



Newsletter

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Message from Mr McCoy

What a great half term it has been! As I said in my message last week, thank you for welcoming me into Bleak Hill. I have thoroughly enjoyed being here and leading such a great school. It has been thoroughly enjoyable to get to know all of the children and see them immerse themselves in their learning.

It has been an incredibly busy half term and there have been lots of highlights. Year 5 performed their class assembly for the whole school and their families. We love recognising sporting achievements at Bleak Hill, we have attended 12 sports competitions this half term and we celebrate external sporting achievements during our Celebration Assembly on a Friday. Year 5 and 6 children have all had the opportunity to take part in Bikeability, well done to the children that took part. 6D have enjoyed swimming every week this half term and have been excellent ambassadors for Bleak Hill. 6W look forward to swimming every week next half term. This week, children from across school enjoyed a Movie Night with their classmates, thank you so much to our teachers, learning assistants and Friends of Bleak Hill for organising a successful event.

We raised an amazing £2249 at our Book Fair which helped us to purchase lots more books for school. Please read our Autumn A Reading Newsletter, it has lots of exciting information on it including a competition for all of the children to take part in! Next half term is another busy one, have a restful week off and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 6th November.

Merit Award - Children who show compassion

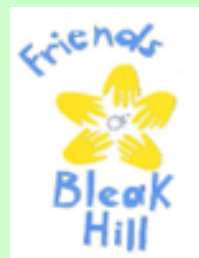
	R.O.T.W	W.O.T.W	M.O.T.W	Bronze	Silver	Gold
RHE	Sophie D	Alfred M	Eden L	Maggie C	Tobias C	Jessica S
RHU	Oliver McD	Elsie S	Eliot D	Imogen C	Edward C	Myles B
RR	Oliver H	Autumn P	Edward C	Hollie G	Harvey B	Daisy H
1A	Finn T	Isla N	Saffron B	Ethan H	Charlotte A	Felicity B
1CS	Vinnie F	Haydn R	Ilaria O'N	Isla M	Caleb W	Sadie C
1M	Ben B	Leo B	Etta H	Rosie G	Daniel F	Hadassah B
2G	Florence S	George W	Sid S	Freddie D	Amelia G	Sadie M
2J	Martha B	Oliver H	Ella A	Sebastian B-K	Ethan D	Annie M
2W	Bobby G	Finley W	Lucian H-B	Isla-Rose R	Charlie P	Hattie H
3D	Emily A	Elliot K	Harriet N-C	Luca D	Lucy D	Isabelle P
3H	Tom K	Daina R	Isla S	Jacob S	Kaleem T	Molly McW
3M	Harry W	Milo G	Jude M	Tiffany H	Jonjo O'B	Arthur H
4C	Michael O	Rhea J	Oscar D	Andriana C	Oliver W	Olivia G
4MC	Charlotte L	Millie M	Hannah K	Charlie B	Sophia M-L	Sky W
4MO	Lucas W	David U	Hallie S	Mason McC	James D	Gracie L-G
5B	Thomas O'B	Jaxen H-B	Emma B	Jonah H	Maisey T	Billy K
5W	Henry C	Imogen J	Isabelle K	Elliott C	Dylan R	Bea D
6D	Finn F	Evie Y	Logan W	Evie C	Zak N	Alex S
6W	Frankie W	Joseph A	Joey L	Isabelle C	Reuben L	Lillia F

