

OCTOBER 2023

The Stanway Standard

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE STANWAY SCHOOL

Half Term Reflection

With the first half term completed, it is good to look back and reflect.

It has been a strange half term for me. My eldest started University and is now living 2-and-a-half hours away! The dynamics at home have changed, and we're now having to get used to life at home with one of our children not there.

It doesn't seem that long ago that we dropped him off at school for the first time, and certainly no time at all since we saw him collect his GCSE results. All of a sudden, he's now having to cook for himself and (hopefully) do his washing! It has made me realise all the small steps over these last few years that he's taken to get to this point.

That's what we aim for at Stanway. Yes, we aim to provide education for our young people to move to their next steps successfully, but there is more to it than just that. We also aim for them to enjoy their time and to learn those other skills they will need in their future lives. We want them to become independent and to develop a greater level of responsibility as they progress through their 5 years here, enabling them to be ready and equipped for life beyond Stanway.

The Year 11 students have, on the whole, started this year with a tangible focus on their work. As they move into the next half term, mock exams will begin to dominate the timetable as they learn how to prepare for exam conditions and mock results that indicate what might happen in the summer. They have started well and I want to thank them for the way they've approached this first part of the year.

We'll continue to work on our RESPECT agenda, ensuring that all students talk to staff and each other in an appropriate, polite and respectful way. As part of that, students across all year groups are being awarded Stanway Standard points that link to our 5 principles: Responsible, Respectful, Proud, Determined and Considerate. It's these 5 principles that we want to see developing in our young people and, while there are some that need additional input into these areas, the vast majority of the Stanway School community demonstrate these qualities every day. This was particularly noticed in the recent Open Evening that was held for the Year 6 students choosing their school for next year. It was a very positive and popular event again.

I hope you all have a restful and safe break over this next week, and I look forward to starting again with the above focus for the next half term.

Mr Bland

In This Issue:

- Black History Month
- Author Visit
- Plus more...

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Geography Field Trips to Tollgate

In September, 160 Year 11 Geography students completed their human Geography field trip. This is the second field trip that they have undertaken in Geography. They will be using the information gathered from this field trip in their Paper 3 Geographical Applications Exam.

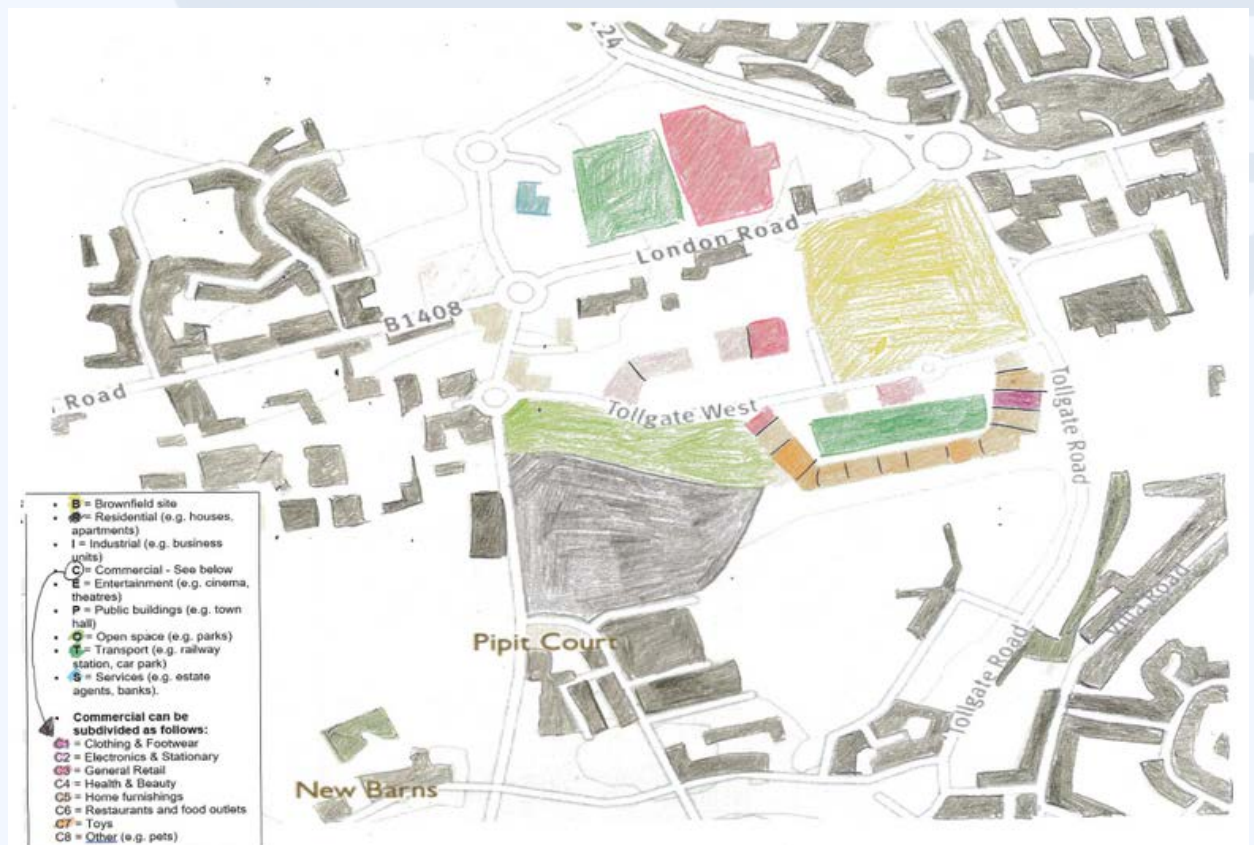
We visited the Tollgate Retail Park to look at urban growth in the area. We completed a land use map to survey the land in the area to see what it is used for now. This was followed up by the students comparing their findings to historic maps of the area back in the classroom to see how the area has changed.

