

# Friars, Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge Primary Schools

We learn and succeed together



[@FriarsSE1](#) [@PrimaryRobert](#) [@SNSPrimary](#) [@TBPrimary](#)

Find us at: [www.bridgesfederation.org.uk](http://www.bridgesfederation.org.uk)

## Newsletter 9th September 2022 - Welcome Back!

Dear Parents,  
Welcome Back! We were so excited to welcome your children back into our schools on Monday. Welcome also to all of our new children and families, we hope you are already starting to feel part of our school communities. Please see your school page below and remember to join your school and new class twitter.

If you missed your meet the teacher session on Wednesday please catch up with your child's class teacher at the end of the day in the playground.

You will have been emailed a letter this week regarding the expectation for your child's school attendance of 97%. Please read this letter carefully and support your child to attend school everyday on time.

Have a lovely restful weekend and see you on Monday, the gates open at 8:45am.

### Robert Browning, Snowsfields and Tower Bridge SCHOLARPACK APP

Do you have access to the scholarpack App? If not, please contact your school office for an access code. **From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 we will only be using the App to communicate with parents, we will no longer be sending texts. When you update your phone, you will need to contact the school office for a new access code.**

### Term Dates - 2022 - 2023

#### **Autumn term**

Monday 5 September 2022 - Friday 21 October 2022  
**Half Term Monday 24 October 2022 - Friday 28 October 2022**  
Monday 31 October 2022 - Friday 16 December 2022

#### **Spring term**

Wednesday 4 January 2023 - Friday 10 February 2023  
**Half Term Monday 13 February 2023 - Friday 17 February 2023**  
Monday 20 February 2023 - Friday 31 March 2023

#### **Summer term**

Tuesday 18 April 2023 - Friday 26 May 2023  
**Half Term Monday 29 May 2023 - Friday 2 June 2023**  
Monday 5 June 2023 - Friday 21 July 2023

### **Dates For Your Diary**

#### **Tower Bridge**

**17th-21st October**- International Week  
**9th November** - Parent and Pupil Review Meetings-  
school closed

#### **Robert Browning**

**17th-21st October**- International Week  
**9th November** - Parent and Pupil Review Meetings-  
school closed

#### **Snowsfields**

**17th-21st October**- International Week  
**9th November** - Parent and Pupil Review Meetings-  
school closed

#### **Friars**

**17th-21st October**- International Week  
**9th November** - Parent and Pupil Review Meetings-  
school closed

# Queen Elizabeth II 1926 - 2022

Today at the Bridges Federation the children and staff together, spent time reflecting on the inspirational life of Queen Elizabeth II who sadly died yesterday on 8th September age 96, our Queen for 70 years. Please find here a link to a BBC Newsround report which many of our children watched today: [Newsround Queen Elizabeth II](#)

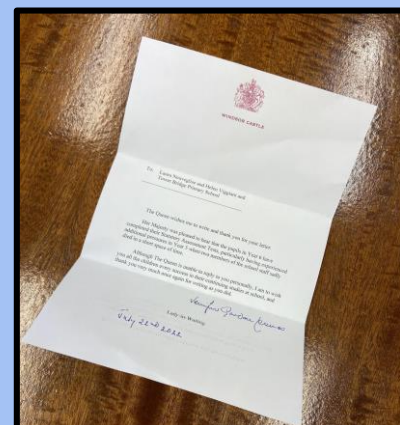
Please find here the link where you can send messages regarding the Queen and also some information if your child is upset by what they see and hear in the news: [Newsround messages about the Queen](#)



We feel privileged to have been part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration this year. This historical event will remain in our memory as a testimony of her dedication and hard work.



This week Tower Bridge School received a letter from Windsor Castle on behalf of the Queen, who we wrote to last term about our amazing Year 6 class who showed such resilience having lost Lisa and Katie so suddenly from their class staff team last summer.

