

# Primary Newsletter



Spring 2. 31<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parents and Carers of our wonderful children,

I wish I knew where this last half term has gone - but it has certainly passed by at a tumultuous speed.

Thank you firstly to all of our parents for your support with the Industrial Action recently and for knowing how hard our teaching staff work and the reasons why they felt this step was necessary; to maintain the profession for all of us both in it and using it for the betterment of our children.

Over the Easter break, the play areas for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 are all being extended to increase the amount of play area available to the children. We have been promised that the works will be completed before the children return to school on Tuesday 18th April 2023. You will still approach the classrooms using the normal pathway - however the fences will have been extended and to get to Reception and Year 1 playgrounds you will need to go through an additional gate or two.

Recently we joined thousands of children across the country raising money for Red Nose Day. Red Nose Day is a national fundraising event run by Comic Relief. We raised a fantastic £471.66 for comic relief (£200 raised for red nose sales!)

Comic Relief supports incredible projects and organisations who are making a difference for people across the UK and around the world. The money raised will help support people struggling with the cost-of living crisis and tackle issues such as homelessness, mental health problems and food poverty here in the UK and around the world.

We would like to thank you for all your support.

Fundraising forms part of our Emotional Health curriculum. This area of our curriculum aims to help children explore their identity, find their place in the school, understand what it means to feel safe and develop an awareness of diversity and accepting difference. We also believe it is important for our children to understand the importance of charity, but also how helping others can improve your own self-esteem and wellbeing. There are always those who need something more than us and every little donation we can make helps improve their quality of life.

Details will be shared about our Parents Evenings. These are on Thursday 20th April 2023 and Monday 24th April 2023. We look forward to seeing you on one of these evenings.

I really want you to know that we are very proud of our children who make this school a very special place. Thank you to everybody who has worked so hard and continues to work hard, for our children.

### School Choir

We have several members of staff working with our newly formed school choir to prepare them to perform during our celebrations later on this year for the coronation of King Charles. They will also be performing when we have our new gardens opened closer to the summer break. Mrs White entered a national competition to win a very special garden that is being displayed at the Chelsea Flower Show this year - and following a visit from the architect of the garden it was announced that we had won!! The garden will be installed on the approach to the ARC building. I will be keeping you informed of progress along the way.

### Safeguarding - Help Children Stay Safe on Chat Apps

Over the last few weeks, it has been brought to my attention that some children are using WhatsApp, which is an app for age 16+ children. My concern is that no child within Primary School should use this app, as it is legally not allowed. I was shown some of the contents that children were discussing, which is inappropriate and worrying. This information was shared with our Designated Safeguarding Lead and necessary steps were taken.

I am aware that many children use a variety of messaging and chat apps, as a way for them to stay in touch with their friends and family, but it is important that they are using apps that are age appropriate and parents/carers are monitoring what is being said within these chats.

Please talk to your child about who they're chatting to and how they know them. Remind them to be conscious of who they're sharing personal information with and not to share information with people they haven't met before. This includes information like their name, location, email, phone number and school name.



**Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow**

## PUNCTUALITY AND ATTENDANCE

Well done to everyone for making sure our children get to school on time every day. A reminder our doors open for soft start at 8.15 a.m. and our lessons start at 8.30 a.m. Congratulations to the following classes who were awarded best punctuality and attendance this half term.

### Phase 1

Week beg.	Best Punctuality	Best Attendance
24.2.23	Year 1 Starfish	Year 3 Peacock
3.3.23	Year 3 Turtle	Year 3 Panda
10.3.23	Year 1 Starfish	Year 3 Peacock
17.3.23	N/A	N/A
24.3.23	Year 3 Turtle	Year 3 Panda

### Phase 2

Week beg.	Best Punctuality	Best Attendance
24.2.23	Year 5 Eagle	Year 6 Dolphin
3.3.23	Year 5 Manatee	Year 5 Manatee
10.3.23	Year 5 Eagle	Year 4 Kestrel
17.3.23	N/A	N/A
24.3.23	Year 5 Manatee	Year 5 Eagle



## THE CHELSEA GARDEN SHOW COMES TO ALEC REED ACADEMY

In May, School Food Matters will be taking their mission to the RHS Chelsea Flower Show with a special garden that celebrates children's access to nature. Alec Reed Academy has been extremely lucky to be selected as one of two primary schools that the garden will be relocated to once the Show is over, ensuring it lives on as a fantastic learning resource.

Our new Chelsea Garden will be placed on a grass section near to the centre for early years and year 1, also known as The Arc. Children from the age of three will benefit greatly from having access to a beautiful outdoor classroom and somewhere to relax and enjoy nature. This area will be used for shared reading, mindfulness, science and Geography fieldwork. Installation will begin in May – all dates to be confirmed.





## COMIC RELIEF RED NOSE DAY 2023



On Friday 17th March the pupils at Alec Reed Academy celebrated Red Nose Day in support of Comic Relief. Pupils were invited to wear their own clothes and purchase red noses to fundraise for this fantastic charity. As a result, we raised a fantastic £471.66 for Comic Relief.

Well done to all pupils, parents and staff for their donations and enthusiasm!



## LOCAL HISTORY DAZZLE DAY

Wednesday 22nd March was Alec Reed Primary's first ever Local History Dazzle Day! The children played historians for the day and conducted an enquiry into an aspect of Northolt's rich history.