What's on w/c 06.11.23			
06.11.2023	Before School	During School	After School
Monday		Y2 & Y6 PE	Judo Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - (external provider) 1 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.10pm
Tuesday	Football Y3 & 4 - Ian McMinn (external provider) 1 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y4 & Y5 PE	Young Voices Y5 & 6 - Mrs Burrows 1 of 4 for T1B Exit via main reception at 4.30pm PARENTS EVENING
Wednesday	Dance Y1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 Karen Elliott (external provider) 1 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1, Y3 & Y6 PE	Multisports Y1 & 2 - Future Gym (external provider) 1 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.15pm PARENTS EVENING
Thursday	Football Y5 & 6 - Ian McMinn (external provider) 1 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	Y1, Y2 & Y5 PE <i>FOBH Clothing Collection</i>	Gymnastics Y3, 4, 5 & 6 - Future Gym (external provider) 1 of 4 Exit via main reception at 4.20pm
Friday	Gymnastics YR, 1 & 2 - Future Gym (external provider) 1 of 4 Enter via Junior Library corridor (KS2 playground)	YR, Y3 & Y4 PE <i>Remembrance Day Service</i> <i>FOBH 300 Club Draw</i> <i>Y4 Girls' Football Competition</i> <i>6W Swimming</i>	

Friends of Bleak Hill

Thank you so much to the Friends of Bleak Hill for purchasing the Reading Vending Machine for school—see the Reading Newsletter for further details.

The Movie Nights were a huge success—we will advise how much was raised in the next newsletter.



300 Club

The 300 Club is your chance to win ££. For just £10 per year, you have multiple chances to win all year round!

Monthly Draw £40
Christmas Draw £100 & £50
Summer Draw £100 & £50

The draw takes place the first Friday of the month and the winner will be published in our newsletter. **The 1st draw is Friday 10th November.** To enter, please go to SchoolMoney and purchase your tickets in the 'Shop' section. Entries are not limited, so you can purchase on behalf of your family and friends!

The 300 Club is a valuable source of income for the school and by entering, you are helping raise much needed funds to help the school purchase vital equipment which otherwise might not be available.

All Day. Every Day.



Attendance Matters



Attendance	
Whole School	96.8%
Reception	96.4%
Year 1	97.0%
Year 2	97.3%
Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	95.1%
Year 5	98.9%
Year 6	96.1%



Attendance Update

We need to try really hard each and every week to make sure every year group is beating our **96% target** this will help us to succeed!

Our attendance for 16—20 Oct was:

96.8%

Our attendance for the year so far is: 97.2%

A document has been provided to school by the DFE as guidance for parents on attendance—this has been sent to all parents this week.

If you need any support please contact school after the holidays or see the link below.

[Resources for families | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resources-for-families/)

Toy Collection for Bristol Children's Hospital in Memory of Harry Cardwell

During the week of 13th-17th November we are welcoming donations of new toys, craft items and books. These are being given to Bristol Children's hospital by the family of Harry Cardwell as a thank you for the care and support they provided for Harry and the family. Please see the article below in the St Helens Star for further details.

<https://www.sthelensstar.co.uk/news/23837225.heartbroken-family-boy-10-died-want-help-thank-hospital/>

Sponsored 5K Run

Hi, its Phoebe Cunningham since I have been elected for school councillor for 4C. As promised me and Leon Tracey are going to run 5k for schoolbooks and equipment.

Venue – Victoria Park, St Helens

Time – 9:00

Date – 11th November



If anyone would like to sponsor us, please scan the QR code that will take you to our Just Giving Page.

The Family Hub service directory. This has been created to provide a "a one stop shop" for both families and professional's, in regard to what services are available for families living in St Helens.

The microsite is now live and can also be accessed through any smart phone -

<https://sthelensfamilyhub.sthelens.gov.uk/>

Family |

[Family Hubs - Family Hubs](#)

/
sthelensfamilyhub.sthelens.gov.uk



We have a limited supply of poppies, wrist bands, reflective zip pullers and lace tags that will be available for a donation to the Poppy Appeal 2023. These will be available from Monday 6th November. Children can bring a cash donation into school if they wish to purchase any of these items. Please note once any of the items have gone we are unable to source any more.

School Meals—Price Increase

We have been advised by the Local Authority that from Monday 6th November the price of school meals will increase by 10p per day from £2.50 per day to £2.60. The total cost for a full week will be £13. This increase will be reflected on School Money for all meals taken on our return from Half Term.