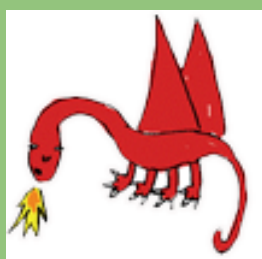


# The Leadership Team

The Bridges Federation Leadership Team	
Kate Wooder	Executive Headteacher
Sarah Manley	Headteacher Robert Browning
Anna Mulhern	Head of School Robert Browning / Safeguarding Lead
Jo Cranmer	Co-Head of School Snowsfields / Safeguarding Lead
Maureen Chance	Co-Head of School Snowsfields
Laura Neuveglise	Co-Head of School Tower Bridge
Helen Viggiani	Co-Head of School Tower Bridge / Safeguarding Lead
Zohra Benotmane	Co-Head of School Friars
Jo Wratten	Co-Head of School Friars
Michelle Owens	Senior Federation Business Manager

Year Group	Friars Class Teachers
N	Claire Foster & Susannah Bridges
R	
1	Rosa Castillo
2	Catherine Coate
3	Kate Wignall & Lucy Gethin Jones
4	Tina Mckenzie
5	Sarah Kee
6	Oliver Tull

# Friars



Inclusion Manager / School Leadership Team / Safeguarding Lead	Susannah Bridges
Early Years Leader / School Leadership Team	Claire Foster
Admin Officer	Joan Lea
Admin Officer	Ann Mould
Premises Manager	Arturo Arteaga Nunez
Teaching Assistants	Cassie Burgess, Marcia Harris, Lindsey Elliot Kenny Clay, Katarazyna Nadstawka Dosso Rita Cranny, Christina Wint, Carol Royes Sharon Mills, Gilly Cater, Jaheda Rahman, Shahina Akthar, Sharmin Nessa





# Robert Browning

Laurie St Luce	Office Administrator	<b>Class Name</b>	<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Class Teacher</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b>
Tina Hayden	Federation Finance Officer	Caterpillar	N	Kylie Harries	Angela Patabendige
John Kirwan	Premises Officer	Butterfly	R	Andrina Phillips	Yemi Ojo
Simon Bartlett	IT Technician	Red	1	Tom Verweij	Felicia Mensah
Lena Oliveira	Inclusion Officer	Orange	2	Helen Preddy	Lawrencia Hemans
Shanaz Rahman	Learning Mentor	Yellow	3	Heidi Anderson	Carol Cook
Vincent Brown	Learning Mentor	Green	4	Natalie O'Donnell	Amienatta Manasaray
Audrey Aitcheson	SEND Teaching Assistant	Blue	5	Beth Wheeler	Diane Pheby
Angelina Douglas	SEND Teaching Assistant	Purple	6	Danielle Jordan	Flore Ramku
Ana Maria Toporascu	SEND Teaching Assistant				
Yvonne Foster	SEND Teaching Assistant				

# Snowsfields



Sarah Millar	Office Administrator
Tina Hayden	Federation Finance Officer
Simon Bartlett	IT Technician
Delroy Porter	Premises Officer
Katie Stejskal	Inclusion Officer
Lisa Pitter	Learning Mentor
Debbie Thorpe	Learning Mentor

Class Name	Year Group	Class Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Caterpillar	N	Clair Parry	Chandni Patel (Nursery Nurse)
Butterfly	R	Cathy Kouassi	Nicola Scottow (Nursery Nurse)
Red	1	Camilla Roache	Donna Tickett
Orange	2	Kate Wilkinson	Souad Siab
Yellow	3	Katie Curran	Priti Vyas
Green	4	James Kinneir	Valbona Uruci
Blue	5	Melissa Hayward	Ana Pardo
Purple	6	Adam Finch	Simone Johnson
Rainbow	Resource Base	Nicola Clark	<b>SEND Teaching Assistants</b> Kem Tarawali - Senior SEND TA Maria Millar, Eugene Dixon, Christine Thorne, Terrique Hall-Anderson, Montel Agyeman, Stephanie Tomlinson, Emily Littman, Stephanie Afari, Camara Fatou, Hanna Gal



# Tower Bridge

Alison Clark	Office Administrator
Tina Hayden	Federation Finance Administrator
Jim Pooke	Premises Officer
Simon Bartlett	IT Technician
Katie Stejskal	Inclusion Officer
Tony Mighty	Learning Mentor
Michelle Moran	Learning Mentor
Katrice Rose	SEN Teaching Assistant
Mary Nameke	Cleaner
Vida Nkrumah	Cleaner