The children enjoyed seeing old pictures of familiar places and making comparisons; discovering the history behind Northolt's landmarks and its history as an Anglo Saxon settlement and Year 6 learnt about the significance of Blair Peach. Year 1 and Year 3 took their learning outside with Year 1 visiting a local high street and Lime Trees Park and Year 3 taking a walk to landmarks such as St Mary's Church, the clocktower and Northala Fields. The children then presented their findings to peers in another year group. It was a successful day and the children and adults alike enjoyed learning about Northolt and its history. We may have some future historians at Alec Reed Academy Primary. Watch this space!





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

7+

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.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### 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 general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

## 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.

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-joining-virtual-parties-fortnite>  
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

**NOS** National Online Safety®  
 #WakeUpWednesday



# PARENTS AND CARERS, MEET THE PUPILS

We are delighted to be hosting the first of our Parents meet the Pupils sessions for parents and carers in Summer 2023. This will be for pupils in Years 1-5.\*

This follows on from our Spring term, successful Meet the Teachers event. You are warmly invited to join your child in their classroom at the end of the school day in our summer showcase Parents meet the Pupils. This is an opportunity to celebrate your child's learning and all they have achieved this year.

## Summer Term 2023 – Parents meet the Pupils

Parents meet the Pupils is an end of year summer celebration of your child's learning journey over the year. The class teacher and pupils will be showcasing their class achievements. We will be holding these sessions for all classes in a year group on the same afternoon.

Below are the dates for Parents meet the Pupils in the Summer term:

Year 5 – Wednesday 17th May 2023

Year 4 - Thursday 18th May 2023

Year 3 - Wednesday 24th May 2023

Year 2 - Wednesday 14th June 2023

Year 1 – Thursday 15th June 2023

All sessions will take place in your child's classroom. To accommodate all parents in the classroom, your child's class will be holding two sessions. Please choose one of these to attend and arrive at the main reception at: 2:30pm-2:45pm or 2:45-3:00pm.

Year 1 and Reception parents will need to arrive at the Arc reception.

We really hope you will be able to attend and look forward to seeing you there.

\*Nursery and Reception pupils will be holding their end of year celebrations at a special teddy bears picnic. Nursery's will take place on Tuesday 18th July and Reception's will be take place on Wednesday 18th July.

Year 6 pupils will be celebrating the end of their Primary school career with us at their end of year graduation ceremony so Year 6 parents, you are warmly invited to attend this when the date has been confirmed.



# TOP TIPS

## FOR STAYING SAFE ONLINE

Remember the **SMART** rules!

**S** is for: **Stay SAFE!** Keep your personal information private. Do not give out your address, phone number, social media handles, or school name to online strangers.

**M** is for: **Don't MEET Up!** Meeting someone in person you met online could be dangerous. Check with a parent or guardian.

**A** is for: **ACCEPTING!** Don't accept friend requests or files from people you don't know.

**R** is for: **RELIABLE!** Stop the spread of misinformation by relying on trustworthy sources, family, and friends.

**T** is for: **TELL Someone!** If you see something, speak up! If something seems off, tell a responsible adult.

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## Summer 2023 Key Dates

Tuesday 18th April - Pupils return to school  
Thursday 20th April - Parent/Carer Evening  
Monday 24th April - Parent Carer Evening

Monday 1st May - Academy closed  
Monday 8th May - Academy closed  
Tuesday 9th May- Friday 12th May (inclusive) - Year 6 SATS  
Wk beg. Monday 15th May - Year 2 SATS  
Friday 26th May - end of half term



# COMMUNITY EVENTS @ ARA



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# FREE SPRING 2023 YOUTH HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD (HAF) PROGRAMME



Looking for something fun to do in  
the **Easter School Holiday**?  
Why not check out what the **Youth  
HAF** programme has to offer!

**EHAF23134369**







You can choose up to four days or sessions of **free** activities and grab a bite to eat\*

- **Get Active** - try new sports and activities, get fit and be healthy
- **Get Creative** - have a go at creative activities such as film making or arts and crafts
- **Get Social** - meet new people or connect with friends



The Spring HAF programme runs:

- **3rd - 6th April 2023**
- **11th - 14th April 2023**

To book your place or to find out what is available please visit [www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.ealingfamiliesdirectory.org.uk).

You will need your **code** from the front of this leaflet to book your place.

**Spaces are limited – Don't miss out!**

Ealing's HAF Team

**HAF@ealing.gov.uk** or call **020 8825 6331**  
(lines open 9am - 1pm)

\* Short or one-off sessions may not include a meal.

The Youth HAF programme is for Young People in Years 7-11 (Junior HAF for Reception to Year 6 also available)



# KEEPING YOU UP TO DATE

**We are working hard to make sure you are fully informed about your child's learning and the key events taking place at school. In addition to letters home, here's a summary of what's available:**

- **Half termly Newsletter**
- **Half termly Reading Bulletin**
- **Social Media updates**
- **Curriculum Newsletters**
- **Knowledge Organisers for each topic**



**Visit our website to access these materials.**

**Please contact the Primary Office for further guidance.**

**Remember to always check your emails to avoid missing out on latest updates.**

**WEBSITE:** [WWW.ALECREEDACADEMY.CO.UK](http://WWW.ALECREEDACADEMY.CO.UK)

**FACEBOOK:** [ALEC REED ACADEMY PRIMARY](#)

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