Children in Need - Friday 17th November 2023

We will be supporting the BBC's Children in Need charity fundraiser this year, which will take place on Friday 17th November.

The appeal seeks to help change the lives of disadvantaged children and young people living throughout the UK. Every penny raised will make a massive difference to the cause.

We ask that children come to school in their pyjamas or spotty clothes. There is no need to purchase any special costumes/outfits for this event.

Donations can be made via SchoolMoney and the amount can be overtyped to allow you to donate what you feel is appropriate.

Thank you for your continued support.

Children are using smart devices from a much younger age than ever before. It's why it's essential we talk to our children about how to use them safely. There are so many positive benefits to the new technology at our disposal these days - however there are plenty of downsides too. As a parent, it's important you understand these risks and how you can take steps to protect your family against them.

1 PUT YOURSELF IN CONTROL

Make use of the parental control settings available to you. With most devices, you're able to change the settings to control the content your child has access to. This isn't difficult to do, as you'll often find guidance in the instructions that come with the device. By setting a private pin code on certain devices, you can make sure your child can only access it when you allow it.



2



PROTECTING ANDROID DEVICES

You can set up restricted users on Android tablets through a Google account. Open the settings menu (look for a cog icon) and select the 'Users' option. Here you can add a new restricted user. After setting up a password and username, select which applications you want to restrict access to. On an Android smartphone it's similar, but first select 'Parental Controls' in the play store.

3 PROTECTING APPLE DEVICES

For Apple devices, you can simply visit the preferences/settings menu and within 'General' there is an option for 'Restrictions'. Here you can turn off any applications or features on your child's device that you do not want them to have access to.



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4

THINK ABOUT ALL YOUR SMART DEVICES

As well as tablets and smartphones, you should think about any device in your home connected to the Internet: a games console, a media hub, or a personal computer. In each case you can usually find parental controls in the settings. Think carefully about how much access you want to allow your child, especially when it comes to accessing the Internet.



5



MAKE SEARCHING MUCH SAFER

Most search engines, such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, have a 'safe search' setting. You should activate this. Otherwise, it's extremely easy for a seemingly harmless search on the Internet to return unexpected and inappropriate results. Depending on the browser you're using, go to the settings and search for 'safe search'. Make sure you save the change so it defaults each time you open the browser. This will seriously reduce the chances of your child being exposed to something they shouldn't be.

9 Top Tips To Get Smart About children's devices

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

6

REGULARLY CHECK SOCIAL MEDIA SETTINGS

Before you allow your child to use social media, you should discuss the dangers with them. You should also make sure you're able to access their profile and privacy settings and check them regularly. The companies behind social media platforms often make privacy changes without making it very obvious to the user, such as Facebook's introduction of facial recognition software.



7



DON'T LET PEOPLE SEE WHERE YOU ARE

Location software sounds useful for seeing where your child is, but it also provides the opportunity for others to locate your child too. For safety, it's a good idea to disable location software on all devices or at least turn it off when it's not required. Also, be mindful of specific apps that record running routes or locations where your child might be playing a game. Talk to your child about why these can be dangerous and how to turn the setting on and off as required.

8 WATCH OUT FOR FAKE PROFILES

Sadly, social media presents an enormous opportunity for the likes of paedophiles to set up fake profiles and interact with children. Keep a track of the people your child interacts with on social media and if you do not recognise a user as a friend, consider blocking them.



8

9 KEEP A CHECK ON SCREEN TIME

Managing how much time we spend on screens is a new challenge for us all. It's critically important when it comes to children, especially younger children who are still developing. It's not just a case of setting arbitrary time limits. Guidelines published by The Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health suggests it's more important to consider the 'context and content' of what the screen is being used for. Still, it is helpful to put limits on devices using 'Guided Access' functions, which you can find in the settings of certain devices.



