

# The Longvernal Letter



## Term 4-2025/2026

Welcome to the Term 4 Newsletter. I know I always say it, but this term has been even busier than usual, with some really lovely events.

### Communication about learning

Thank you for returning the recent surveys. It is always helpful and often lovely to receive feedback so that we can work together on a continuous journey of improvement and providing great learning opportunities for the children. Thank you also for attending the recent parent meetings to discuss your child's progress. Please be sure to keep an eye on Facebook and our website for news about learning in class and information about what is coming up next term. Year 6 will have been given SATS preparation books and Year 4 are strongly encouraged to practise times tables with the resources provided by Miss. Black.

### Book Week



The term started with an activity-packed Book Week encompassing: Oracy Book Talk, a guest reader, two author visits, Natural Theatre Company workshops, Buddy Reading, Costume Parade and a Book Treasure Hunt. Competitions covered book illustrations, wooden spoon book characters, extreme reading and book character or setting pebbles.

### Trips



Children have enjoyed a range of curriculum-enhancing trips this term. Year 6 travelled to the Life Skills Centre in Bristol where they learnt essential skills for the future including making emergency calls and first aid.

As part of their History topic of Victorians in a local study, Chestnut Class visited Radstock Museum, enjoying dressing up and also experiencing a strict classroom with rote learning.



Holly Class were enthralled by all the tropical fish and sharks at the Bristol Aquarium.



Maple Class enhanced their History learning about the Stone Age and prior learning about rock formations with their visit to Wookey Hole.



As I write Cherry Class is excitedly boarding the coach for their residential trip to Charterhouse.



## Performing Arts

On March 10th lots of children from across Years 1 to 6 went to Bath to participate in the Midsomerset Festival. For the first time we took along an entire class: Maple Class performed the poem, 'The Dragon Who Ate Our School.'



It was lovely to see so many parents coming along to offer them support. Additionally, 23 children took part in either Verse Speaking or Prepared Prose Reading. All the children performed to a strong standard with particular mention going to Tyler in Year 1 who scooped the Plowman Memorial Cup for Verse Speaking; Luna in Y4 and Frida in Y5 who won their classes for Prepared Prose Reading Aloud. Edwyn in Y2 came second in a really large Year 2 Verse Speaking class.

Congratulations to all - you were all fantastic ambassadors for the school and did yourselves proud.

Last week saw Maple and Cherry Classes perform their bespoke musical, 'When I Grow Up' to great acclaim - there was some wonderful singing, dancing and acting on display.



This week Chestnut and Willow Classes are off to the Forum in Bath to perform in Dance Umbrella. I have had a sneaky preview and the audience and parents are in for a treat.

## Reminders

### Uniform:

Recently uniform has seen a decline in pupils adhering to the uniform policy. Children can wear black school trousers, tailored shorts, skirts or pinafore dresses. In the warmer months green gingham dresses are also fine. No gingham shorts jumpsuits please. Leggings and joggers are NOT to be worn except for PE (unless by prior arrangement) and children should be wearing black shoes, not trainers.

Any pupil with hair that is long enough to tie up should be wearing it tied up. Earrings should be studs or tiny, easy-release 'sleeper' hoops for safety reasons.

Make-up is not permitted.

Thank you for your support with this.

### Snacks:

Morning snack should be an item of fresh fruit; think of it as a 'fruit boost' please. Crackers, cereal bars, Fruit Winders and pepperami do not qualify.

### Safety:

Please ensure that your children are securely fastened into your car with seatbelts fastened and appropriate car seats as per the law. This is a safeguarding concern.

### Parking:

Please be respectful of our neighbours on Clapton Rd and Mandy Meadows. Please park considerately, not blocking driveways, and please adhere to the Highway Code and do not park dangerously, on white lines or corners.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone in the Longvernal Family a relaxing, happy Easter break.

Take care

Mrs Courtier-Hird



## Attendance

**Whole School Attendance - 96.4%**

### Attendance Matters: Every Day Counts!

We know it can be difficult to decide if your child is "sick enough" to stay home. Our goal is to support you in getting your child into school whenever they are well enough to learn.

### The "Stay or Go?" Guide

- 🏠 **Stay Home:** If your child has a high temperature, is vomiting, or has diarrhoea. (Please remember the 48-hour rule for sickness bugs!)
- 🎒 **Come to School:** If they have a mild cold, a runny nose, a slight cough, or are just feeling a little tired.

