



The Grange Primary School and Nursery NEWSLETTER

www.thegrangepriamaryandnursery.com

No. 18 Spring Term 2026

Monday 26th January 2026

Update INSET Day

Please note that there is **NO INSET day** this half term and all children should **attend school as normal on Friday 13th February**. School will close at 3.15 p.m. and half term will begin at that time. We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused and thank you for your understanding.

After-School Clubs Next Week

The following after school clubs will start next week:

Monday - Playcourt Football - Years Three, Four, Five and Six

Monday - Young Voices Choir - Existing members only

Tuesday - Story Club - Year One

Tuesday - Card and Table Top Games - Years Two and Three

Thursday - Playdough - Year Two

Thursday - Hammer Beads - Years Five and Six

Celebrating Good Attendance

The winner of the 100% Attendance Prize for the term to date (100% attendance and prompt arrival) was Jacob Marron (Class 12) and the Class Attendance Award for the week was won by Class 6 - Well done Jacob and Class 6!

You can't teach an empty chair!

Individual and Family Group Photography

On Wednesday 28th January, the school photographer will be taking individual and family group photographs. We know that many of you treasure these photographs so please ensure that your child is wearing smart school uniform and that his/her hair is tidy and clean.

On-line Safety

As children spend more time online—whether for learning, gaming, or staying in touch with friends—it's important that we continue working together to keep them safe. In school, we teach children how to use technology responsibly, recognise potential risks, and know what to do if something doesn't feel right.

We encourage families to talk regularly with their children about their online activities and to set simple, age-appropriate boundaries at home. Remind children never to share personal information, to use strong passwords, and to speak to a trusted adult if they come across anything worrying or confusing online.

By staying informed and working in partnership, we can help ensure that all our children enjoy the benefits of the digital world safely and confidently.

Please see the following links relating to Roblox and WhatsApp (flyers also attached for your information):

<https://www.thegrangepriamaryandnursery.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/roblox-2025.pdf>

<https://www.thegrangepriamaryandnursery.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/whatsapp-2025.pdf>

Swimming Update

From Thursday 22nd January, Class 3 and Class 4 will alternate weekly attendance at swimming sessions. This means that each class will attend swimming on alternate weeks rather than every week.

This change has been made to ensure that swimming provision can continue to run effectively for all pupils. Below is a timetable of when each class will be swimming.

Spring Term

Date Class

Thursday 22 nd January	Class Four Swimming
Thursday 29 th January	Class Three Swimming
Thursday 5 th February	Class Four Swimming
Thursday 12 th February	Class Three Swimming

Half Term

Thursday 26 th February	Class Four Swimming
Thursday 5 th March	Class Three Swimming
Thursday 12 th March	Class Four Swimming
Thursday 19 th March	Class Three Swimming
Thursday 26 th March	Class Four Swimming

If you have any questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Would you like your child to attend our Nursery?

Parents/carers of children who have their third birthday before 31st March 2026 may now apply for a Nursery place - there are limited places available! Application forms are available from the main school office.

Dates for your diary

Spring Term 2026

Wednesday 28 th January	Individual and Family Photographs
Wednesday 11 th February	Year Six Residential to Condover Hall
Friday 13 th February	Half Term starts at 3.15 p.m. Year Six return from Condover Hall
Monday 23 rd February	Term re-starts
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day Class 2 Trip to Clitheroe Castle Museum
Wednesday 11 th March	Year Five Residential to CHET
Friday 13 th March	Year Five return from CHET
Friday 20 th March	Comic Relief/ Red Nose Day
Wednesday 25 th March	Parents' Open Afternoon
Friday 27 th March	Term ends at 3.15 p.m.

Summer Term 2026

Monday 13 th April	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 14 th April	Summer Term Starts
Monday 4 th May	Bank Holiday
Monday 11 th May	Year Six SATs Week
Friday 22 nd May	Half term starts at 3.15 p.m.
Monday 1 st June	Staff Training Day
Tuesday 2 nd June	Term re-starts
Friday 17 th July	Term ends at 1.30 p.m.

Wishing you all a pleasant week ahead!

Gwyn Evans - Head of School

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ROBLOX



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.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP



WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only the sender and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app comes with several associated risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHATS

Group chats let friends talk together but can pose problems for young users. They might feel excluded – like discovering events they weren't invited to. Hurtful comments can also escalate quickly, as more people join in, amplifying the impact through a wider audience.

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it attractive to scammers. Tactics include impersonating a child in an 'emergency' to request money, or triggering a login code, then pretending to be WhatsApp and asking for it – giving them access to private messages and personal data.

CHANNELS

'Channels' let users follow topics anonymously, interacting only through polls or emoji reactions. However, fake channels can mimic real ones, spreading misinformation, hate speech, or phishing for personal data. WhatsApp may also collect and share channel-following info with third parties, raising privacy issues.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages help share sensitive info, but young people may wrongly assume they're fully private. Senders can opt for their message to vanish after 24 hours, 7 days, or 90 days – or for media, after one view. However, recipients can still save them by bookmarking or taking screenshots, reducing their privacy.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's simplicity makes sharing news quick – accurate or not. To help curb misinformation, messages forwarded over five times now show a 'Forwarded many times' label with a double arrow. This alerts users that the message isn't original and may be unreliable.

CHAT LOCK

The new 'Chat lock' feature lets users store specific messages in a separate passcode- or biometrically-protected folder. While useful for privacy, it could be misused by younger users to hide conversations or content they know parents and educators might find inappropriate, including age-restricted material.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature helps friends meet up or parents check a child's route home. However, anyone in a child's group chats can track their location, potentially revealing their home address or regular travel patterns to strangers.

AI INTEGRATION

Meta AI on WhatsApp poses risks to children, including exposure to misinformation, inappropriate content, and data privacy issues. AI responses may be inaccurate, and kids might share personal information unknowingly. It can also hinder critical thinking by offering ready-made answers.

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to 'Privacy', then 'Groups'. You can give permission to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...'. Additionally, if the child needs to use 'live location', emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why they have been hidden. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>