



DEER PARK

newsletter

FRIDAY 21ST APRIL 2023

ISSUE 13

HEADTEACHER'S HELLO!

The Summer Term is always an exciting time and for us it brings even greater changes as we start to prepare for more 'firsts' at Deer Park School. Most notably is that we will be starting to pull together items and information for our time capsule that we will be placing at the end of this term. Please keep an eye out for any requests for contributions as we would love you to be part of our history and legacy.

We will be celebrating the coronation on Friday 5th May so students will be in non school uniform to enjoy a range of activities that are planned alongside their lessons. Red, white and blue will be the theme and we're hoping for a bit of sunshine!

Enjoy the information in this newsletter and, as ever, if you need anything please do get in contact with us.
Mr Jones



MEET MRS NEWCOMBE

Hello, my name is Mrs Newcombe and I joined Deer Park as a Learning Mentor last September. I decided on a career change and am really enjoying it here! My son started school in September and I love having a job that means I can be there for him in the school holidays as well. A fun fact about me is that I have a Blue Peter badge. One of my favourite Quotes is ' Just keep swimming ' from the film Finding Nemo. In my spare time I like to sew and create things with my cricut machine. I got married just after the pandemic and as well as having a little boy I have a dog and two cats. I am a massive Taylor Swift fan too!

DEER PARK SCHOOL PTA



If you are interested in supporting Deer Park in establishing a PTA group there is still time to express an interest. Please complete the form [linked here](#) **by Friday 28 April 2023** we will then start to put together we will then start to put together the next stages of our partnership. Together, we can ensure that our students receive the highest quality opportunities and create lifelong memories for them along the way.

DEER PARK SCHOOL CAR PARK

Just a reminder that the school car park is not accessible for dropping off and picking up students before and after school. If students have access needs parents will have been issued a pass. Access is permitted during the school day for collection and drop of for students who have medical appointments or in emergencies and for meetings.

READING BUDDIES AT SNOWDROP PLACE CARE HOME



At the end of last half term, a group of students were selected to walk down to Snowdrop Care Home and read with some of the residents there. The students showed great maturity, respect and kindness during their visit and represented the school beautifully. We look forward to returning in the near future with more students!

SHAKESPEARE TRIP TO BARTON PEVRIL

Our budding actors in year 8 were treated to a preview of Barton Pevril's performance of 'A Comedy of Errors'! The students loved seeing their former Drama teacher, Mr Duncombe, in his new teaching setting and thought the Btec students were fantastic actors (as evidenced when they were fighting for their autographs at the end of the dress rehearsal!). It was a great afternoon and very inspiring for our students.