We also completed a questionnaire to find out what the local people thought about the growth of the area and whether they wanted the area to continue growing. This was followed up in the classroom by creating a range of graphs and charts to present this data. These graphs and charts can then be analysed to find out key information about people's perceptions of the Tollgate area.

The final activity was a number of Environmental Quality Surveys. This allowed us to make comparisons between different parts of the site to see the environmental quality in these areas. This is a subjective measure and individual to each student's point of view. This allows us to consider the pros and cons of using different methods of data collection to be able to see which are the most effective in collecting data.

Thanks to the Geography staff, Mr Bland and Mr Buckman for accompanying us on the trip and making it so successful.

Mrs Wright



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Charlie Collison Visit

This week some of our pupils have had the chance to work with professional bricklayer, Charlie Collison. Charlie has quickly become a role model for young people wanting to enter the profession after recently receiving the Golden Trowel award and the title of the Fastest Bricklayer 2023.

Charlie's YouTube channel and Instagram feed provides tips and insight into bricklaying and a career in construction. Charlie grew up in Colchester and has gone on to be one of the most well known trade professionals in the UK. His wife, Amy has documented her career progression and is becoming an inspiration to the growing population of female construction workers. We were delighted that both came into school to support the young people with their forthcoming bricklaying examination task.

Pupils of a GCSE equivalent in Construction and the Built Environment have been tasked with constructing a brick wall of 6 brick long by 6 bricks high. They have to finish off with weather struck pointing. Charlie explained that 'weather struck pointing is from the 1900s when walls did not have a cavity and the unique pointing is designed to shed water away from the wall. It's one of the hardest forms of pointing.'

The morning began with a demonstration and lesson that introduced the class to bricklaying. They soon started to learn key words, the key maths required and watched intently to learn the tricks of the trade. The class were really attentive and were hanging off Charlie's words. Alfie was first to try and lay a bed of mortar. He was confident in his attempt but admitted, 'It is a lot harder than it looks!'

One challenge was to build a pyramid. There were lots of attempts and Charlie made sure that quality was important and if the measurements were not to specification, they had to put it right. At the end of the challenge Declan won. He built the most accurate and fastest pyramid. His prize was a bricklayer's trowel, which he asked Charlie to autograph for him.

It was great to see the students problem solving as well as watching their skills develop across the day. In the afternoon we had over 40 pupils talk to Charlie and ask questions about skilled trade careers and apprenticeships. We are so grateful to Charlie and Amy for their time. The students at Stanway have been inspired and there have already been requests to work with Charlie when they come back on the next visit. Charlie's passion was infectious. He was able to express his love for his profession as well as remaining realistic and honest about how young people have to work hard and be committed to whatever career pathway they go down. He said 'it is important you are prepared to work hard and learn. Life is not easy and you will not achieve your dreams without working hard for it.'



