

EBOR GARDENS
Primary Academy

Weekly News

FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026 - ISSUE 2



A Message from Mr Spink and Mrs Wathen

Good afternoon everyone.

It has been a productive week here at Ebor Gardens Primary Academy. The children are settling in well to their new classes and great relationships are forming.

Please remember that when you are dropping your child off to school on a morning, you should not park your car in front of the school gates. There needs to be access available at all times, not only for staff to get in and out of the car park, but also for the emergency services, should they be needed. If you are dropping children at Breakfast Club, this can be a particularly busy time for staff arriving at school and the Burmantofts Nursery. In some cases, staff have not been able to get into the car park due to cars being left in front of the gates. If you are choosing to drive to school, please find somewhere safe to park and walk your child into school. Thank you in advance for your support with this matter.

On Friday 25th September, we are holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Care. This is an annual event at Ebor Gardens. We will be welcoming parents in the Community Hub from 9:30am. The kettle will be on and there will be some tasty treats for anyone who wants to turn up and help us support this important charity.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mr Lee Spink (Head of School) & Mrs Natalie Wathen (Principal)



EBOR GARDENS PRIMARY ACADEMY



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Please be sure to park very safely and sensibly around school at Breakfast Club, morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. On some occasions, the main gate has been blocked by parents/carers cars. Parents/carers and visitors must not park in front of the main gate so that cars (including emergency service vehicles) can get in and out at all times.



PICKING-UP YOUR CHILD EARLY

IF YOU NEED TO PICK YOUR CHILD UP BEFORE THE END OF THE DAY (FOR AN APPOINTMENT ETC), PLEASE LET THE SCHOOL OFFICE KNOW IN THE MORNING SO THAT THEY ARE EXPECTING YOU - THANK YOU.



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Diary Dates 26/27

Meet the Teacher Dates:

EYFS (Reception) – Tuesday 15th September 2026 at 3:15pm

Monday 21st September 2026 – Ian's Farm in EYFS

Friday 25th September 2026 – Macmillan Coffee Morning 9:30am

Monday 28th September 2026 – 3RK/4NB Herd Farm Trip

Monday 5th October 2026 – 3JH/4RA Herd Farm Trip

Monday 5th October 2026 – Africa Reborn Assembly (Y5/6)

Friday 16th October 2026 – Wear Red Day

Wednesday 21st October 2026 – Autumn Discos

Thursday 22nd October 2026 – School closes for half term



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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about LOOT BOXES

Marketed as increasing a player's enjoyment of a game, loot boxes are usually purchased or given as rewards. When opened, they unlock items for use in the game, such as better weapons or new characters to play as. Loot boxes feature in many games and are therefore available to various age groups. They have often been criticised for emulating gambling: the odds of unlocking certain items can seem astronomical, while the money being spent is often high compared to the potential reward. It's imperative that trusted adults understand the risks that loot boxes can pose.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MOUNTING COSTS

Loot boxes can be bought with in-game currency or earned as rewards for completing tasks – but many of them are paid for with real money. Prices vary from game to game, and purchases can stack up quickly. It's easy for children to overspend on loot boxes, especially if they really want the item on offer – a recent study found that 31% of young gamers were unaware loot boxes actually had a cost at all.

POTENTIAL ADDICTION

The sense of anticipation, and the feeling of joy when unearthing a rare or badly wanted item, can make opening loot boxes very addictive. As the boxes give out semi-random items which vary in usefulness or rarity, players often end up striving for the less common items – as well as chasing the "buzz" of finding one. Loot boxes can be compared to scratch cards, delivering similar highs and lows.

NORMALISING GAMBLING

Because loot boxes cost money for the chance – but no guarantee – of scooping a big reward, it's easy to see the link to gambling. Players spend a set amount of money, with no idea of what they'll get in return once the loot box is open. It could be the best item in the game, or the worst. Many games are beginning to phase out loot boxes completely to avoid breaking local gambling laws.

ADVANCED SCAMS

Most games don't let players trade the items they get in loot boxes, but a few sites do allow exchanges with other players. This could lead to young gamers being tricked or harassed into trading items they paid for or won fairly. Rare items from some games can be quite valuable and are bought and sold on the "grey market", using external sites – leaving children vulnerable to being scammed.

Advice for Parents & Carers

CONSIDER THE ODDS

It's a smart move to check the odds on the items in the loot boxes, to see how hard it is to find a particular reward. Show your child and explain to them whether it's likely (or not) that they'll find the item they want inside the box. Of course, there's a sizeable element of chance – but if an item says it's likely to drop once out of every 10,000 boxes, it's wise to adjust your child's expectations.

RESTRICT SPENDING

Even if you're happy for your child to purchase loot boxes, it's safest to restrict how much they can spend. Options include adding a temporary payment method, or making sure they ask permission first. If a credit or debit card is linked to the gaming account, excited young players could soon run up an eye-watering bill. Ensure your child recognises how much each box costs and understands that they're using real money.

USE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Most video gaming consoles, as well as the individual games, allow parents and carers to place purchasing restrictions on the child's account. This is an effective way to avoid overspending or prevent children from buying any loot boxes in the first place. Not all games offer this feature, so it's best to investigate your options on each new game before your child starts playing it.

DISCUSS THE RISKS

Be open with your child about how much loot boxes (and individual item purchases) cost and how the system works, in terms of probability. If a child realises it's unlikely they'll get that rare reward, they may prefer to spend their money on a guaranteed item – like a skin in the online store – instead of gambling on a loot box. Outline how other people might try to exploit online trading systems to steal their valuable items.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web2. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



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Healthy Snacks at Ebor Gardens

Lots of children bring snacks for
break times.

These should be healthy snacks
consisting of fruit and vegetables.



Children should also have lots
of water throughout the day.
Please send a water bottle into
school with your child.



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