Class Name	Year Group	Class Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Caterpillar	N	Rachael Redman	Sue Crawford – Nursery Nurse
Butterfly	R	Rose Grosvenor	
Red	1	Elise Jarvis	Chris Ayriss
Orange	2	Caitriona Mitchell	Fadoua Hadad
Yellow	3	Emily Sellicks	Sophia Grinnon-Powell
Green	4	Jess Neale	Tammy Gilbert
Blue	5	Melissa Leeder	Alex Smith
Purple	6	Kate Romain	Tony Mighty



# Tower Bridge Primary School

## Welcome back!

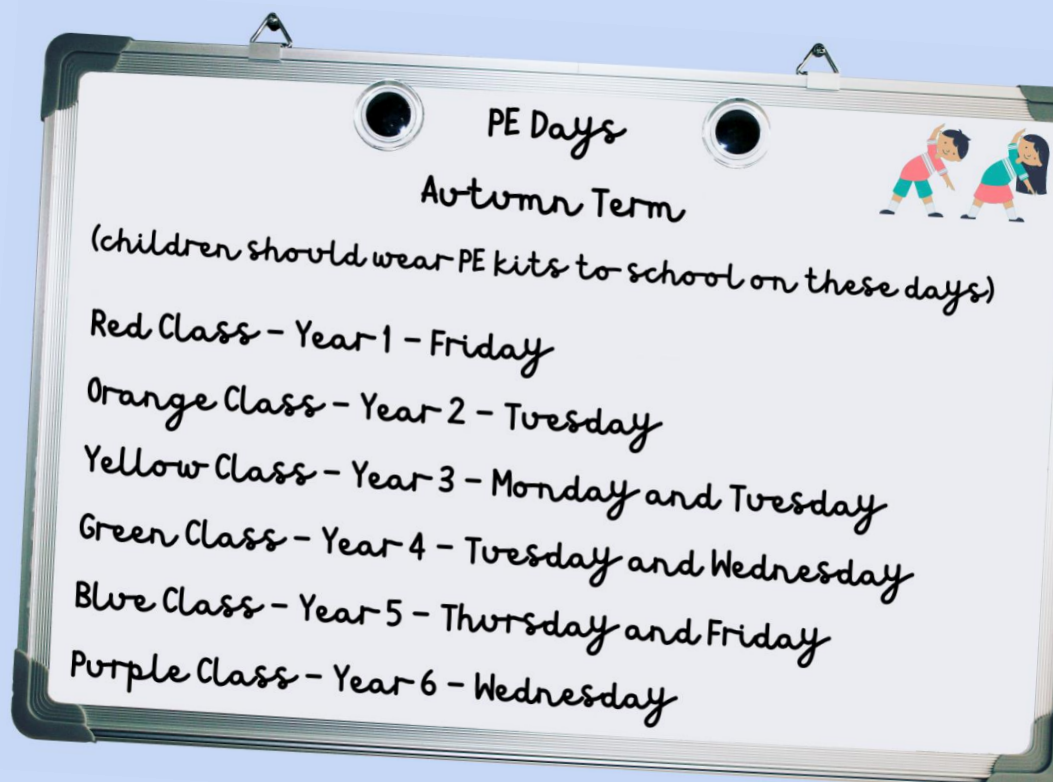
Thank you to all parents who came to meet the teacher this week. Please use the school app if you need to speak to staff. You can also use the app to inform us if your contact details have changed.

## Pre-loved Uniform

If you have any school uniform which you no longer need, please bring it to school as we are planning a pre-loved uniform event later this term.



All children can have a bagel when they arrive at school in the morning. We don't want children to be feeling hungry during lessons as this affects their concentration. Please remind your children to take one - especially if they didn't have breakfast!



## PE Days

### Autumn Term

(children should wear PE kits to school on these days)

Red Class - Year 1 - Friday

Orange Class - Year 2 - Tuesday

Yellow Class - Year 3 - Monday and Tuesday

Green Class - Year 4 - Tuesday and Wednesday

Blue Class - Year 5 - Thursday and Friday

Purple Class - Year 6 - Wednesday



## Twitter



@tbprimary



@TBCaterpillar



@tb\_butterfly



@TBRedClass



@TBOrangeClassY2



@TBYellowClassY3



@TBGreenClassY4



@TBBlueClassY5



@TBPurpleClassY6

Follow your child's class twitter account to see what the children are learning!



