

Friday 21st March 2025

## Principal's Messages:

### This week's awards

1J and 3P were the winners of this week's Stronger Together awards. They have collected the most tokens for great examples of working hard and being kind.

Well done to the following children who were nominated for Principal's Award this week by their class teachers:

**Dinah Balmus for making excellent progress this year and always having her head in a book**

**Lily Holt for being increasingly engaged in her learning in all subjects and completing extra work at home**

**Piper Precious for hard work, resilience and progress across all subjects**

### Mrs McDonough

I am sad to inform you that Mrs McDonough, our Y4 Teaching Assistant has made the decision to retire at Easter after 21 years at the school. Mrs McDonough is well known to so many Leighton families that she has worked with and supported over the years and will be greatly missed by staff, pupils and parents alike. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs McDonough the very best of luck in her retirement.

### KS1 Playground

The staff in KS1 are working hard to provide different play opportunities for pupils on the playground during break and lunchtimes. You will have noticed that there is an increase in the equipment on the playground and this will be further enhanced shortly due to a donation for play equipment from our PTA group, Friends of Leighton. Unfortunately, a small number of families are misusing this equipment at the end of the day and leaving it out all over the playground which is additional work for staff in order to tidy it up for the following day. Please could I request that parents support with this and ensure that the equipment isn't played with after you collect your child and that you leave the playground promptly after collection.

For safeguarding reasons, please can I also request that parents do to not allow children to continue to play on the KS1 playground whilst you are waiting in the queue at the ice cream van. School staff cannot be responsible for children once they have been handed over. Your support with this is much appreciated.



### To celebrate World Down Syndrome Day - Wear odd socks!!

This year for World Down Syndrome day, we have decided to help raise money for this great charity by holding a 'wear odd socks' day on Tuesday 25th March. Children are to wear their school uniform along with some whacky odd socks.

We will also be holding a Gingerbread sock sale for the children on this day. All proceeds will go to the Cheshire Down Syndrome society. If you would like to buy a gingerbread sock we ask for £1 per sock. Previously, we sold out very quickly thanks to the support and generosity of our families.

Have a lovely weekend,

*Mrs Thompson*

**School will close for the Easter break on Friday 4th April 2025 and reopen for the Summer term on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.**



Friends of Leighton Academy

# Eggs-cellent Non Uniform Day

FRIDAY 21st MARCH 2025

Ditch your uniform for the day!

Can we ask for an Easter themed donation per family\*\* to take part - there is no such thing as too much chocolate! :-)

Donations will be used in our upcoming Easter fair (save the date - Fri 28/03/25)

# Egg Decorating Comp

Join us for the return of our annual Egg Decorating Comp for 2025!

Free to enter - Family Fun - Prizes for our Winners

- 1.) Hard boil or blow out your egg/s
- 2.) Decorate your egg/s however you like - it might be painted or you might like to create a fun scene with your egg/s - get creative!
- 3.) Bring your egg masterpiece into school on Friday 28th March 2025 (drop off in the morning please) to be displayed at our Easter Fair and entered into the competition

## CALLING ALL BAKERS & CAKE GURUS

Are you a cupcake maker or a brownie baker. Do you have an eye for tasty store bought cakes?

# MAKE IT OR FAKE IT!

HELP US WITH OUR CAKE STALL - WE NEED.....

# EASTER FAIR CAKE DONATIONS

Please drop any donations off on the morning of the Easter Fair - Friday 28/03/25

PLEASE INCLUDE A LIST OF INGREDIENTS WITH ANY HOMEMADE GOODIES SO ANYONE WITH DIETARY NEEDS CAN CHECK AND CHOOSE ACCORDINGLY :-)

THANK YOU - YOU ARE STARS!

Friends of Leighton

# Easter Raffle

- 1 - Lego/Squishmallow Bundle
- 2 - Creme Egg Hamper
- 3 - Cuddly Sweets Hamper
- 4 - Luxury Egg & Chocs
- 5 - Squishmallow & Choc Mix
- 6 - Fabulosa Cleaning Bundle
- 7 - Easter Baking Bundle
- 8 - Easter Craft Bundle
- 9- Trio of Chocolate Animals
- 10 - Easter Egg Mix

Tickets £1 each - available to pre-order via Arbor 'Trips' tab from Mon 17/03/25 until 3pm Wed 26/03/25. Tickets also available to purchase at the school fair.

PRIZES DRAWN AT THE EASTER FAIR ON FRI 28/03/25

## School Meals

If your child is not entitled to a free school meal, please log onto their Arbor account to pay for their meal in advance of their order. School meals are £2.45 per day.

Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Red Option</b>	<b>Tomato Pasta Bake</b>	<b>Spaghetti Bolognese</b>	<b>Roast Turkey with Mash Potato &amp; Gravy</b>	<b>Chicken Curry with 50/50 Rice</b>	<b>Sausage and Chips</b>
<b>Yellow Option</b>	<b>Macaroni Cheese</b>	<b>Meat Free Sausage Ragu with Pasta</b>	<b>Quorn Pie with Mash Potato &amp; Gravy</b>	<b>Vegetarian Meatballs with Pasta</b>	<b>Cheese &amp; Bean Bake with Chips</b>
<b>Green Option</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b>	<b>Jacket Potato</b>
<b>Orange Option</b>	<b>Sandwich Selection</b>	<b>Sandwich Selection</b>	<b>Sandwich Selection</b>	<b>Sandwich Selection</b>	<b>Sandwich Selection</b>
<b>Desserts</b>	Chocolate Crunch	Ginger Biscuit	Chocolate & Orange Muffins	Fruit Sponge & Custard	Fruit in Jelly
	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt	Fresh fruit or yoghurt
Seasonal Vegetables and Salad Bar					

### Term Time Absence Requests

As detailed in our Attendance Policy, and in line with DfE guidance, we do not authorise leave of absence during term other than when exceptional circumstances permit.

If you wish to take your child out of school during term time, it is important to discuss this with us as much in advance as possible, so we can guide you through the process. However, where absence is unauthorised, it could lead to further action being taken including a penalty notice being issued. Department for Education information regarding this is available by clicking [here](#).

### Attendance Matters

Here are our attendance figures for this week

Our school target:

96%

Overall school attendance this week:

94.73%

Overall school attendance this year:

93.8%

RB – 94.67%

2S – 97.33%

5F – 97.42%

RD – 97.93%

3J – 91.54%

5S – 90%

1J – 91.79%

3P – 96.12%

6E – 94.33%

1L – 94.58%

4S – 95.91%

6H – 90.67%

2P – 99.33% ★

4W – 94.5%



## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

AGE RESTRICTION  
PEGI  
7

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.

#### 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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