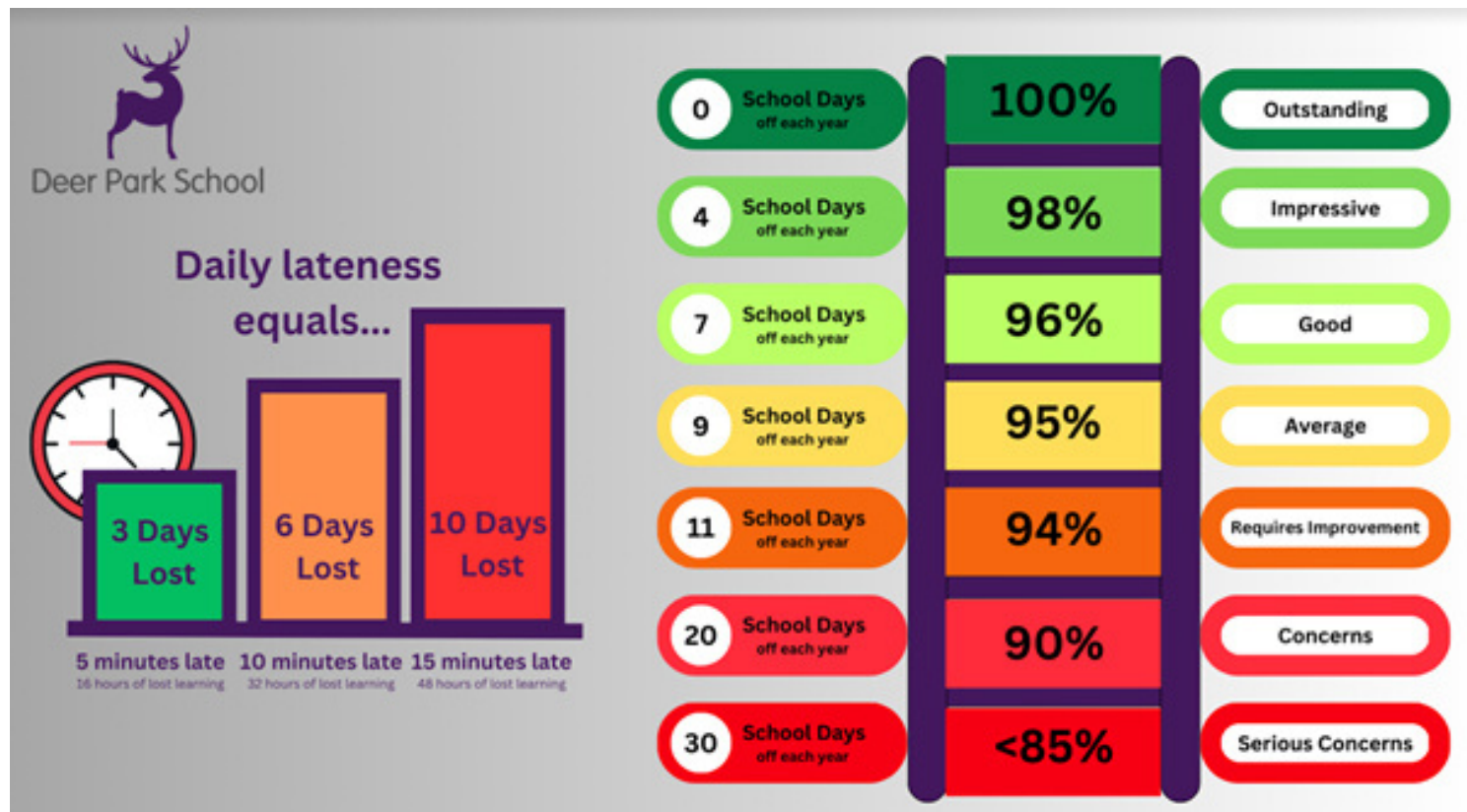
SKI TRIP TO AUSTRIA



Our Year 8 students and staff had a wonderful time in Austria over the Easter break. The students were a credit to themselves and the school. All students developed their individual skills and all beginners were up and taking on the slopes by the middle of the week. Due to the success of our first international trip we are excited to launch our second ski trip for next Easter in the coming weeks. This will be open to next year's Year 8's and 9's. If you would like to sign up your child please look out for the correspondence.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Thank you for your ongoing support in maintaining our highest possible standards regarding attendance. We appreciate there will be times whereby students have unavoidable absences and we as a school will always look to support and intervene in ensuring all students are in school as much as possible beyond the 96% minimum threshold. We encourage you as parents and students to continue to monitor your child's attendance on the INSIGHT app.



EDUCATION FOR LIFE

This half term students will return to the 'Relationships' strand of the Education for Life curriculum. In line with the RSE statutory guidance the students will have 3 lessons on the following subjects:

YEAR 7

Celebrating Differences
(Lesson to complete student feedback
PASS survey)
Consolidation

YEAR 8

Gender Identity & Sexual Orientation
Consent with a focus on sexting
Introduction to contraception

This week students also benefited from an additional assembly from a Education Officer who explored a range of topics across society.

As always, should you have any questions, concerns or feedback regarding the Education for Life curriculum please do not hesitate to contact the school.

SUMMER TERM EXTRA CURRICULAR PE

Our updated Summer term extra curricular activities can be found [HERE](#). We will now be looking for our new year 7s to support our successful athletics teams and cricket teams, with athletics training every Tuesday, and cricket training every Monday. A fun multi-rounders club takes place every Wednesday, and the new addition of a Golf club, during Friday Week A lunch break. Coaches from JEM tennis club will also be providing a session every Monday after school.