A huge welcome back to all our families! We hope you all had a wonderful summer. It has been lovely to see all the children return to school and settle so quickly into the new routines.

Thank you to everyone who attended the 'meet the teacher sessions on Wednesday after school. It was great that you were able to come into school and see the classrooms. If you were unable to attend, please make sure that you collect the information that was shared from the class teacher.

## YOUNG MARKETEERS

by Roihanna, Izrael, Fatouma, Lola, Salman and MJ, Robert Browning Primary School

**BACK in March, Tom from School Food Matters visited our school and told us all about an exciting opportunity.**

We learnt about the Felix Project and how they are tackling hunger and food poverty. Schools were invited to take part in the Young Marketeers project.

This involved growing our own produce and selling it at the famous Borough Market in London to raise money for the Felix Project. As a class, we felt privileged to be taking part in doing our bit to help our local communities.

With our green fingers ready and creativity flowing, we set about growing our



produce. Unfortunately, we had a disastrous spring, so all of our produce died. With sale day looming, we were in a bit of a panic! Fortunately, the nursery children had grown some lettuce, rhubarb, herbs and tomatoes.

Armed with our goods, we set off to Borough Market. What an amazing experience! It was wonderful to see other schools and be a part of such a wonderful event.

As a group of schools, we managed to raise over £500 for the Felix Project. What an achievement!



### PE Kit

Children should wear their PE kits on their PE days- you were given this information at the meet the teacher meetings on Wednesday. Please note that there are sometimes additional sessions- so look out for messages in the Scholarpack App!

It was fantastic to see our school in First News over the summer.

The children really enjoy taking part in this project! Thank you to Shanaz who leads on this in school.

### BREAKFAST BAGELS

Just a reminder that all children can have a bagel when they arrive at school in the morning. We don't want children to be feeling hungry during lessons as this affects their concentration. Please remind your children to take one - especially if they didn't have breakfast!



**magic  
breakfast**  
fuel for learning

### Twitter

**Please start following your child's new class on twitter, if you are not already, please also follow @PrimaryRobert**

**Robert Browning school - @PrimaryRobert**  
**Caterpillar class (Nursery) -**

**@RBCaterpillarNur**

**Butterfly class (Reception) - @RBButterflyR**

**Red class (year 1) - @RBRedClassY1**

**Orange class (year 2) - @RBOrangeClass**

**Yellow class (year 3) - @RBYellowClassY3**

**Green class (year 4) - @RBGreenClassY4**

**Blue class (year 5) - @RBBlueClassY5**

**Purple class (year 6) - @RBPurpleClassY6**



## Welcome Back!

A warm welcome back after the summer holiday. We hope that you all had a wonderful time with your children. A special welcome goes out to our new families and children. For those of you who are new to Snowsfields and The Bridges Federation, our joint newsletter with updates and news from all four schools comes out every Friday so please look out for it in your email inbox or on the school website [www.bridgesfederation.org.uk](http://www.bridgesfederation.org.uk).

We look forward to your continued support throughout this academic year so that together we can celebrate our children's progress and achievements.



## Preloved Uniform Swap Shop

Our preloved uniform swap shop will be on Tuesday 13th September at 8.45am.

Please come and support our effort to reduce the impact on the environment.

Thank you to all our parents who supported the preloved swap shop last term.



### Twitter

Please start following your child's new class on twitter, if you are not already, please also follow @SNSPrimary

Snowsfields school - @SNSPrimary

Caterpillar class (Nursery) - @SNSFoundationS

Butterfly class (Reception) - @SNSFoundationS

Rainbow class (Resource base) - @rainbow\_sns

Red class (year 1) - @SNSRed1

Orange class (year 2) - @SNSOrange2

Yellow class (year 3) - @SNSYellow\_3

Green class (year 4) - @SNSgreen\_4

Blue class (year 5) - @SNSBlue5

Purple class (year 6) - @SNSPurple6

### PE Days

Children can wear their PE kit to school on their PE days.

