

LADYWOOD SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2024 CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Carers

Ladywood truly has been a magical place these last few weeks, with the children experiencing so many things ... Christmas Dinner with their friends and a winter wonderland experience which included a visit from several reindeers to name just a couple!



We are delighted to announce that when we return in January, all our classes will be based in their own dedicated classroom. We would particularly like to praise all the children of Ladywood as their responses to these changes have been amazing.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the festive season!

Susan and everyone at Ladywood



Reminder

*Please note school closes at the earlier time of **2.00pm on Friday 20th December** and re-opens on **Monday 6th January***





ALL ABOARD LADYWOOD for Polar Express Day!

Everyone had a lovely time on our Ladywood Polar Express Day! The children and staff enjoyed warm Vimto whilst getting cosy and listening to the story in different themed areas around school. We decorated biscuits and explored activities linked to the book.



Sully

Sully has had a lovely and busy half term with the children. He had a great party celebrating his 2nd birthday and got some lovely presents. He's looking forward to his Christmas break and seeing everyone back in school in the new year.





Wreath Making

A huge thank you to all the parents who joined us for an afternoon of wreath making.

What a wonderful afternoon! It was a great chance to chat, make new friends and relax.

Look out on Class Dojo and the Newsletter for future parent events.

Orange Dog Cafe

Some Year 6 children went to visit our Woodbridge College friends at the Orange Dog café. We enjoyed being able to order off a menu and then have our college friends prepare our drinks, cakes and sandwiches for us.

You can find Firwood and College at the Jubilee Centre every Monday to Friday from 10.00 am till 2pm

We gave them excellent reviews!



Please click on the link below to access the Bolton Family Hub information for families.

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/bolton-start-well-family-hubs>

Parent Partner

Sarah Travis is the School's Parent Partner and will be able to provide guidance, advice and support for parents/carers.

Sarah is available all day Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Should you require any help then please contact Sarah either on the school office number:

01204 333400

or via email parentpartner@ladywood.bolton.sch.uk



Goodbye & Good Luck

We are saying goodbye to Beth Francomb, wishing Beth all the very best in her new role, she'll be greatly missed by all her friends at Ladywood.

We are also saying goodbye to Christina Corry, wishing her a very happy retirement.



Online Payments

Schoolgateway



We use School Gateway system with regards to the payment of school meals, snack and a way in which we can communicate with parents.

It is essential that parents download AND register on the School Gateway App to make sure you receive all messages.

We no longer use Teachers2Parents as a form of communicating.

If you are struggling to sign up please feel free to telephone the school office for guidance over the phone.

Texting Service - Adverse Weather Conditions/School Closure

Please can we remind parents of our procedure if we need to close the school due to adverse weather conditions or for any other reason. If school is not going to be open we will make a decision and send communication out as early as we possibly can. If for any reason transport is not running, they will contact you directly. Please ensure that the main contact number for your child is up to date at all times and check for texts or messages via class dojo on a regular basis. School closure messages will also be put on:

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/schoolinformation/school-closures>, Facebook and our Website

Important Information - Allergy Aware

Allergy Aware School



A reminder that we are an 'Allergy Aware' school and therefore nuts should be avoided at all costs.

We have a number of children who are severely allergic to nuts and therefore these shouldn't be coming into school in any form.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Ladywood Bedtime Story

We were very excited for our very first Ladywood Bedtime Story! We hope you enjoyed watching it with your child.

Check Class Dojo each Friday when there will be a new one uploaded.



Educate Against Hate

Education Against Hate website provides practical advice on protecting children from extremism and radicalisation for parents. Please click on the link below for further information.

<https://www.educateagainsthate.com/parents/>

Friends of Ladywood



What is Friends of Ladywood?

Friends of Ladywood are a group of parents/carers (who wish to have a more involved role in school) and staff, that get together regularly to discuss and plan upcoming fundraising events.

What does it involve?

Being a friend of Ladywood involves a wide range of things such as attending meetings to discuss upcoming events (Easter Raffle/Christmas Fair) and bringing new ideas to the table, sourcing raffle prizes from local businesses, helping to put on large events at school to fundraise for Ladywood.



Next Meeting - to be confirmed

Join us for a coffee and chat to find out how you can get involved. The parent group will be meeting Wednesday 27th of November 3:30pm to discuss fundraising opportunities for a new sensory room. All parents invited.

Want to know more?

If you are interested in becoming a member please email the team:
friendsofladywood@bolton.sch.uk

Online Safety

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX



With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

No Age Rating

Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely – and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, griefers and online predators.



In-App Purchases

Robux is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Robux can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.



Chat Functionality

Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

ODers

An 'ODer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'ODers' and should be avoided by children.

Online Predators

Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.



Advice for Parents & Carers



Take Note of Ratings

Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.



Set Parental Controls

Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.



Disable Messages

It's advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.



Block and Report

To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clarify why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.

Encourage Creativity

It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!



Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>
<https://www.bbcnews.com/news/tech-robot-games-100-50000-20190501>



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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/NationalOnlineSafety



@nationalonlinesafety

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 28.04.2021

FREE SCHOOL MEALS



Are you missing out on £500.00 dinner money and £165.00 in vouchers per child per year?