### Why it's worth the effort:

Often, the best "medicine" for feeling a little under the weather is the distraction of friends and a normal routine! Being in school every day helps children feel more confident, connected and keeps their learning on track.

**Need a hand?** If you're struggling with the morning routine or your child is feeling anxious, please reach out to us. We're here to help!

## Learning next term

Please be sure to check the [website](#) to see what your child is learning next term. Navigate to 'Our Classes' and select your child's class to find out more!

## Online Safety- Roblox

Roblox is a popular online platform game where children can play and create games, as well as interact with others.

### What should you be aware of?

- Children can chat with others- including people they do not know.
- Games are user-made so content will vary in suitability.
- There are in-game purchases using 'Robux'. Robux can be stolen from users.
- It can be easy to spend a lot of time playing.

### How can you support safe use?

- Use parental controls to set appropriate restrictions.
- Keep devices in shared spaces where possible.
- Talk to your child about their online activity.
- Set clear limits for screen time.

With the right guidance, Roblox can be a fun and creative space for children to enjoy safely. Please see the attached poster for more guidance.



## Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 01st April 2026 – Dance Umbrella  
Monday 30th – Tuesday 31st March 2026 – Y4 Camp  
Thursday 02nd April 2026 – End of Term 4  
Monday 20th April 2026 – Start of Term 5  
Thursday 30th April 2026 – Photographer  
Monday 04th May 2026 – Bank Holiday  
11th – 14th May 2026 – Y6 SATS week  
Thursday 21st May 2026 – Y6 Big Pit  
Thursday 21st May 2026 – Y3 Sleepover  
Friday 22nd May 2026 – End of Term 5  
Monday 01st June 2026 – Start of Term 6  
15th – 17th June 2026 – Y5/6 Camp

## Reminders

- We are getting a large amount of lost property which we are unable to return to your child due to it not being named.

Please make sure that **all school uniforms, coats and bottles are named** before sending your child into school with them.

- Breakfast Club and After School Club should be booked and paid for **in advance** on Arbor.
- Please also remember that school dinners need to be ordered on School Grid **in advance by the Thursday of the preceding week**. Thank you.
- A reminder that there should be no smoking within the school ground. This includes vaping.
- Children should arrive no earlier than 8:30am and **must be supervised** until this time to ensure their safety, as we do not have a teacher on duty until this time.
- Please do not park in the school car park at drop off or pick up times. There are limited spaces and these are for staff and visiting external staff only. The exception is if you have a blue disability badge which is genuinely needed by the driver or child being collected. We need to restrict cars pulling out of school and driving up the hill for the safety of all as most people are walking.

## P.E. Next Term:

Holly- Thursday  
Oak- Wednesday  
Chestnut- Thursday  
Maple- Wednesday  
Cherry- Friday  
Willow- Friday (Swimming)  
Sycamore- Friday

## Forest Next Term:

Holly-Tuesday  
Oak- Friday  
Chestnut-Friday  
Maple- Tuesday  
Cherry-Tuesday  
Willow-Monday  
Sycamore-Monday

## Health Reminders

### Head Lice

Please check your child's hair regularly and use a fine-toothed comb to detect any lice. If needed, treat promptly and ensure bedding is washed thoroughly.

### Threadworm

Symptoms can include itching around the anal area (particularly at night), bed wetting and loss of weight. To help prevent spread, please keep your child's nails short, encourage regular handwashing, disinfect commonly touched surfaces and wash bedding frequently. Treatment can be sought from a pharmacy.

### Sickness and Diarrhoea

If your child has experienced sickness or diarrhoea, they must remain at home until at least 48 hours have **passed since their last episode of illness** before returning to school.

Children learn with mud on their hands and smiles on their faces



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children.

## A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME

Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.

## MATURE CONTENT

With much of Roblox's moderation automated through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. While Roblox has tools to restrict access based on age settings, these systems are not always perfect. Younger players are likely to encounter content you may deem unsuitable.

## IN-GAME SPENDING

Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.

## RISK OF ADDICTION

Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.

## COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS

Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In response, Roblox has announced changes to how chat works. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to restrict chat access between adults and children they do not know.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.

### CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT

Although Roblox is introducing tighter age-based chat restrictions, some parents and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely for younger children. Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other supervised platforms.

### PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE

Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its self-rating nature.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.

## Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



The National College

See full reference list on our website