DEER PARK SCHOOL CRICKET KIT SPONSORSHIP



The cricket team would welcome any interests of sponsorship from companies who may be able to support the purchase of match shirts.

If you or anyone you know may be interested please contact the school on 01489 351100 or deerpark@deerparksecondary.org

ECO CLUB

Now that the summer term has arrived, Eco Club will be joining forces with Design Technology Club every Wednesday afterschool, rather than Friday lunchtimes, starting the week commencing the 24th of April. This will enable Eco Club to carry out practical projects such as building Deer Park's first vegetable patch, our very own biodiversity garden, planting fruit trees on site and rewilding areas of the site with wildflowers. Any new students wishing to join this term are more than welcome. Any donations of gardening equipment or seeds are also welcome, please contact Miss Emmett with any enquiries/donation offers.

UNIFORM AND EQUIPMENT

As we move into the summer term we understand this is a prime time for certain aspects of uniform to be replaced, especially shoes. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain our high expectations around uniform and remind all parents that any replacement uniform are in line with the school's policy. This particularly applies to wearing trainers instead of shoes.

PE Equipment - With the majority of lessons now outside students should be remembering to pack socks for PE. The grass at 9am can be damp, and to ensure student comfort and cleanliness throughout the day they should be changing socks before & after PE. If we are blessed with warm weather throughout the summer term we encourage students to apply sunscreen before attending school and to bring a plain navy/black sunhat in their PE bag. All earrings & jewellery should be removed before PE & Dance lessons or not worn to school on PE days to ensure the safety of pupils during activities. We appreciate the timely planning of piercings to prevent any harm from activities students take part in.

YEAR 7

In assembly this week, we discussed Stress. April is recognised as National Stress Awareness Month and the students were given information on the causes of stress, and more importantly what strategies they can put in place to manage this stress. They were reminded about the help on offer in school if they feel they are experiencing stress, and advised about healthy lifestyle choices they could make to reduce anxiety, such as regular exercise, spending time outside, and talking to their friends and family. Perhaps some of the exciting new sports clubs available in this summer term could be an excellent way to destress in the next few weeks! - Mr Gregory

YEAR 7 CORE EXAMS

Next week will be our year 7 core exams week. This is an opportunity for students to experience revision and examinations. During this time students will sit assessments in exam conditions in Maths, English and Science only. Other subjects throughout this half term will also carry out assessments ready for our next round of report data at May half term.

YEAR 8

The start of a new term brings with it new opportunities and chances to try something new; a message I relayed in my assembly this week. The extra curricular clubs on offer are always vast at Deer Park, but there are new sports clubs available for students, along with many other groups for students to get involved with. I have also challenged Year 8 to see this new term as a chance to pick up as many positive Eref points as possible, with the incentive of a free breakfast at the end of term a possibility for those with the highest points scores!

I have also mentioned to students that we will be looking to appoint anti-bullying ambassadors from Year 8 at Deer Park, with successful applicants travelling to Bracknell for a day's training as part of the Diana Award. Year 8s will have the opportunity to apply to be an anti-bullying ambassador by filling in a Google form application which will be shared with them later in the week. - Mr Smith

YEAR 8 CORE EXAMS

On the 8th May our Year 8 exams will begin and be spread over two weeks. This is an opportunity for students to experience revision and examinations. During this time students will sit assessments in all of their subjects and these will be shared at our next report data drop in June.



According to the Roblox website, 'Roblox is the world's largest interactive social platform for play.' For those of you who are unfamiliar with the game, it is a multi-player online gaming platform which allows children to play and create a variety of games in a 3D world. Roblox is free to play and available on all modern smartphones, tablets, desktops, Xbox One, Oculus Rift, and HTC Vive.

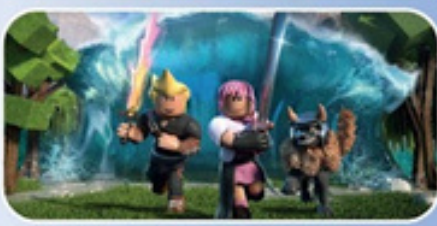


What parents need to know about ROBLOX



ROBLOX STUDIO

The Roblox Studio allows users to create their own games and 'worlds' for others to play on the platform. As the games are user generated, it gives users the freedom to potentially include things you do not want your child to be exposed to, for example, weapons, violence and even pornographic content. There are no age restrictions on the games created in the Roblox Studio and to remove games from the platform Roblox relies on people reporting negative/violent content.