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Meet our expert

Emma Davis was a secondary school Computer Science teacher for more than decade. Since leaving education, she has been working in a cyber security firm delivering cyber awareness training to businesses and carrying out network testing. She is a mother of a five-year-old, she's had vast experience of controlling and managing how children access online services and use apps.



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

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.

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 aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

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, and some private or VIP servers also have a cost.

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 genuine friends who they 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 others safely in the digital world.

Meet Our Expert
Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) 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 Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.

National Online Safety
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Sources: <https://www.theguardian.com/2020/07/21/2133343/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-games-for-tito>
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.10.2023

It has been brought to our attention that ROBLOX has had an alternative version added to it for Halloween and this is inappropriate age wise for our children as it contains explicit images and violent content. Please can all parents be aware that if their child is logging onto ROBLOX they can be taken to this alternative version automatically so you may need to be more vigilant or increase your supervision whilst your child is on this game.



Our next **Roberts Recycling** collection has been arranged for

Thursday 9th November at 9am

Put all your items in a black bag or 2 then leave outside near reception

We accept the following '**good quality**' items:

- Shirts, T-shirts, vest tops
- Trousers, shorts, jeans, joggers
- Jackets, hoodies
- Bags
- Belts & Ties
- Boots, shoes, trainers
- Hats
- Gloves
- Clean/new underwear
- Skirts, Dresses
- Jewellery
- Swimwear
- Lingerie

We don't accept:

Bath robes, socks, slippers
Pyjamas
Uniforms and workwear



Letter to parents and guardians from Merseyside Police re. Halloween and Bonfire Night

We are writing to all parents and guardians to ask for your help over the upcoming Halloween and Bonfire Night period.

We want everyone to have fun and we'll be working hard to keep you safe, but we need your help:

Know where your children are

- Encourage kids to go to local events that are being organised, or try a spooky film together
- If your children are going out (particularly on the 30th and 31st of October), make sure you know where they're going. If possible, drop them off and pick them up
- Don't let your children hang around the street
- If they're going somewhere local – walk there with them
- Have an agreed time when they need to be home
- Don't buy fireworks or eggs and flour for them, and don't let them take it out of the house

Know the risks

- Throwing things at cars, buses, shops and houses can hurt people – drivers might swerve if they get distracted and cause a crash, or someone might get hurt by broken glass (and scratched paintwork can be very expensive to fix)
- Getting into trouble with the police can lead to a criminal record, which means not being able to go on holiday to countries like the USA, and not being able to do certain jobs
- Messing around with fireworks is dangerous – some burn as hot as 1,200 degrees - hot enough to melt glass and cause serious or fatal injuries

Know the law

If a young person under the age of 16 commits any of the offences below, the parent/guardian will have to pay the fine.

- A person under the age of 16 can be arrested and fined if found with an unlit firework
- A person under the age of 16 can also be arrested and fined if they throw or light a firework or make a bonfire
- A person under the age of 16 can be arrested and fined for throwing things like eggs, flour, paint or other objects at people, vehicles or property

Thank you for your help and support. By working together, we can keep your children safe this Halloween and Bonfire Night.

Merseyside Police



Bleak Hill Eco Uniforms is back open for donations!! We are asking for only **items with the school logo on please**, and as always they must be good condition, washed and ironed. We do not accept shoes and bags. Please place all donations in the uniform bin in the main school reception.

We still have logo and non-logo items in stock so if there is anything you need please contact us via the Facebook page (or find us at school).

For any one who doesn't know we offer good quality, pre-loved uniform (often brand new) for low prices. All money is given back to school via Friends of Bleak Hill. So, by donating and buying from us you are being environmentally friendly and helping school at the same time.



Search for 'Bleak Hill Eco Uniforms' and request to join. Send a private message to Esther Hindley to check stock.

Light Night @ St Andrews

5.30-7pm Tuesday 31st October



**Step out of the cold and dark of
this October night to enjoy
Games, Lego, Crafts, Hot Dogs,
Cake and Hot Chocolate!**

**Find out about all our events coming
up over Advent and Christmas...**