



17th April 2026

# HIPPS Newsletter



Welcome  
to a  
New Term!

## Headteacher Update

Welcome back to school. We hope you were all able to share some of the Easter break with your children. We have a very busy Summer term in front of us with lots going on. I know it is always one that both staff and children enjoy.

It is always a pleasure to watch children across Year groups working together. I had the pleasure of popping outside today to witness Reception and their year 6 buddies working together looking for and then drawing minibeasts on the playground. The kind and caring way the Year 6 children supported and talked to the younger children was absolutely wonderful to see and reflected the qualities we want them to develop.

The school year always races by at this time of year! We know the Local Authority have already sent out offers of school places for children due to start with us in September. We very much look forward to welcoming these children and their parents/carers into our school community. We hope it's the start of a strong school/home partnership over the next seven years!

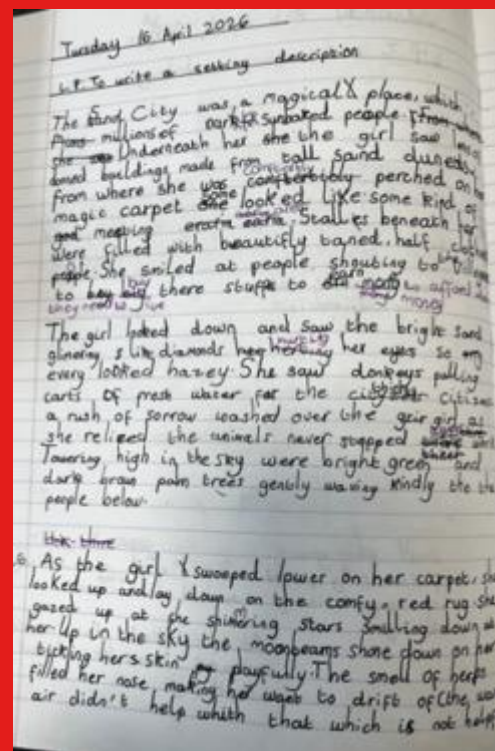
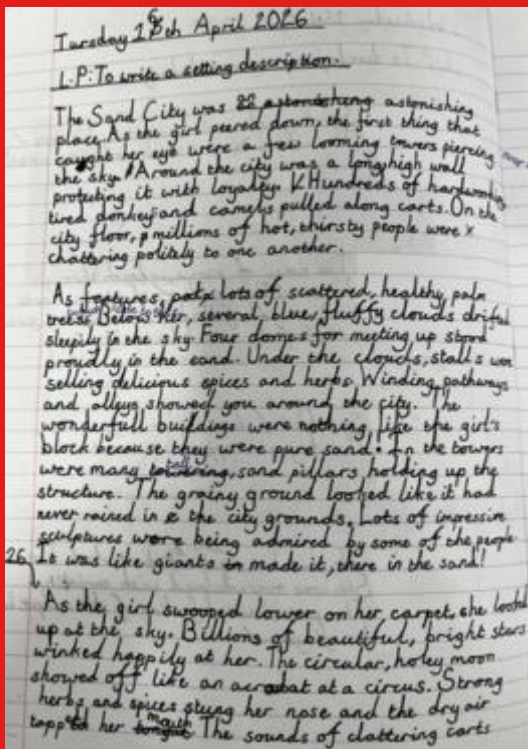
A reminder to parents/carers of children in Year 3 that it is the turn of Class 7 and 8 to share their learning in the hall with you on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**. Please try and attend if you can.

Jonathan Newman

## News from the classrooms

Reception and Year 6 buddies have been collaborating today and working together this afternoon to find, draw and then count the legs of different minibeast that they could find around the school grounds; All the children, both young and old really enjoyed having the opportunity to work together!

Key Stage 1 have started their new Geography unit of work all about South America. They have looked carefully at different atlases, identified the 12 different countries that make it up and were able to name them and find them on a map. When I came round with visitors earlier this week the children were able to answer a range of questions like, which country is the biggest in South America and which has the longest coastline. They have also been listening to and creating their own Samba music during music lessons.



Lower Key Stage 2 have written some fantastic setting descriptions based on the book Journeys that they are studying using a wide range of vocabulary, expanded noun phrases and a range of long and short sentences. They have also enjoyed researching different famous artists who used natural materials in their work. I'm looking forward to finding out where they go next with this!

Year 3 have also been practising for their sharing assembly with parents this coming Monday. This will start promptly at 2:45 so Year 3 parents please try and attend if you possibly can.

## Developing our school grounds

Over the next few years is to further improve our school grounds. Mr Dando and Mrs Robinson along with a small group of parents and volunteers have planted a number of trees which will eventually develop we hope into a small wooded area. All the trees have been given additional water support through tubes and we are also creating a story circle as part of the project. Although currently it is still in its infancy, just like the symbol of the school we hope that from 'small acorns mighty oaks will grow'. Any help or support you can offer in terms of resources, money or time please speak to the school office or Mr Dando and Mrs Robinson themselves



## Housepoint Point Total

Well done to Fire taking an early lead in the House Cup this half term!

	 EARTH	 WATER	 FIRE	 AIR
Totals for this week	45	49	54	46
Total for the term	45	49	54	244

## Exciting news

We have a number of exciting baby arrivals to look forward to before the start of the new school year. Mrs Jackson is pregnant for the first time and expecting **twins** in August. We know that her current Year 6 class are very, very excited about this and already giving her lots of suggestions as to the best names for the two girls she is having!

Mrs Kell who works in a number of classes across the school is pregnant and expecting her third child, a boy, also in August.