Rainbow class (Resource base) - Monday

Red class (year 1) - Tuesday & Thursday

Orange class (year 2) - Monday & Friday

Yellow class (year 3) - Tuesday &

Wednesday

Green class (year 4) - Monday & Wednesday

Blue class (year 5) - Friday (extended session)

Purple class (year 6) - Wednesday & Friday

## Y6 Parent Workshop

We are looking forward to seeing our Y6 parents at the secondary transfer workshop on Tuesday 11th October at 9am in the training suite.

### Contact Details

Please let the school office know of any changes to your contact details. If you change your phone you will need a new code from the school office to receive scholarpack notifications. Thank you.





# Friars Primary School



## Welcome Back!

We were delighted to welcome back all our families and hope that you all had a great time over the summer break. It was also a pleasure meeting our new families and seeing how quickly the children settled in their new classes.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our 'Meet the Teacher' sessions on Wednesday.

If you have missed this meeting please ensure to catch up with your child's teacher after school. All the handouts teachers shared with the parents will be also uploaded on your child's Google Classroom.



In year 4, we started off the term with a team building PE session!



We love being in Nursery! We are having so much fun learning new things!



In year 1, we sorted and counted objects. It was really fun!

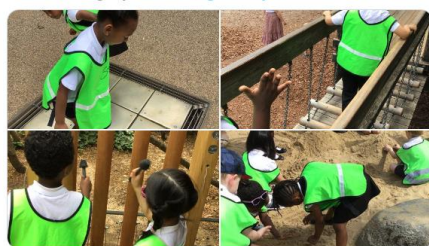
This is our first Daily Mile of the year!

To stay up to date with all the lovely learning opportunities and experiences the children are offered at Friars primary school please follow us on twitter @Friars SE1



Friars Primary Foundation School  
@FriarsSE1

During our visit to #KensingtonGardens, the children were really interested in knowing more about Princess Diana. Impromptu lesson for tomorrow on her charity work and legacy. @KensingtonRoyal



## Y6 Parent Workshop

As discussed during the Meet the Teacher session, we will be running a secondary transfer workshop on 15th October at 5.00 pm.



Robert Browning Primary School Kind and Queen Street, London, SE17 1DQ 020 7708 3456 <a href="mailto:office@robertbrowning.southwark.sch.uk">office@robertbrowning.southwark.sch.uk</a>	Snowsfields Primary School Kirby Grove, London, SE1 3TD 020 7525 9065 <a href="mailto:office@snowsfields.southwark.sch.uk">office@snowsfields.southwark.sch.uk</a>
Tower Bridge Primary School Fair Street, London, SE1 2AE 020 7407 2959 <a href="mailto:office@towerbridge.southwark.sch.uk">office@towerbridge.southwark.sch.uk</a>	Friars Primary Foundation School Webber Street, London, SE1 0RF 020 7207 1807 <a href="mailto:office@friars.southwark.sch.uk">office@friars.southwark.sch.uk</a>

## **REQUIRED TO START A.S.A.P.**

### **Midday Meals Supervisor at Snowsfields Primary School**

10 hours per week – term time only

Grade: 3 Point: 2-6 – £5,403 per annum

## **AT THE BRIDGES FEDERATION WE LEARN AND SUCCEED TOGETHER**

The Bridges Federation of Schools are working together to provide excellent opportunities and exciting learning for all our pupils. We believe that every child has the potential to succeed and that it is our job to make that happen. We see every child as an individual and have a strong commitment to inclusion. All schools are situated in fantastic locations with excellent transport and community links.

We are looking for a flexible, reliable and dedicated Midday Meals Supervisor to provide a complementary service to existing teachers and pastoral staff in a school setting in addressing the needs of pupils during the lunch time period.

Are you dynamic, enthusiastic and committed to improving the opportunities for young people; someone who believes all children deserve the very best and are able to offer this, and are ready for a challenge?

Do you have:

- Experience of working with children
- Experience of caring for children
- Experience of working with children with SEND
- Ability to communicate effectively with staff at all levels within the school
- Excellent communication skills, written and oral
- Experience of working within a team and ability to organise one's own tasks

A Job Description for this position can be obtained from our Senior Federation Business Manager, Michelle Owens. Applications should be submitted to Michelle Owens by the closing date shown below and should cover all the points of the Person Specification.

