

## A Note from the Headteacher



### IMPORTANT UPDATES: Changes to School Transport Applications

We recently sent home communication about the council's new way of applying for travel assistance. There is now a new online application process for home to school transport through the Citizen Portal. You may be thinking that this is not relevant to you, as your child already has transport in place. **However, please keep reading because it does affect you, too!** It has always been the council's policy that eligible families should re-apply every year for home to school transport to continue. Due to the system that was previously in place, this part of the policy was never fully followed through **and this is now the part that has changed.** As the new citizen portal is much more streamlined than the old system, **all families eligible for home to school transport MUST re-apply every year.**

I highly recommend that all of our families log on to the Citizen Portal to check when applications will need to be re-made. There is a video guide available to show you how the portal works. For, all relevant information, please see the box below:

#### **How to apply (from 1st May)**

From the launch date onwards, you will be able to access the new application process directly via our website:

**Apply on the [Citizen Portal](#).**

#### **Get ready with our Video Guide**

To help you get used to the new system before you apply, we have created a step-by-step video guide. This walks you through the portal and shows you exactly what to expect.

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4x3xwD31qc8>**

By moving to a single system, we aim to make the process clearer and more efficient for every family in Southend. If you have any questions before the new system goes live, please contact the team at **[EducationTransport@southend.gov.uk](mailto:EducationTransport@southend.gov.uk)**

*If you need any help or support with this, then please contact Donna in the school office who may be able to point you in the right direction.*

*Wishing you all a fabulous weekend,*

*Mrs L. Fox, Headteacher*

#### **How to contact us:**

**email the school at:** [office@st-nicholas.southend.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-nicholas.southend.sch.uk)



### KS3 HOME ECONOMICS COSTS

As part of our school's curriculum, we offer home economics to all students in KS3 (years 7, 8 & 9). This requires a small fee from parents for ingredients. Students are able to bring home their food, if a contribution is received.

The cost is **£10 per term**.

This can be paid for using our online payments system. Please contact the school office if you need help in getting set up on this system.

Thank you for your contributions.

### REMAINING INSET DAYS 2025-2026

Monday 29th June

### TERM DATES 2025-2026:

Summer half term: 25th - 29th May

Summer term ends: Mon 20th July

**STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL ON  
THURSDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 2026**

### KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### May

|             |               |                                                         |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 5th-12th    |               | Y11 L1 and L2 English and Maths Functional Skills Exams |
| 6th         | 9:00-1:00pm   | Girls' SESSSA Dodgeball Competition                     |
| 13th-21st   |               | Y11 Art GCSE Exams                                      |
| 22nd        | 9:00am-1:00pm | Whole School Hepatitis B Vaccinations                   |
| 25th - 29th |               | HALF TERM HOLIDAY                                       |

#### June

|             |                         |                                        |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| 1st - 5th   |                         | Annual 'Procorda' Residential          |
| 3rd         | 4.00pm-5.00pm           | Year 6 Transition Afternoon Tea        |
| 5th         |                         | DofE Assessment Practice Walk          |
| 10th        |                         | SESSSA Athletics Competition           |
| 11th - 12th |                         | DofE Assessment Expedition @ Belchamps |
| 16th        | 3:15pm - 4.15pm         | 'Roar' Quest Drop-In                   |
| 17th        | All Day (7:30pm return) | Whole School Trip to 'Lion King'       |
| 18th - 19th |                         | DofE Assessment Expedition @ Danbury   |
| 19th        | 9:00am-1:00pm           | Whole School Hepatitis B Vaccinations  |
| 23rd        | ALL DAY                 | Stubbers Trip                          |
| 25th        | 5:00pm - 9:00pm         | Year 11 Prom                           |
| 26th        | 11.30am                 | Year 11 Graduation Assembly            |
| 26th        | 2.15pm                  | End of Quest Awards Assembly           |