Finally Miss Anelay's partner is also pregnant and expecting their baby boy in August! We are so pleased for all three staff members and their families and can't wait to meet their new arrivals when they come!



## Year 6 Netball

Miss Peake took a group of year 6 children to the district netball finals earlier this week. They had been invited as one of the best 16 B teams in South Cambridgeshire.

The children did brilliantly. In their group they beat Coton 1-0 and Trumpington 3-1 before drawing 0-0 with Milton qualifying for the final four as winners of their group!

In the finals group they beat Pendragon 2-0 before an exciting 1-1 draw in the local derby against the Brook! They then lost their final game 3-2 to eventual winners Swavesey (our only defeat).

Miss Peake picked out Irteza for his brilliant defensive work, Daniel for great shooting, Tiarna for her speed, quick thinking and passing into spaces and Ataiah for her inspirational team talks but she said all the children were amazing.

We finished a very close third out of the 16 participating teams. Well done everyone and thank you to Miss Peake!

## Parking

We have had a complaint from a resident in Garden Walk. Please can we ask you park with respect and not block resident's driveways. You will fully appreciate that office staff and I do not want to field phone calls from disgruntled neighbours unhappy about the way parent have parked when we have no control over the matter.



# Key Dates (new dates in black)

<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>am</b>	Year 3 Library Visit (please note change of date)
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>after school</b>	<b>PTFA Movie Night</b>
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>2.45pm</b>	Year 3 Showcase Assembly and Open Classroom
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>		Class Photos
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May–Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>9.15–11.00</b>	Year 6 SATS Week
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>9.15–11.00</b>	Reception/Key Stage One Sports Day
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>1.30–3.15</b>	Key Stage Two Sports Day
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>All day</b>	Reception Trip to Wicken Fen

<b>Monday 1st June–Wednesday 3rd June</b>		Year 6 Residential
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June–Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>		Year 4 Multiplication Check
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June–Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June</b>		Year 1 Phonics Screening Week
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>2.45pm</b>	Year 2 Showcase Assembly and Open Classroom
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>After school</b>	Year 1 Open Classroom
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June/ Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<b>All Day</b>	Year 6 IVC Transition Days
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>7.50am–4.30pm</b>	<b>Year One Trip to Norwich Castle</b>
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>7.50am–4.30pm</b>	<b>Year Two Trip to Norwich Castle</b>
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June</b>		<b>HI Friends Choir Concert</b>
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>After School</b>	Summer Fair
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>All Day and Evening</b>	<b>Year 5/6 Choir at Meridian Arts Showcase</b>

# SCHOOL MOVIE NIGHT!

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April

Reception:

**ZOG &  
The Scarecrow's  
Wedding**



Key Stage One:

**DOG MAN**



Key Stage Two:

**ZOOTROPOLIS 2**



**Tickets £5**

including drink,  
crisps and ice pop!





### Movie Night

Deadline for Movie Night Ticket booking is Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Tickets include crisps, ice pop and drink.

<https://tinyurl.com/38ppr4v6>

 **Meridian Trust News**

Visit our Trust Website to read about what has been happening at Meridian!

[Read more here](#)

 **Work with us**

[Find out more](#)

Connect with us at Histon & Impington Park Primary School



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 10 to 12, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

### MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE

Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, inappropriate content sometimes slips through the net. For example, in 2025, the security company Kaspersky found that multiple iOS and Android apps contained screen-reading software, primed to look for passwords and stealing crypto-wallet recovery phrases captured in screenshots.

### UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS

Both official app stores contain copycat apps – often games – designed to look like popular rivals, mimicking their branding, layout and logos. While these will usually just offer a poor experience packed with ads as a quick money-making exercise, they're also more likely to be vessels for malware than the products they're counterfeiting.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

As the App Store and Play Store are for all ages, there's a lot of content available that's inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. In general, these are sensibly age-rated, but social media sites such as YouTube and TikTok, which both have an App Store age rating of 12+, can be gateways to adult material.

### PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES

App-making is a business, and most creators have found that "freemium" software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or rely on them making in-app purchases. Some "free" apps can be predatory, and there are plenty of examples reported where parents have racked up huge bills on behalf of their children's app activity.

### ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN

Phone addiction is fast becoming recognised as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Freemium apps have a real incentive to keep children checking in every day in order to generate more ad views or secure extra in-app purchases. This can interfere with schoolwork and other offline hobbies.

### SIDeloADED BANNED APPS

"Sideloading" – the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores – bypasses Google's and Apple's security procedures; however, it is possible for tech-savvy users. This opens up huge risks – not just apps that would be forbidden by Apple and Google, but pirate ones packed with malware too.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS

Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over children's phone activity. "Screen Time" (iPhone) and "Family Link" (Android) have a range of features, such as letting you set age-related restrictions on the app stores, require permission to download an app, set daily time limits on specific apps, and control real-world spending.

### DO YOUR RESEARCH

If children ask permission to download an app, do your due diligence and research it. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discussions to establish its legitimacy, safety and appropriateness – if it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for safer alternatives instead.

### LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS

App store reviews are helpful, but they are easily gamed, and some unscrupulous developers will pay for quick reviews to give their work perceived legitimacy. Take more than a cursory glance at ratings by digging out the one- and two-star reviews and looking closely at the developer – for example, if they've published a lot of unrelated apps, that's a red flag.

### TALK TO YOUR CHILD

Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider talk about internet literacy, ensure they don't download apps outside of the official channels, nor grant apps permission to access their camera, microphone, or photos without a good reason. Make sure they understand that in-game currency costs real-world money.

### Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

## 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, homework, 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 investigators 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*, *Technicator*, *The Telegraph*, *The Evening Standard*, *The Guardian* and *The New Statesman*.



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