



Balksbury Federation

Across the Playground

Friday 16th January

Welcome Back

We would like to wish you all a warm welcome back to school and a Happy New Year.

It's been such a joy to welcome the children back and see their energy and eagerness as they dive into new learning this half term. Their enthusiasm has been wonderful to see.

A heartfelt thank you to all our families for the thoughtful gifts and kind messages shared over Christmas – your support means so much to us.



A New Arrival

Congratulations to Mrs Shield who recently welcomed baby Quinn into the world on the 19th December, weighing 7lb and 7oz!

Parents' Evening

Information regarding booking Parents' Evening slots will become available over the coming weeks.

The dates for Parents' Evening this term are:

- Monday 16th March
- Wednesday 18th March



After School Clubs

It hardly seems possible, but it is almost time for **Block 2 Clubs!** Club video clips will be available on classroom doors and descriptions will be sent out via email, next **Tuesday 20th January.**



Dance and Cheerleading

If your child is thinking of signing up for **Dance and Cheerleading Club** this half term, please note that the children will be preparing for the **Andover Dance Festival** taking place on the 24th of June. Dance and Cheerleading will be using this block to prepare some fantastic routines ahead of this event.



New Clubs

The children asked and we delivered! New for Block 2 will be:

- Tie-Dye Club (Juniors)
- Music Club (Juniors)
- Lacrosse Club (Juniors)
- Cricket Club (Infants)
- Football Club (Infants)
- Athletics (Infants)



A gentle reminder that **Block 1** of afterschool clubs will finish on **Friday 13th February.**

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ESafety

Roblox has been around since 2006 – making it 20 years old!



Games are called experiences and are made by other users.

Roblox was originally called Dynablocks.

What is Roblox?

An online platform where users create and share games.

There are millions of user generated 3D game worlds.

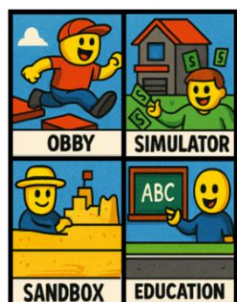
Children can then play these games, often online together, on their devices.

Some games are free to play, while others cost 'Robux' (the online currency used to buy games, items and accessories).

What are the different types of Roblox games?

There are lots of different types of Roblox games:

- Roleplaying and Life Simulation
- Action and Fighting
- Horror
- Obby and Platformer
- Adventure
- Simulator
- Education
- Dress-Up
- Racing
- Tycoon



What is the age rating?

As the content on Roblox is user-generated, it does not fall under the same rigorous age ratings as games made by companies.

Therefore, there is no set minimum age.

Children under 13 need parental permission to access certain chat features.

Children under 9 need parental permission to access content rated 'moderate'.

However, PEGI (the video game content rating system) is Parental Guidance Recommended due to the amount of user-generated content.



There are content maturity labels on all content on the platform. These labels are:

- **Minimal:** may contain occasional mild violence, light unrealistic blood and/or mild fear
- **Mild:** may contain repeated mild violence, heavy unrealistic blood, mild crude humour and/or repeated mild fear
- **Moderate:** may contain moderate violence, light realistic blood, moderate crude humour, unplayable gambling content and/or moderate fear
- **Restricted:** may contain strong violence, heavy realistic blood, moderate crude humour, romantic themes, unplayable gambling content, the presence of alcohol, strong language and/or moderate fear. These games are only available to 17+ users who verified their ages by completing ID verification



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For Keeping Safe

Is Roblox safe?

Roblox offers children creativity and fun, but there are still significant safety risks, and as the platform itself acknowledges it is never 100% safe despite the built-in filters and moderation.