Many parents don't realise their child is entitled to free school meals. This doesn't just cover meals, it covers money for trips (including our year 6 residential) plus receipt of the supermarket vouchers during school holidays to help with the cost of food shopping.

Have your circumstances changed?

Make sure you are not missing out on benefits you are entitled to. School meals remain free for ALL children in reception, years 1 and 2, regardless of circumstances and you don't have to apply.

Did you know that you can claim free school meals if you are on certain benefits or have a reduced household income when your children reach year 3 and onwards? For more information see the link below.

For further information or to apply, please click on the link below

<https://www.bolton.gov.uk/free-school-meals-clothing-allowance/free-school-meals-help-school-uniform>

**Bolton
Council**

Important Information

Data Collection Forms

If you haven't yet returned your Data Collection Form, please can this be completed and sent into school as soon as possible.

Thank you.

Sickness

Please be aware that if your child has an episode of sickness and/or diarrhoea they need to be kept off school for 48 hours from the last bout of sickness.

All schools are expected to adhere to this guidance from The Community Infection Prevention and Control Team.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support

Parking

When dropping off/collecting your child, can we please ask that you do not park on the area at the front of school with the hatched marked sections, block other cars in and also that you do not park in a Masefield School parking space.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Appointments

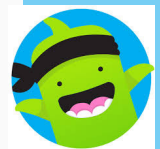
If your child has an upcoming appointment, could we please ask that you notify school in advance of when the appointment is taking place. Could a copy of the appointment letter also be sent to school prior to the appointment.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Communication with Home/Class Dojo

We are continuing to use Class Dojo as the main form of communication with parents/carers.

However, we appreciate that there may be times that you feel you need to speak to someone in person or urgently. The office team are always available and welcome calls from parents/carers.



Contact Information

Please ensure that contact details and medical information for your child are up-to-date. If you are unsure please contact the main office on 01204 333400.

Could we please ask that parents keep their phone switched on throughout the day so that we are able to make contact with you if needed. Thank you.



Operation Encompass

Ladywood School is in partnership with Bolton Safeguarding Board and Greater Manchester Police in a project called “Bolton Encompass”. The project is designed to provide support for children who may be impacted on by domestic violence. Information from Encompass will be shared with school who will ensure that appropriate supportive strategies are put in place.

To access the Operation Encompass website, please click on the link below:

<https://www.operationencompass.org/>



In the UK, an estimated 350,000 tones of clothes end up in landfill every year! Join us and our ECO council in working towards reducing carbon emissions.

We would love any donations of nearly new or good quality Ladywood uniform for our uniform bank

Items can be donated via the school office



Attendance/Leave of Absence

As part of new guidance and monitoring of pupil attendance from the Department of Education, a Leave of Absence form needs to be completed 4 weeks prior to an event, due to authorisation from the Head Teacher.

Parents will need to provide as much information as possible before sending in the form. As a parent, you may wish to take your child, out of school, on holiday in less busier times, to benefit from quieter facilities. Please can you put this level of detail in the Leave of Absence form.

If you are taking your child out of the country for longer than 10 days, school will also require copies of flight tickets, both leaving England and arriving back into England, and an address where your child will be staying.

We realise that sometimes families may need to visit family overseas at short notice. We will still require a Leave of Absence form to be completed, flight tickets and address where the child will be staying.

In addition, we understand that children with Special Educational Needs may need to attend medical appointments more frequently and these will be authorised, however we would still ask that school are informed of these prior to attending.

It is the right of a child to receive an education and school attendance is crucial for children's progress of learning. Attendance is closely monitored at school and if there is an issue Ladywood's Attendance lead may be in touch to offer support or strategies.

If your child is off school for any reason please get in touch with the office to let them know the reasons. It is important we have a full picture of children's attendance throughout the year.

Click on link below for the Holiday Request Form:

<file:///F:/Holiday%20application%20forms%20-%20pupils.pdf>

Ladywood Social Media

To keep up to date with all our latest news, please follow us on our various social media platforms.



Instagram: @ladywoodschoo



Twitter: @ladywoodschoo



Facebook: Ladywood School



Youtube: Ladywood School

Ladywood Blog

Please don't forget to check the blog for daily/weekly updates on the children's learning and all the exciting activities that have been happening around school. The blog is a great way for everyone to communicate and to keep up to date.

<http://blog.ladywood.bolton.sch.uk/>

Snack Money

May we remind parents of non-pupil premium children, of the voluntary contribution of £1.00 a week towards your child's snack. This can be paid in cash or via your School Gateway account. If paying by cash, please send into school in an envelope with your child's name on. Thank you.

Woodbridge Trust Holiday List 2024-2025 – Parents

September 2024							October 2024							November 2024						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024							January 2025							February 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4							1
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025							April 2025							May 2025							
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	
						1			1	2	3	4	5						1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
30	31																				

June 2025							July 2025							August 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5						1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
														31						

The dates that are shaded in Gold are the days children and young people are not in school.

The dates that are Red are Bank Holidays.