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A Knife Crime Assembly

"In assembly, we watched a play involving the topic of knife crime. It showed how easily somebody can be the victim or perpetrator of a situation involving a knife. It also displayed the ripple effect of the aftermath of the crime, showing that not only the victim and perpetrator was affected but also families, friends, witnesses and even police officers that had to deliver the tragic news. It portrayed a strong message to the students reminding them that if they are in a dangerous situation, the best thing to do is to tell somebody and to not keep potentially harmful thoughts to yourself.

The plot of the play displayed both sides of the story. It showed the victim falling into the wrong crowd and slowly becoming withdrawn from his loved ones and being peer pressured into bringing a knife to school. It also showed the offender becoming isolated too and also bringing a knife to school. They presented how the situation with the knives escalated very quickly and morphed into a devastating scene.

At the end of the play, they spoke about how peer pressure caused the offender to use his knife and falling victim to peer pressure can lead to very dangerous situations. They also told us that seven out of ten people who got injured by knives actually got injured by the one that they carry for self-defense. This led onto the point that carrying a knife around isn't the best self-defense and you can defend yourself without harming others. They also stated that even just filming the fight for social media can lead to jail time of up to four years.

We thought the message was important because many young people also experience such events. It's important to bring awareness to these things so if they happen to somebody, they'll know what to do and how to de-escalate the situation. Watching the events unfold in front of you can show the reality of knife crimes and remind young people to take news stories involving knives or weapons more seriously.

A news story has recently been released displaying a statue that has been built out of knives that have been used in crimes. There's also over 25 inscriptions on the statue from family members or loved ones who have lost somebody to knife crime. It's on display outside of the Jumbo Water Tower in Colchester Town until October 31st."



Written By: Molly, Evie & Sofia, Year 8

The performance was commissioned by the Essex Violence and Vulnerability Unit (VUVU) and by the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex.

Performed by: Little Two Theatre Company



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Road Safety Performances

This month our Year 7, 9 & 11 students were able to watch road safety performances as part of an initiative from The Safer Essex Roads Partnership.

The performances were designed to raise awareness of the dangers faced by road users and the sometimes hard-hitting messages highlighted various aspects surrounding road incidents from the perspective of drivers, passengers, pedestrians and their family and friends. It demonstrated the consequences of characters actions and in-action, and the challenges of peer pressure in these circumstances. They also looked at the trauma and suffering that can result from road accidents.

After the performances students took part in interactive workshops and question and answer sessions. The combination of the engaging theatre and interactivity created such a powerful learning experience and has helped empower our young people to make sensitive decisions around their own and others road safety.

Thanks to the members of The Riot Act, PIE - Performance in Education and Collingwood Learning for coming into the school and providing such thought provoking performances.



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Black History Month

This month sees Black History being given an emphasis in society. The month was originally set up to focus attention on the contributions of African Americans to US society, but has developed to become a universal celebration of the impact that Black people have had across history. This October the theme is 'Saluting our Sisters'.

The theme of our assemblies has been focused around females. Black women have been at the heart of social justice movements throughout history, courageously battling oppression and advocating for change. However, their accomplishments have frequently been neglected or forgotten. Black History Month 2023 offers a significant opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of black women by focusing on honouring the matriarchs of movements. Students realised that they knew very little about influential black females when compared to white females. One focus was on that fact that they would have all heard of Florence Nightingale and acknowledged her care for soldiers in the Crimean war, but were unlikely to have heard about Mary Seacole.

Students were asked to consider the brilliant mathematicians in the movie 'Hidden Figures'. Until this film was made it was an unknown story about three brilliant mathematicians who worked at NASA. They considered the lack of equality that the women received - they were not even permitted to use the same canteen or use toilets in the same building that they worked in. Considering that they were responsible for helping America win the space race and launch into space it is poignant that we know the name Neil Armstrong – the first man on the moon but we will not know the names of these three brilliant women, Dorothy Vaughan, Katherine Johnson, and Mary Jackson.

The thought that pupils were left with was echoed in the lyrics of a NHS Give Blood advert rap by Lady Leshurr. Her words sent out the message that no matter who you are, what gender you are and what your heritage is, you have a right to opportunities and as the young adults of the future they are the ones that can make the change.

In the spirit of this theme, Mr Player has also highlighted the often unheard name of Ruby Bridges. At 6 years of age Ruby Bridges was the first primary aged student to take up her right to be educated in a previously all-white school in 1959. She had to be escorted by four federal marshals to the school every day that year, under a daily barrage of isolation, abuse and threats, but her resolve never wavered. Her determination to be the change that society needed should forever be commended.