These are things every parent should be aware of:

Creating an account without an email

It is important to know that players can quickly create Roblox accounts without an email. This means that some children might do this to get around parental controls. This could put a child at **risk of any of the below**



Receiving contact from strangers

As it is an online game, players can interact and communicate with each other in various ways e.g. voice chats and messages. This could put a child at **risk of receiving upsetting comments or unwanted contact from unknown people**



Seeing inappropriate content

As the games are made by other players, children could be exposed to inappropriate content. Due to the number of games available to children, it is difficult for the content to be moderated. This could put a child at **risk of being exposed to inappropriate content**



In-Game Purchases

The game offers the ability to exchange real money for in-game currency or items. This could put a child at **risk of spending large amounts of real money, building up a debt**



Playing for long periods of time

Some games will encourage players to keep coming back or play the game for long periods of time. This could put a child at **risk of spending a long time online or becoming addicted to the game**



Being scammed

Many of Roblox's games include collectible items, pets or characters. While these are digital, they are worth a lot of money in some online markets. Scammers may try to trade with users in the hopes of getting rare items that can be sold for real money. This could put a child at **risk of handing over personal information**



- **Ensure your child signs up to Roblox with their correct age** so that the appropriate safety settings are enabled
- **Switch off in-game spending** to stop your child spending real money in the game
- **Disable the chat feature** so that your child does not receive direct messages
- **Set time limits** so that your child does not spend hours playing
- **Talk with your child** about what they are playing and/or who they are chatting with. Make sure they know to tell you if they see something upsetting
- **Create a parent account** so that you have a better overview of what your child is doing. You can see your child's:
 - Individual chat histories
 - Private message history
 - Friends and followers
 - In-game purchases and trade history
 - Creations e.g. games, items etc.
 - Recently played games
- **Set parental controls** to set the Content Maturity Level; block specific games; restrict in-game spending and many other features
- **Play Roblox with your child** so that you know what your child is playing and who they are interacting with
- **Know how to block or report** a concern about a player and/or the content of a game

For a step-by-step guide to Roblox parental controls, click on the link below

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/gaming-consoles/roblox-parental-controls/>

If you are worried about what your child is doing online or need further advice, please speak to one of our DSLs who will be able to help you.



Or find further tips and advice on our website
<https://balksburyfederation.co.uk/esafety/>

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CSL Messages

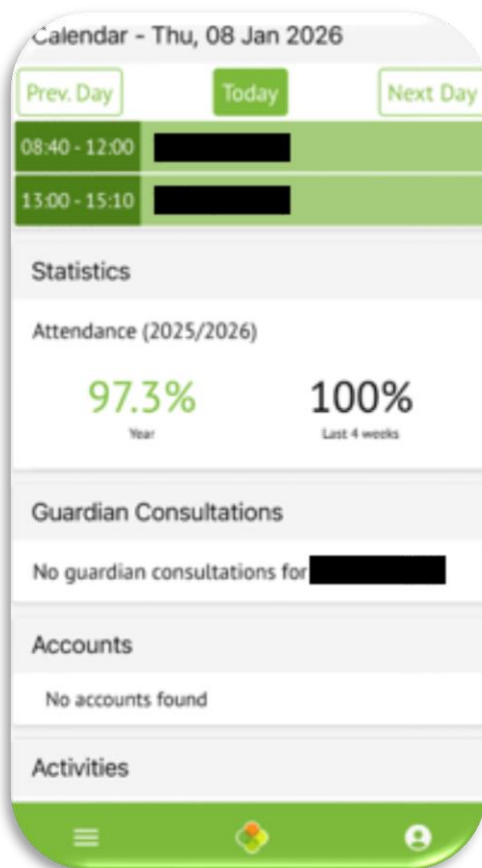


Reporting Your Child's Absence

As of **Monday 19th January**, you will be able to record absences via the Parent Portal and **Arbor App**. **You will only be able to record same-day absences**, so for any extended or future absences, please contact your child's school admin office and complete a Request for Absence Form.

Please see the separate email for instructions on how to use the App.

You will still be able to phone and leave a message on the absence line.



Can My Child Come to School?

Anxiety and Worry

Children can sometimes feel a little bit worried about going to school, but prolonged periods of absence are likely to make them worry more. Being in school with the support of their friends and teachers are likely to make them feel less worried than letting them stay at home.

Coughs and Colds

Children and young people with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend their education setting.

Children should be given paracetamol, plenty of fluids to drink and can be sent to school.

A High Temperature

A normal temperature in babies and children can vary slightly from child to child.

A high temperature is 38c or more.

Children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can go back to school or childcare and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they are well enough to attend.

