

WHAT'S COMING UP

November

11th - TLC

13th - TLC

27th - Travelling Book Fair

December

11th - Christmas Jumper Day

15th - EYFS/Y1 Nativity @ 2pm

16th - EYFS/Y1 Nativity @ 9:30

18th - Whole School Carol Service @ 2pm

22nd - 5th Jan 2026 - Christmas Holidays

January

6th - Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we embark on the first week back at Bocking, I am pleased to share the work our pupils have been undertaking in our English curriculum. At the beginning of each term, we purposely focus on punctuation and grammar as foundational elements of writing. Our approach is deliberate and strategic: by mastering the fundamental structures of language, our pupils will develop the capacity to construct increasingly complex and refined sentences as their skills progress.

In a time that is dominated by technological advancements such as spell check and AI, we recognise the importance of maintaining core writing skills whilst still balancing the importance of knowing when to use a digital platform that is of more help. While AI can undoubtedly offer benefits like narrative structuring and vocabulary suggestions, we are acutely aware of the potential risks. These technologies, though impressive, may inadvertently stifle personal voice and originality.

To help this, we are encouraging the children to read across a range of genres. By immersing pupils in varied texts and listening to different narrative voices, we aim to enhance their imagination, empathy, and emotional awareness. Our topic hook days exemplify this approach, with teachers designing engaging activities that fully immerse pupils in literary themes, creating purposeful learning environments that motivate and inspire. Next week these will be happening across the school in English – look out for pictures of these activities in the newsletter or ask your children what hook day they had.

Alongside this, our Year 4 pupils participated in a Primary Futures workshop featuring a Town Planning Day, while our Eco and School Council commenced their project planning. Additionally, we launched our Pupil Forum, hosting our first online meeting with other schools in the CTSA network—an excellent opportunity for collaborative learning.

Please see the attachments to this newsletter regarding new governor applications. If you would like to support the school further by becoming a school governor and would like more information on this role, please ask at the office or speak to Mr & Mrs Beard (our current parent governors).

Finally, please ensure pupils wear only small stud earrings to school. Hooped earrings and large earrings are not suitable and should not be worn, earrings should be removed on PE days.

Please take good care if you are attending any firework displays this weekend and a note that we will be holding a minute's silence on Tuesday 11th at 11am in recognition of Remembrance Day. Poppies and other items are available to buy from school. The year 6s will be making these available every day for purchase.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Mon - Choir

Wed - SCS

Thu - SCS

Fri - Taekwondo

Mrs Cagney
Headteacher



STAR OF THE WEEK

EYFS - Teddy

Year 1 - Arthur

Year 2 - Emmanuel

Year 3 - Luke

Year 4 - Lilly

Year 5 - Poppy

Year 6 - Whole Class

AR READERS

Y3 - Dexter, Penelope, Abigail

Please name all items of clothing. We have so much lost property already!

Water only in bottles please.

Polite Reminder:
The school toilets are closed for cleaning from 3:20.

CLASSROOM NEWS...

YEAR 3

This week, in science we have started our S.T.E.A.M project to make a wormery to help our soil and plants get better. S.T.E.A.M stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths. In maths we have been subtracting 10s across 100s, which was tricky at first but easier now with lots of practice. In English we have learnt complex sentences, using lots of challenging terms like main clause, subordinating clause and subordinating conjunctions but we are working really hard to learn this. In R.E, we explored how Jesus got baptised. There was a priest called John and Jesus asked him to baptise him in the river Jordan. After he was baptised, a dove landed on his shoulder and a voice from above spoke to him. In geography, we are learning about Europe, and we can't wait to look at some new countries! Next week we are looking forward to D.T. because we are learning about pasta to make a pasta salad. ***Written by class learning ambassadors: Dexter and Isabella***

YEAR 4

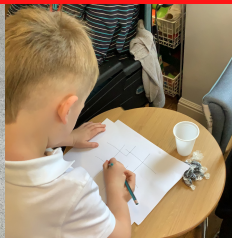
For our first week back, we have jumped straight back into some amazing learning! In English, we have been learning about sentence composition; specifically fronted adverbials, complex sentences and expanded noun phrases. We are planning to take our writing to the next level! In Maths, we have been focused on our 3-, 6- and 9-times tables. In science we have explored the different states of matter, such as solids, liquids and gases. Our new topic is about Ancient Greece and today we learnt about when and where they first began in 2200BCE and some new concepts we will be seeing throughout the term.

YEAR 5

This week in Year 5, we have completed an exciting Sentence Composition Week, focusing on extending sentences. We have been learning to use relative clauses, complex sentences, and parenthesis—ask us to show you some examples! In maths, we have mastered multiples and even made and tested our own theory about the common lowest multiples, which we were thrilled to find was correct. Our Design Technology unit has begun with research into how Viking longships were constructed. In PE, we have started our gymnastics unit, exploring balances and discovering the importance of strong body tension to maintain control. We are especially proud of our learning behaviour this week, as we have worked harder, completed more, and presented our work with improved presentation.

YEAR 6

On Wednesday, we are learning how to dance with Mrs Francis who is an expert dance teacher. In maths, we did long division and multiplication which we persevered in. In art, we practised sketching techniques and drew our final design. Our focus this week in English was parenthesis where we give extra information. In geography, we revised the 7 continents and 5 oceans by singing a catchy song! ***Written by class learning ambassadors: Louis and Olivia***



ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

78% - Year EYFS

83% - Year 1

89% - Year 2

100% - Year 3 -

well done year 3!

91% - Year 4

96% - Year 5

97% - Year 6

Attendance

target 95%

Please be aware that the gates open at 8:35, and your child is marked late, affecting their attendance from 8:50am. Punctuality is a valuable lifelong skill. Late arrival affects not only the pupil who is late but disrupts the whole class. Where a pupil arrives after the registers close, with no justifiable reason, a U code will be entered into the register. The U code amounts to an unauthorised absence for the whole session. We must warn you, a penalty notice may be issued where there have been at least ten sessions of unauthorised absence during a rolling 10 school week period.

ONLINE SAFETY..

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

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 scam links or general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

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 events, including dress-up, role-play, time-sense games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

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.

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, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

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

Claire Gaden (aka. LunaticB) 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 LunaticB Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

NOS National Online Safety

#WakeUpWednesday