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European Day of Languages

On Tuesday 26 September, we celebrated the European Day of Languages where some of our star linguists were able to come down to the canteen and try a few European dishes including pasta carbonara, paella and cheese & onion quiche. The students learnt some interesting facts about the countries and foods whilst all learning and speaking foreign languages. Gracias, Danke, Grazie & Merci!



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Eco Club Update

A small group of Year 10 students are completing an application to achieve Eco Schools status. For this application, we are focusing on three elements to increase our environmental status around the school. This is a great opportunity to not only improve our school's environment but to make a difference to our planet.

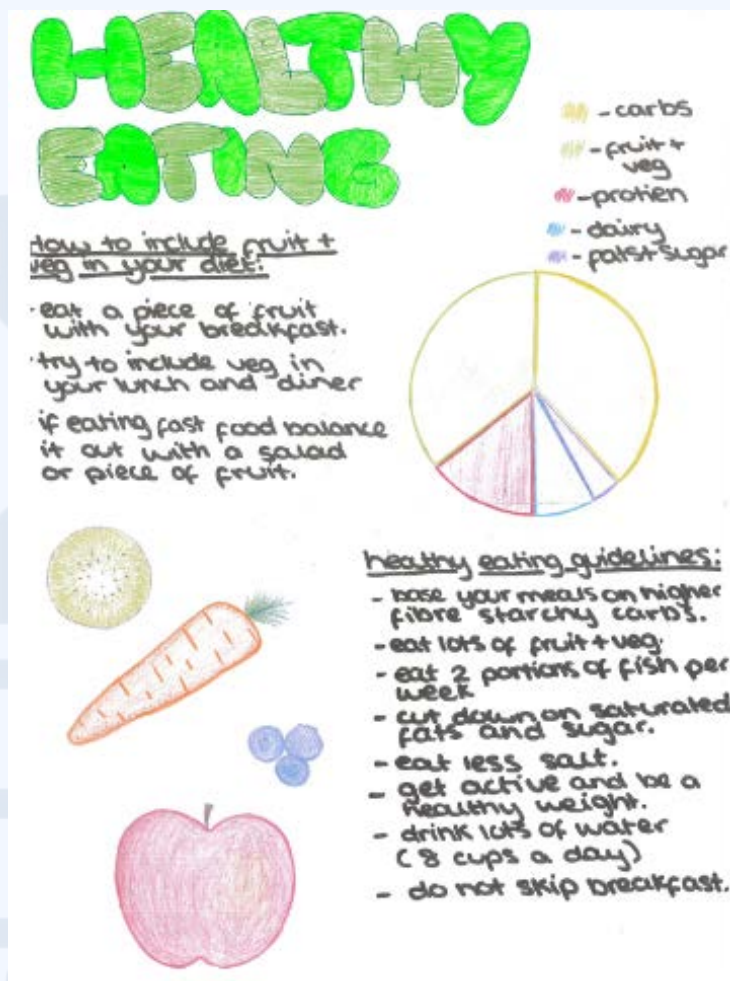
We started working on this programme last year to create a healthy environment for wildlife around the school. We are going to be completing fundraising this year to ensure that a sensory garden can be created on the school site - watch this space!

We are also focused on improving recycling and promoting healthy living around the school through various campaigns. Here are some of the posters that you will be starting to see around the school to promote these issues.

This year, we are also going to be working on conservation and how this can be promoted across the school.

If you would like to get involved, please come and see us in B209 on a Monday lunchtime (Year 7, 8 and 10) - we would love to have you involved.

Mrs Wright (Eco Committee Leader) and the Eco Club.



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£1,000 Raised for Hospitals

Last year our Year 7s voted to have the Colchester and Ipswich Hospitals Charity as their charity of the year. During the year we raised money by making and selling Reindeer Hot Chocolate Cones at Christmas and holding a non uniform day. This September we were pleased to be able to send the charity a cheque for £1,000 as a result. Well done to all those who participated in the fundraising and all of our wonderful parents and carers who contributed.



Uniform Donations

Do you have any school uniform or PE kit at home that is still in good condition but no longer fits your child? If so we would greatly appreciate any donations. We will ensure that the uniform is put to good use.

All donations can be dropped off at reception.

Thank you very much for your help and support

Miss Dunne



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Author Visit - Annelise Gray

On 11 October we were lucky enough to be visited by Classicist, Annelise Gray, author of the popular Ancient Roman historical adventure Circus Maximus series.

As well as being a wonderful opportunity for students to connect with the world of literature, the visit supported our Year 7's English topic of Greek Myths and History's upcoming How Did The Romans Change Britain topic.

