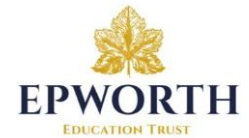




Wesley Methodist Primary School



Weekly Newsletter: WC 24th March 2025

In our penultimate week at Wesley for this half term, we have had yet more incredible experiences for our children! We speak regularly as a staff team about ensuring every child has every opportunity and we can give them the tools and experiences to flourish, when looking back over this half term that is exactly what we have done. There was been something every week, and I am very proud to look at these opportunities our children receive and know they get an incredible offer here at Wesley. The response to the fundraising for the athlete visit and also the response to the easter bingo tickets show how strong our school community is and that we are thriving together. Thank you for all you do in support of school and your children, it is very much appreciated.

Worship

Each week we use the Fruits of the Holy Spirit to help us achieve our vision of being able to 'Shine like stars as Children of God'. This week we having been aiming to shine like a star with joy. We discussed with the children the importance of joy and how this can make us feel.

Through the worship we shared the 'parable of the sower' which is all about a farmer and him trying to plant seeds in four different areas. We discussed the importance of this parable and the meaning behind it. The seeds represented the word of God and the four areas the farmer tried to sow the seed represented people and how we respond to the word of God. We discussed the four areas: path, rocks, shrubs, good soil and how we want to be like the good soil where we can receive the good word and flourish together. We also discussed how we can do this by sharing our joy with others and celebrating others in their achievements. As a reflection at the end of worship we talked about being the water for others and share the joy over the week which led to a wonderful celebration assembly where it was clear that this had been done and the childre have certainly shone with joy this week.



Special Recognition Award!

This week were presented with our special recognition award for Bury due to the work we did towards being involved in the 'Biggest Game of Football'. This was part of International Women's Day where we worked to ensure every girl in school was involved in football. This was supported through expert lessons from both coaches and players of Bury FC ladies and was a huge success. Mrs Thomasson, works incredibly hard as our PE lead and has won several awards for school including SEND events and more. It is great to see the acknowledgment for all our children get to be involved in. We have a large contingency of girls who play football outside of school and represent Wesley in football matches against other schools too and it is wonderful to see this thriving. We are excited for our future in sport at Wesley and all the events all of our children are able to participate in.



Easter Bingo!

We held our PTA Easter Bingo event this week and it was our biggest one yet! We increased our ticket allocation to 110 and sold all of these tickets by 8:55am on the first morning – this just goes to show the incredible school community we have and the support for these events we host, alongside the support for our PTA and all they do for our school. Each year I have worked at Wesley I have been so incredibly impressed by the work our PTA do and they consistently put on amazing events for our children all to raise money that can be spent on them at school! This Easter Bingo was no different and it was a loved event by all! Thank you to all of our families who were able to attend and most certainly to our PTA for putting on this event. We also had a very special Easter Egg visitor during the evening!



Parents Evening

Parents' Evening

On Tuesday next week we do have our second parents' evening of the year. This is a great opportunity to find out how your child is getting on, you will be told their successes, how they have settled into their work this year, what progress they have made and what are their next steps. If you have not already, please do book a slot for Tuesday to meet your child's teacher. We look forward to seeing you there!

Emily Ford: Olympic rower is visiting

We had Olympian Emily Ford visit us at Wesley this week. Emily was a bronze medalist at the Paris Olympics competing in Rowing for Great Britain. This was an unbelievable opportunity for our children to be inspired and see possible careers through sports and what it takes to get to the very top. Emily Ford hosted an event in the school hall for every child where they competed against themselves and then a whole school assembly with Emily. We have raised an incredible amount during this event and this will be used to continue our work to support our children physical and mental wellbeing through expanding our sporting opportunities, accessing more events and purchasing improved equipment.





News Sports Event Alert: Nerf Battles 2025!

We recently had a company come into school to host a nerf experience in our school hall for our children. This was thoroughly enjoyed and was an overwhelming success with our children. So much so, we were invited to take part in the recent Nerf battle competition. The children did incredibly well and loved the event. We are always so proud of our children when they have the opportunity to represent school as they always set such a brilliant example of what it means to be a Wesley child, and this event was no different, with our children being

simply incredible throughout. They competed in a range of games and loved them all. We are very proud of these children competing in this event as our first ever time experiencing this and coming in third place! Well done, Wesley!

A date for the diary: Free Bike MOT

On May 21st we will be visited by members of the National Cycling Association to complete a **free** service and maintenance check on all bikes. This will be open for the whole school and we invited every child to bring their bike to school to have it serviced and ensure it is in the best possible working order ready for a summer of cycling! We also hope this will support more children cycling to school and earning their WOW badges.



Online Safety: Roblox

Over the last few years, we have seen a significant increase in online incidents amongst our children. Whether this be messages on WhatsApp including group messages, videos made on Tik Tok, groups on snapchat, the way in which children have interacted with one another, or strangers, through online gaming – these have been the main elements which have then caused concern online . There is a real duty as parents/ carers to keep our children safe online, and this is unfortunately an ever changing landscape for us all. More recently we have been seeing an increase in online safety incidents with children using ‘Roblox’. Some of the main concerns involve the online player element where children are connected with random players across the world and some of the game plays are not suitable for our children such as elements which lead children to be involved in chat room features with the potential to be exposed to inappropriate messages. Roblox is also incredibly difficult to moderate due to the number of games available and therefore children can be easily exposed to age-inappropriate content. **Please see the poster on the next page for more information and advice for parents/carers.**



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
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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.



#WakeUpWednesday

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