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House Points and Tokens



House Points

The House with the most points across the Federation to date is: Fosbury.



Walbury



Tokens - Infants

The class with the most tokens in the Infant School to date is: Merlin Class.



Tokens - Juniors

The class with the most tokens in the Junior School to date is: Willow Class.



In the Community

IGNITE YOUR POWER CIC

Fit-Families TOGETHER

Weekly FREE family exercise class.
Grow more confident and more active together as a family.

MONDAYS 6:30PM

- £ Free to attend
- Fun
- Book your space via our website
- Endeavour School, Kings Campus, Augusta Park

www.IgniteYourPowerCIC.com/FitFamilies

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Diary Dates

January 2026

Thursday 22 nd January 2026	Emperor Class Come Dine with Us (Admiral Class date to follow)
Thursday 29 th January 2026	Skipper Class Come Dine with Us (Admiral Class date to follow)

February 2026

Friday 6 th February 2026	Anti Bullying Day
Monday 9 th – Friday 13 th February 2026	Year 6 Residential Trip to Fairthorne Manor
Tuesday 10 th February 2026	Openbox Production: Victorian Childhood – Year 4
Friday 13 th February 2026	End of Block 1 Clubs
Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February 2026	Half Term
Monday 23 rd February 2026	Start of Block 2 Clubs

March 2026

Thursday 5 th March 2026	World Book Day
Wednesday 18 th March 2026	Year 1 – Army Flying Museum Trip
Monday 16 th March 2026	Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 6:30pm)
Wednesday 18 th March 2026	Parents' Evening (3:30pm – 6:30pm)
Tuesday 24 th March 2026	Year 1 Production (2:00pm)
Wednesday 25 th March 2026	Year 1 Production (2:00pm)
Friday 27 th March 2026	INSET Day
Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April 2026	Easter Holidays

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April 2026

Wednesday 15th – Friday 17th April 2026	Year 4 Residential Trip to Ufton Court
Tuesday 21st April 2026	Year 2 Titanic Trip

May 2026

Monday 11th – Friday 15th May 2026	KS2 SATs Week
Monday 25th – Friday 29th May 2026	May Half Term

June 2026

Thursday 4th June 2026	Openbox Production: Moon Landing – Year 1
Thursday 4th June 2026	Year 3 Butser Farm Trip
Thursday 4th June 2026	Butterflies Parent Information Evening (for new Year R families)
Friday 5th June 2026	Sports Day and Family Picnic
Monday 8th – Friday 12th June 2026	Year 1 Phonics Screening Check Week
Wednesday 10th June 2026	Openbox Production: Dinosaurs – Year R
Thursday 18th June 2026	Butterflies Transition - Session 1
Thursday 18th June 2026	Year 3 Parent Transition Meeting (3:30pm – 4:30pm)
Friday 19th June 2026	Fraser Portraits Class Photos
Thursday 25th June 2026	Butterflies Transition - Session 2

July 2026

Wednesday 1st July 2026	Year 2 Production (2:00pm)
Thursday 2nd July 2026	Year 2 Production (2:00pm)
Friday 3rd July 2026	Year 2 Country Dancing Festival

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Monday 6th – Friday 10th July 2026	STEM Week (12:00pm – 4:00pm)
Tuesday 7th July 2026	Change Up Morning and Butterflies Transition - Session 3
Friday 10th July 2026	STEM Festival 2:00pm – 4:30pm
Monday 13th July 2026	Balksbury's Got Talent
Monday 13th July 2026	Year 6 Production 6:00pm
Tuesday 14th July 2026	Year 6 Production 6:00pm
Tuesday 14th July 2026	Year 2 Fun Day (more information to follow)
Wednesday 15th July 2026	Year 6 Fun Day (more information to follow)
Wednesday 15th July 2026	Year 2 Graduation
Friday 17th July 2026	Disco Fun Day (date amended)
Monday 20th July 2026	Year 6 Graduation 9:15am (date amended)
Monday 20th July 2026	Children's Last Day of Summer Term
Tuesday 21st July 2026	INSET Day
Wednesday 22nd July 2026	INSET Day

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