Annelise presented to the full year group and hosted an engaging Q&A session at the end. Afterwards she went on to sign copies of her books for students and staff.

Annelise Gray was born in Bermuda and moved to the UK as a child. She grew up riding horses and dreaming of becoming a writer. After gaining a PhD in Classics from Cambridge, Annelise worked as a researcher for authors and TV companies before going on to write her books.

The Circus Maximus series tells the story of a young girl called Dido who dreams of becoming the first female charioteer to race in the Circus Maximus, the greatest sporting stadium in the ancient world. It's an epic tale full of action and danger and adventure and Annelise was inspired to write it by all the horse and pony stories she loved reading when she was a child and had just moved to England.

Author visits always prove to be inspiring and promote a love of reading and we enjoyed Annelise's visit to our school.



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NEMO Competition

This month our Year 10s travelled to St Helena School to compete in the annual North Essex Maths Olympiad (NEMOs). Three teams from Stanway stepped up to complete challenging maths problems and work together to accumulate points. After three rounds of tough competition, our Stanway team were top of the podium, claiming joint 1st position with Thurstable School. All the students should be proud of their efforts, they were a credit to The Stanway School.



Book Club

Mrs Staite's Year 7 & 8 book club meets every six weeks in the LRC. The group are currently reading *Wink* by Rob Harrell, a story about a boy who is diagnosed with a rare eye cancer and filled with humour, heart and about surviving one wink at a time.

The next meeting date is 2 November. If you are interested in joining in please speak to Mrs Staite.



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Information, Events and Activities



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Information, Events and Activities

NSPCC
EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR

BOOK FAIR

28 & 29 October
9am - 3pm

THE STANWAY SCHOOL
Winstree Rd, Colchester CO3 0QA
www.nspcc-bookfair.org.uk



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NSPCC Reg Charity Nos. 216401, SC037717, Jersey 384

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- Arts & Crafts, Sports, Nature, Science, Games, Cookery, Cultural Activities, Music & so much more!
- Open to all school children up to the age of 12
- Fully equipped indoor play space & large gardens
- Flexible drop off & collection from 8am to 6pm
- Discount 3-5 consecutive days & sibling reduction
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*Experience days, trips & workshops cost extra



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JUNIOR OPEN DAY

SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

AGES 6-11 = 12:00PM
AGES 12-16 = 1:30PM

FREE

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LOTS OF FUN GAMES AND
MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS!

GET THE BUG

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OR CONTACT:

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01376 570220 07379 659169 (WHATSAPP ONLY)

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Information, Events and Activities

Rugby for Everyone.....



**NEW TO
CHELMSFORD RUGBY CLUB
MIXED ABILITY RUGBY
(AGE 6-18 year olds)
STARTING 23RD SEPTEMBER
9.30-10.30AM**

for more information email
bluestars@chelmsfordrugby.club



FREE PACKED LUNCHES

AVAILABLE WEEKDAYS IN THE
HALF TERM HOLIDAY
23rd – 27th October

10.30AM – 12.30PM

STANWAY EVANGELICAL CHURCH,
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(NEXT TO SILVERWITCH GREEN PLAY AREA)

PLEASE HELP YOURSELF



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UNTIL FRI 28TH OCTOBER
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OCT 31ST
PRIMARY AGE 5:00PM - 6:30PM
SECONDARY/COLLEGE 7:00PM - 8:30PM

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Information, Events and Activities

Firstsite Holiday Fun

Oct Half-term 2023

Tuesday to Saturday from
Tue 24 Oct - Sat 28 Oct 2023

Colchester

FREE



Make
Free drop-in
creative art
activities
10am-2:30pm

Move

Free fun movement
activities
10:45am - 11:45am
12:00pm - 1:00pm



Canteen

Free freshly-made
hot meals for
all the family
11:45am & 1pm

Our Holiday Fun activities are for families facing economic challenges or who require additional support during the school holidays, including those that qualify for benefits-based free school meals.

- Advance booking is essential
- Activities most suitable for 4 - 11 years, but all ages welcome
- Caregivers are required to stay on site throughout the activities
- Menu and list of activities available at www.firstsite.uk

Activities take place at: Firstsite, Lewis Gardens, High st, Colchester, Essex, CO1 1JH

Delivered in partnership with:



This project has been funded by the North East Essex Health and Wellbeing Alliance and Wellbeing Alliance and the Neighbourhood programme. Funding is administered through One Colchester



How to book

Early bird tickets available from
9 am on Mon 9 Oct.

