cup of powder will be included so that parents and carers can get involved all around the course in covering the children in colour.

For any of you who have been to colour run events before, we hope you will agree that it should be a lot of fun.

Everyone at school is very grateful for the continued support of the FOBS team who work incredibly hard to come up with new ideas and events to help support the school and provide valuable funds which allow us to continue to offer the things that we do. Funds for FOBS go to support different areas of school life and this includes contribution towards the provision of Forest School going forward and also funds for each child across a school year which we use to reduce the costs of school trips as much as possible.

We know that their hard work is very much appreciated but they also need additional help to be able to run these events and plan for things across the school year. As volunteers who also have working lives and parental responsibilities of their own, it is not always easy for everyone in the team to commit to every event and to make them successful. Extra hands would be a huge benefit as the planning and organisation can take a lot of time.

Please contact a member of the FOBS team if you think that you may be able to offer some help in the coming months. I know they will really appreciate your offers.

Online Safety

How many of you allow your children to use Roblox as a place to play online games? At the end of this newsletter is a reminder of safety tips to ensure that your children are safe online. Some of the content on the site is targeted at an older audience so please make sure you are monitoring your child's use of the site and also the games that they are playing.

Parental Controls:

Roblox offers parental controls that can help to limit the types of content children are exposed to, but these controls are not a substitute for parental supervision and monitoring.

And finally … some staff news

It's always nice to share some exciting staff news. This summer, Miss Kelly is getting married and everyone at school would like to wish her and her fiancé, all the best for a very happy future together. Just so you know, she will be called Mrs. Passmore from the start of the new school year in September.

Adrian Clements

Head of School

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 7

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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