

WISTOW WAYS

EDITION 1

27TH FEBRUARY 2026



Orton Wistow
Primary School

*Welcome to the new look
Wistow Ways*

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Spring Term! We hope you all enjoyed a restful break and had the chance to recharge. It has been wonderful to see the children return to school with such positivity and enthusiasm, settling back into routines and expectations smoothly. This helps us continue to build and maintain the sense of calm that we value so highly across our school.

Upcoming Things to Be Mindful Of

Bikeability for Year 5:

- Next week, some of our Year 5 pupils will be taking part in the Bikeability programme. This is a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their cycling confidence and road safety skills. Further details will be shared with the children involved.

Year 6 MOCK SATs:

- Our Year 6 pupils will also be completing their MOCK SATs assessments next week. These practice tests are designed to support them in feeling fully prepared for their main assessments in May, giving them valuable experience and helping us identify any areas where further support may be helpful.

World Book Day Events:

- We have two exciting dates for World Book Day celebrations next week:
 - Thursday 5th March – National World Book Day: Classes will enjoy virtual author workshops and take part in a range of reading-based activities throughout the day.
 - Friday 6th March – Dress-Up Day: Children are encouraged to come to school dressed as their favourite book characters. We always enjoy seeing the creative and imaginative costumes!
 - Please also look out for a World Book Day token coming home with your child.

We are looking forward to the exciting weeks ahead and all the opportunities this term will bring.

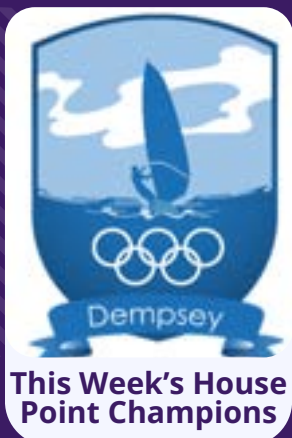
Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Warm regards,

Rachel Tansley
Assistant Headteacher



CELEBRATING SUCCESS



ATTENDANCE TOP SCORING CLASS




99%

SHINING STARS

OWLS	Roman B
Penguins	Addison
Turtles	Ellie
Wombats	Caitlyn
Foxes	Elaja
Koalas	
Nighthawks	Olivia H
Treefrogs	
Bumblebees	Jessamy
Giraffes	Millie
Iguanas	Eloise
Jaguars	Ruby N
Nightingales	Titan P
Cobras	Arrabella W
Chameleons	Alice T

Class	Dojo Master
Foxes	Ava B 19
Wombats	Hugo H 16
Koalas	Elizabeth 17
Nighthawks	Billy, Gabby, Arthur 24
Bumblebees	Felicity K 17
Tree Frogs	Jack, Noah, Chip-Austin 25
Iguanas	Vikki V, Oliver C 16
Giraffes	Lyra 17
Nightingales	Harper 52
Jaguars	Elsie 45
Chameleons	Bobby C 27
Cobras	Edward G 18

Class	Score
Wombats	260
Foxes	283
Koalas	252
Nighthawks	522
Bumblebees	219
Tree Frogs	405
Iguanas	295
Giraffes	258
Nightingales	353
Jaguars	455
Chameleons	592 
Cobras	327



SCHOOL NEWS



WORLD BOOK DAY

Next week we're looking forward to celebrating World Book Day across two fun-filled days!

On Thursday 5th March, children will enjoy a range of interactive book-themed activities in school. Then on **Friday 6th March**, we're inviting everyone to come dressed as their favourite story character.

We can't wait to see all the fantastic costumes and share our love of reading together!

If you are looking for some costume ideas to make use of clothes and accessories you already own, [here is a useful link](#).

TECHNICAL ISSUES

Unfortunately, we have experienced some issues with our email and ParentMail systems this week.

Thank you for your patience and understanding while we worked to resolve this.



SCHOOL NEWS



NEW WEBSITE

Since joining the Meridian Trust, we have been gradually moving our systems over to new platforms. As shared in recent communications, we are now using MCAS (MyChildAtSchool) to host information about your child and will soon be using to manage payments for school dinners, trips and more.

Thank you to those who have already signed up. If you have not yet done so, we will reshare the link [here](#), it is important that you register in order to access your child's information going forward.

We are also in the process of launching a new and improved website. Some families may have experienced difficulties accessing links such as school menus and PE timetables, as our previous website is no longer active.

We appreciate your patience while the new site is finalised and look forward to sharing it with you soon.



THIS WEEK IN OPAL

Lunchtime Lowdown



What we have played with this week

- Dancing and singing
- Book sharing
- Colouring books
- Basketball, Handball & Dodgeball
- Puzzles
- Role play
- modelling clay
- Stickle Bricks / magnetic tiles
- Drawing
- Scratch art
- Chalk
- Bracelet making
- Train tracks
- Easter colouring
- Small world animals



"WHEN CHILDREN PLAY, RULES MELT AWAY AND IMAGINATION TAKES FLIGHT."

NEWS

Our new OPAL sheds have been delivered, and the team is working hard to organise all of our lovely donations, ready to be transferred.

We have received some wonderful donations that are really enhancing the children's lunchtimes, and we are truly grateful. We are currently trying to grow our wooden train track collection, which is very popular, but all donations are, of course, warmly welcomed.

What's in store for next week

- Dancing
- Calm Colouring / drawing
- Book sharing
- Board games and puzzles
- Basketball, Tennis, Handball & Dodgeball
- Music
- Lego & duplo
- Den building
- Chalk
- More role play
- Easter colouring
- Wooden train track
- Kinetic sand
- Bookmark making
- Magnetic tiles / Sticklebricks



DIGITAL 'NEED TO KNOW'

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

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.



See full reference list on our website

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NEXT WEEKS MENU



Lunch Menu

Mmm
Mondays

Around the World
Tuesday

Roast
Wednesday

School Favourites
Thursday

Feel good
Friday

WEEK 3

W/C 2nd March

BATTERED FISH
QUICHE (V)

JAM COCONUT SPONGE &
CUSTARD
CHELSEA BUN

MARGARITA PIZZA (V)
BEEF NACHOS

APPLE STRUDEL & CUSTARD
CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

SAUSAGE TOAD IN THE HOLE
VEGETABLE SAUSAGE TOAD IN
THE HOLE (V)

LEMON SPONGE & VANILLA
SAUCE
FRUIT JELLY

CHICKEN DRUMMERS
MACARONI CHEESE (V)

DOUGHNUT
FRUIT CRUMBLE & CUSTARD

CHICKEN BURGER IN A BUN
QUORN BURGER IN A BUN (V)
CHEESE ROLL

CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE
FAIRY CAKE

DATES FOR THE DIARY

**2- 5TH MARCH 2026
YEAR 5 BIKEABILITY**

**WEEK LONG
YEAR 6 MOCK SATS**

**FRIDAY 6TH MARCH 2026
WORLD BOOK DAY DRESS UP**

**THUR 12TH MARCH 2026
YEAR 3 - 2CANLEARN**

**FRIDAY 13TH MARCH 2026
CLUBS END**

If you have any questions about content in this newsletter or would like to share some pupil news and achievements with us, please email us at office@ortonwistowprimary.org