More tickets will be released **three days in advance** of each session.

Limited spaces available, offered on a first come, first served basis.

If you can no longer attend your booking, please let us know as soon as possible by calling 01206 713700.

If you cancel 24 hours before the event your space can be made available for another family.

Thank you!



Scan the QR code
to book our Holiday
Fun activities

Book online at
www.firstsite.uk
or call
01206 713700

To find out about
our Covid-19 safety
measures, please
email info@firstsite.uk
or call
01206 713 700

Firstsite, Lewis Gardens
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Arts Council
ENGLAND



Art Fund
Museum of
the Year 2021
Winner



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Information, Events and Activities



9 out of 10

unvaccinated children
can catch measles
if someone in their
class has it

**Check your child is up
to date with their
MMR vaccinations**



How can we help you?

Essex ActivAte is the name for the Holiday Activity and Food programme across Essex, run by Active Essex, Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, on behalf of the Department for Education.

Who is the programme for?

These clubs are suitable for children aged 4-16 years old who are eligible for benefits based free school meals and from low income working families who benefit from this extra support. Some clubs may offer paid spaces that run alongside Essex ActivAte.

What do the clubs offer?

Essex ActivAte clubs offer mainstream primary and secondary clubs across the county, also supported Mental Wellbeing Hubs and dedicated SEND Hubs. Each club delivers a variety of physical and enrichment activities, fun food education and a nutritious meal. Family support is also available alongside the programme.

How can I book my child onto a club?

To book onto a club, head over to our booking page on our website. From there, select the area you live in or the category you require and follow the steps.

What is considered 'low income'?

We understand that all families circumstances can be different, therefore if you are in employment or on an income which means you are unable to attend a holiday club without our support - you can book on.

Half-Term & Holidays explained...

Easter, Summer & Winter School Holidays

- The programme runs in the Easter, Summer and Winter holidays and is funded by The Department for Education. This is aimed solely at school children who would usually receive benefits based free school meals during term time.
- Limited spaces are available for low income working families and other vulnerable groups who would otherwise not be able to afford holiday clubs. You can book onto our programme self-certifying.
- eVoucher codes are sent by schools to all families eligible for benefits based free school meals. This code allows you to book onto your local clubs and verify you are eligible for our programme.

Spring & Autumn Half Term

- Essex County Council agreed that during the half term, funding could be allocated to run the programme for both those eligible for benefits based free school meals and 'low income' working families.
- Essex County Council fund the programme with additional funding from Basildon Borough Council to further support across Basildon.
- The half term programme is funded to provide spaces to those areas most in need.
- We will not require an eVoucher code to book onto our clubs during half terms.



Scan the QR code to find out more!

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At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

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.

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, 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

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.

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/11/21/2333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-joining-virtual-parties-fortnite>
<https://corproblox.com/parents/>

National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

www.nationalonlinesafety.com @natonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety

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Information, Events and Activities



Student Travel 2023-24

Do you or your child travel to University, College or School by bus? If so, we've got the perfect solution! Arriva Student and Child Saver tickets are valid for anyone in full time education and, is a cost effective and flexible way of paying for travel costs.

Unlimited travel - You'll get unlimited access to travel on any Arriva bus, at any time, across all routes in your chosen area.

No restrictions - The Saver tickets will cover your travel to and from University, School or College, evenings, weekends and throughout the holidays too at any time of the day.

Flexible payments - Arriva's Direct Debit scheme allows you to spread the cost of your ticket over affordable monthly payments. It's an easy way to pay for travel and there's no contract involved, making it an ideal way to get reduced bus travel for the whole Academic year, without paying upfront.

Sign up in advance - Either set your direct debit to start at a future date for when you need the ticket or, you can start your ticket now to get used to the local bus routes.

Plan your journey - Please use our 'Plan a journey' tool on our website to work out which bus you require or, download our app on the Apple Store or Google Play: www.arrivabus.co.uk

It's a simple process to apply, to arrange your Direct Debit and for further information please use the link or scan the QR code below and, select the region the school, college or university is in:

www.arrivabus.co.uk/monthlytickets



Once registered you can select either to receive your monthly pass by post or sent to your mobile phone, so you won't have to worry about paying every time you board the bus. This ticket will rollover every month for as long as the direct debit remains active.

For any queries regarding the scheme, please email: talktous@arriva.co.uk

***Our tickets do not cover Arriva London/TFL routes**



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