If you require any further information regarding this position, please email Michelle Owens, our Senior Federation Business Manager: [mowens@snowsfields.southwark.sch.uk](mailto:mowens@snowsfields.southwark.sch.uk).

Closing date for applications: 9am Monday 26th September 2022

Interview date: Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022

The Bridges Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check, references and medical clearance are required for the successful applicant.



**Sangeeta Leahy**  
Director of Public Health  
Southwark Council  
London SE1P 5LX  
[PublicHealth@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:PublicHealth@southwark.gov.uk)

5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

**To: Parents/carers of children in primary schools**

Dear Parent/Carer,

[The NHS is offering children aged 1 to 9 in London a polio vaccine.](#) This will either be a booster on top of your child's routine immunisations or a catch up dose.

There are signs [polio may be spreading](#) in London and the number of children vaccinated in London is lower than it should be. Boosting immunity in children should help protect them and reduce the risk of the virus continuing to spread. The NHS will contact you with information on how to book an appointment.



**Make sure your child is up to date on their other vaccinations for the new school year**

As we return for another school year, it is important to make sure that your child is up to date with their childhood immunisations, particularly if they are joining primary school for the first time.

Your child should have had the **pre-school booster**, and two doses of **MMR** before they start school. Check your child's **red book** (personal health record) to see if your child has had their jabs.

It is also recommended that children aged 5 and over get a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, and take up the offer of the flu vaccine when offered it in school, in order to stay safe and well this winter.

For more information see:

[nhs.uk/MMR](https://nhs.uk/MMR)

<https://nhsselvax.com/im-a-parent-or-carer/>

Yours faithfully,



**Sangeeta Leahy**  
Director of Public Health  
Southwark Council

If your child is aged between 5 and 9 years old, you can book a vaccine appointment directly at:

- Guy's Hospital – visit [tinyurl.com/ GSTTPolioBooking](https://tinyurl.com/GSTTPolioBooking)
- 
- King's College Hospital – call 0203 299 9405 or email [kch-tr.vaccinebookings@nhs.net](mailto:kch-tr.vaccinebookings@nhs.net).



# WILDCATS GIRLS FOOTBALL

"The perfect way for girls aged 5-11 to get involved with football."



## TIME AND DATE

EVERY TUESDAY FROM 13TH SEPTEMBER (16:00 - 17:00) FREE TO ATTEND



## LOCATION

MARLBOROUGH SPORTS GARDENS, 27 UNION ST, LONDON, SE1 1SD



## NEXT STEPS

Head to [www.lpeasn.org.uk](http://www.lpeasn.org.uk) to complete our registration form or scan the QR code. You can also head to [thefa.com/weetabixwildcats](http://thefa.com/weetabixwildcats) to book on to a session. For more info contact us via [JOE@LPEASN.ORG.UK](mailto:JOE@LPEASN.ORG.UK)







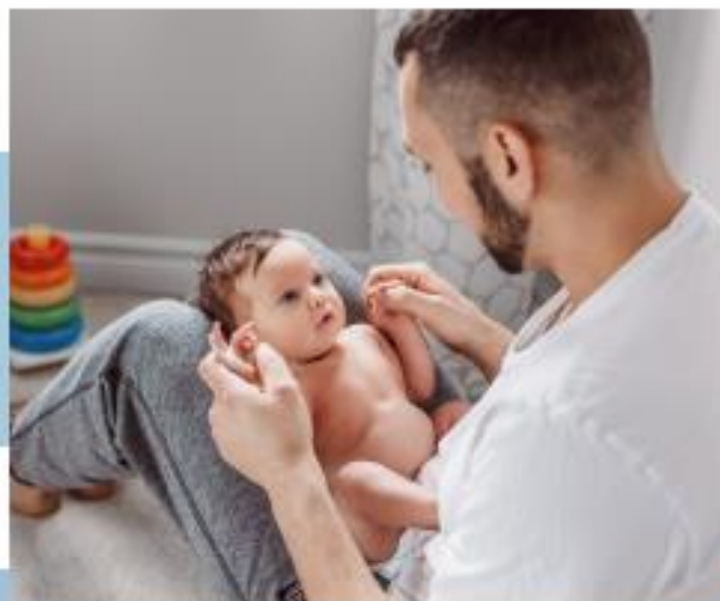
**1st Place**

[www.1stplace.uk.com](http://www.1stplace.uk.com)



Southwark Children and Family Centres  
Borough Bankside and Walworth

## Fathers Group



Join a 12-week programme to help build your skills as a male parent/carer. Whether you are a father, grandfather or stepdad, receive advice and tips on topics such as positive parenting, improving relationships and role modelling. Crèche provided.