CHATTING & FRIEND REQUESTS

Whilst the games in Roblox are aimed at 8 to 18-year-olds, there are currently no age restrictions for signing up. This means that both adults and young people can play and communicate with each other and send friend requests through the platform. Once a friend request is accepted, this means that they can communicate with each other outside of gameplay.



ROBUX ONLINE PAYMENTS

When a user creates a game, they earn something called 'Robux,' which works as a currency within the platform and enables the purchase of upgrades and memberships. If the created game is of good quality and attracts multiple players and in-game adverts, children have the ability to earn a lot of 'Robux.' Once a user has earned a certain amount of Robux, they can convert this to real cash and withdraw it to a PayPal account. To withdraw money, users need to be over 13, have a PayPal account and have paid for the Roblox premium subscription.



National Online Safety

Top Tips for Parents

ALERT!
Tell your children to be careful and to think twice before they click any random advert or popup. There a lot of phishing scams that advertise free roblox etc. with the intent of stealing your child's personal information.

UNLIST SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS

Make sure your child's social media accounts are not listed in the settings/account information. If they are, advise them to set them to private or remove them from their account. This will ensure that nobody will be able to find and contact them on their social media platforms outside of Roblox.

CHECK SHARED INFORMATION

In the account settings, check that your child is not giving away any personal information in their bio/profile. For example, their full name, phone number or snapchat name. If you see that they have, explain why this is potentially dangerous and remove immediately.

2-STEP VERIFICATION

Roblox has a great two-step verification security feature which we recommend you enable to add an extra layer of security to your child's account.

HAVE A CHAT ABOUT 'GRIEFING'

Griefing is when someone purposely upsets another player in a game. This can be done by setting traps, damaging or stealing something from another player, intentionally killing them and generally doing something in the game to spoil their gameplay. Essentially, 'Griefing' is a form of cyberbullying and can be extremely frustrating and upsetting for players.

RESTRICT PAYMENT METHODS

Roblox is a free to play game, but there are still options to make additional in-game purchases. If you do not want your child to make payments, ensure your card is not associated with their account. If you are happy for your child to make payments in the game, but want to restrict spending, we suggest using a games console gift card. These can be purchased in specific amounts, which will enable you to restrict how much your child spends and removes the need for a credit/debit card to be used with their account.

DISABLE IN-GAME CHAT

Roblox is great for children to play together and chat to each other. However, if you want to completely turn off in-game chat for your child (meaning they cannot contact anyone, including their friends) you can do so by following these steps: When logged in, go to the Account Settings page by clicking on the gear icon at the top right corner of the page, then click Settings. Next, click on the Privacy tab and under 'Who can chat with me in game?' select 'No one' and this will disable in-game chat.

IS YOUR CHILD UNDER 13?

Unfortunately, there are hundreds of YouTube videos showing children how to change their age settings on Roblox, so firstly, you should talk to your child to set up some rules/agreement. There are additional safety features for children under 13, for example having their posts and chats filtered for inappropriate content and behaviour, so it is worth checking that your child has set up their account with the correct age. You can find this in their account settings.

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UPCOMING DATES

Date	Activity	Year Group
Monday 24 April	Week B	All Years
Tuesday 25 April	Winchester Science Centre & Planetarium Trip	Year 7 (70 places)
Thursday 27 April	Annie – Mayflower Theatre Trip	Year 7 & 8 (50 Places)
Monday 1 May	Bank Holiday	All Years
Tuesday 2 May	Week A	All Years
Friday 5 May	Coronation Event	All Years



Our social media platforms are a great way to keep up to date with everything school related. You'll see the many wonderful things happening at Deer Park by going to our Instagram Page @deerpark_school.

For all of our up to date information, follow our Twitter @deerpark_school and our newly published Facebook page @deerparkschoolsoton.