DATES IN **RED** ARE ADDITIONS OR EDITS SINCE LAST WEEK'S NEWSLETTER

## SCHOOL MEALS

**Monday 11th May will be week 1 of the menu.**

| WEEK 1     |                                    | WEEK 2     |                                    | WEEK 3     |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|
| MONDAY     |                                    | MONDAY     |                                    | MONDAY     |                                    |
| MAINS      | Beef Burger in a Bun               | MAINS      | Shepherds Pie                      | MAINS      | Lasagne                            |
| VEGETARIAN | Vegan Burger in a Bun              | VEGETARIAN | Tomato Pasta                       | VEGETARIAN | Vegetarian Lasagne                 |
| SIDE       | Diced Potato - Peas                | SIDE       | Baked Beans - Peas                 | SIDE       | Garlic Bread - Broccoli            |
| JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo |
| SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras |
| DESSERT    | Chocolate Sponge and Custard       | DESSERT    | Carrot Cake                        | DESSERT    | Flapjack                           |
| TUESDAY    |                                    | TUESDAY    |                                    | TUESDAY    |                                    |
| MAINS      | Sausages                           | MAINS      | Chicken Nuggets                    | MAINS      | Sausages in Tomato Sauce           |
| VEGETARIAN | Quorn Sausages                     | VEGETARIAN | Quorn Nuggets                      | VEGETARIAN | Vegetarian Sausages                |
| SIDE       | Mash - Carrots - Gravy             | SIDE       | Pasta - Sweetcorn - Peas           | SIDE       | Pasta - Sweetcorn - Peas           |
| JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo |
| SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras |
| DESSERT    | Fruit or Yogurt                    | DESSERT    | Plain Sponge and Custard           | DESSERT    | Fruit or Yogurt                    |
| WEDNESDAY  |                                    | WEDNESDAY  |                                    | WEDNESDAY  |                                    |
| MAINS      | Garmon                             | MAINS      | Roast Chicken                      | MAINS      | Garmon                             |
| VEGETARIAN | Quorn Fillet                       | VEGETARIAN | Cauliflower Cheese                 | VEGETARIAN | Quorn Fillet                       |
| SIDE       | Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Peas    | SIDE       | Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Cabbage | SIDE       | Roast Potatoes - Carrots - Cabbage |
| JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo |
| SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras |
| DESSERT    | Iced Sponge                        | DESSERT    | Fruit or Yogurt                    | DESSERT    | Jelly                              |
| THURSDAY   |                                    | THURSDAY   |                                    | THURSDAY   |                                    |
| MAINS      | Chicken Tikka Massala              | MAINS      | Spaghetti Bolognese                | MAINS      | Cheese & Tomato Pasta              |
| VEGETARIAN | Stir Fry Noodles                   | VEGETARIAN | Tomato Pasta                       | VEGETARIAN | Tomato Pasta                       |
| SIDE       | Rice - Peas - Sweetcorn            | SIDE       | Garlic Bread - Peas - Sweetcorn    | SIDE       | Peas - Sweetcorn                   |
| JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo |
| SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras |
| DESSERT    | Ice Cream                          | DESSERT    | Angel Delight                      | DESSERT    | Muffin                             |
| FRIDAY     |                                    | FRIDAY     |                                    | FRIDAY     |                                    |
| MAINS      | Fish Fingers                       | MAINS      | Pepperoni Pizza                    | MAINS      | Cod Fillets                        |
| VEGETARIAN | Fishless Fingers                   | VEGETARIAN | Cheese Pizza                       | VEGETARIAN | Fishless Fingers                   |
| SIDE       | Chips - Baked Beans - Peas         | SIDE       | Chips - Baked Beans - Peas         | SIDE       | Chips - Baked Beans - Peas         |
| JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo | JACKET     | Baked Beans or Cheese or Tuna Mayo |
| SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras | SANDWICH   | Ham or Cheese or Tuna Mayo *Extras |
| DESSERT    | Fruit or Yogurt                    | DESSERT    | Fruit or Yogurt                    | DESSERT    | Fruit or Yogurt                    |

**\*Extras - Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomatoes, Peppers or Savoury Snack**

**FRESH FRUIT, YOGURTS AND WHOLEMEAL BREAD ARE AVAILABLE DAILY.**



# St. Nicholas



**Thursday 16th July — 3.15pm — 4.45pm**

# SUMMER FAIR

- **CRAFTS**
- **RAFFLE**
- **ICE CREAM**
- **STALLS**
- **GIFTS**
- **GAMES**



**St Nicholas School**

**Philpott Avenue, Southend  
on Sea, SS2 4RL**



# Circle of the Savannah

As part of our current quest 'Roar!', we are delighted to announce our school production of 'Circle of the Savannah' this Summer.

If your child is taking part in this production, there will be several rehearsals that your child would be expected to attend. All rehearsals will take place on site.

Here are some important dates that you need to have ready in your diary...

**Saturday 6th June - 10:30am to 3:30pm**

**Monday 8th June - all day rehearsal**

**Tuesday 9th June - all day rehearsal**

**Wednesday 10th June - dress and tech rehearsal**

**Thursday 11th June - after school performance**

*There will be more information to follow, but if you have any queries, please email [office@st-nicholas.southend.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-nicholas.southend.sch.uk) and Mrs Turner will forward your questions to Mrs Russell*



This guide highlights the potential risks of Roblox, including online encounters, inappropriate content, scams, and in-game purchases, and offers expert advice on how to mitigate these risks.

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](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
7

### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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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