**Where?** 1st Place Children and Family Centre, 12 Chumleigh Street, SE5 0RN

**When?** 10.00am - 12.30pm, every Friday between 23rd Sept - 9th Dec 2022

(Please note that there will be no session on 28th October during half term)

**To book a place, please contact**

**Ben Campbell** ☎ 07738 860 768 ✉ [ben.campbellsouthwark.gov.uk](mailto:ben.campbellsouthwark.gov.uk)

or 1st Place reception ☎ 0207 740 8070

**Follow us**



**@1stPlaceCentre**

**Scan the QR code to  
view our full  
timetable**



Scan me 📱





# Chattertime!



A play session for children under 5 years with the Speech & Language Therapist.  
Join us for playing, singing, rhymes, stories, support and advice.

**All sessions are run TERM TIME ONLY**

<b>Victory Children and Family Centre</b> SE17 1PT <b>Monday</b> 10.00-11:30  Contact 0207 740 8070	<b>Albrighton Children's Centre</b> SE22 8AH <b>Wednesdays</b> 13:00-14.15  Contact 0207 525 2017	<b>Leyton's Square</b> SE15 6TP <b>Wednesdays</b> 9:30-11:00am  Contact 0207 252 8265	<b>Ellen Brown Play Centre</b> SE1 3EU <b>Wednesdays</b> 13:30-15:00  Contact 0203 049 6003	<b>Rye Oak Children's Centre</b> SE15 3PD <b>Thursdays</b> 9.30-11:00  Contact 0203 848 5780
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Autumn 2022



Follow us on Facebook for top tips and activity ideas: [@EvelinaSLT](#)

E-mail: [gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net](mailto:gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net)

Website: [www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/communityspeechandlanguage](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/communityspeechandlanguage)



# Chattertime



A weekly **online session** for parents and children aged from **15 months - 4 years** who are registered with a **Lambeth or Southwark GP**

Run by a qualified Speech and Language Therapist

During the session we will share advice and support on the development of early speech and language skills.

The session includes singing, stories, support and advice

**Mondays**  
**10:30 –11:00 am**



To book a place please register with your local Lambeth children's centre or email [gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net](mailto:gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net)  
You will then be sent a link for the session.  
You must provide your child's full name, date of birth, GP and postcode.



Autumn 2022



Follow us on Facebook for top tips and activity ideas: [@EvelinaSLT](#)

E-mail: [gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net](mailto:gst-tr.contacts@nhs.net)

Website: [www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/communityspeechandlanguage](http://www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/communityspeechandlanguage)



SPOT THE ONLINE SAFETY TIPS FOR GOING

# BACK TO SCHOOL



PAUSE & THINK  
BEFORE POSTING



AVOID SCREENS  
LATE AT NIGHT

SPREAD POSITIVITY  
IN YOUR POSTS

GET  
PERMISSION  
BEFORE  
SHARING  
PICS

CHOOSE  
STRONG  
PASSWORDS

PUT  
ABUSIVE  
CHATTERS  
ON MUTE

PROBLEM?  
TELL A  
TRUSTED  
ADULT

REPORT  
BULLIES

THEN  
BLOCK  
THEM

REPORT  
UPSETTING  
CONTENT

DON'T SHARE  
PERSONAL INFO  
WITH STRANGERS

PUT THE  
PHONE AWAY  
AT BREAK  
TIME

Invite new  
classmates  
into chats  
& games



National  
Online  
Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday



[www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com)



@natonlinesafety



/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 31.08.2022



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

PEGI RATING  
7+

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

## 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 scam links or 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, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

## 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.



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