EBOR GARDENS Primary Academy

Weekly News

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER 2026 - ISSUE 11

A Message from Mr Spink and Mrs Wathen

Good afternoon everyone.

We write to you this week from Wellspring's annual leadership conference. This is a great opportunity for us, as leaders, to gether with other leaders from across our trust to look at ways in which we can continually improve the opportunities for our schools and, ultimately, the Ebor Gardens Community.

This week has been Anti-Bullying week in school. Anti-Bullying Week in schools centres on the powerful theme "Break the Silence," encouraging students, teachers, and staff to speak openly and challenge bullying whenever it happens. Kicking off with Odd Socks Day on Monday to celebrate individuality and what makes everyone unique, schools across the UK are hosting dedicated assemblies, interactive workshops, and classroom discussions focused on how silence allows bullying—both face-to-face and online—to grow. By empowering young people to raise their voices, support their peers, and choose kindness, Anti-Bullying Week 2026 aims to build safer, more inclusive school communities where every pupil feels heard and belongs.

Have a great weekend.

Mr Lee Spink & Mrs Natalie Wathen

Ebor Gardens
Primary Academy

Changing the angle, keeping the story the same.

Celebrating every moment. Protecting every child.

Adapting how we share, in response to evolving AI safeguarding concerns.



BACKS OF HEADS



SIDE FACING PHOTOS

With Permission



GROUP SHOTS FROM A DISTANCE

With Permission

We can still show the moments that matter.



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Diary Dates 26/27

Wednesday 25th November 2026 - Parents Session - Mindmate
Thursday 26th November 2026 - Y4 Residential Meeting (3:15pm)
Tuesday 1st December 2026 - Y3 Panto trip
Wednesday 2nd December 2026 - Parents Session - SEND
Wednesday 2nd December 2026 - Winter Fair
Friday 4th December 2026 - **School Closed (INSET)**
Monday 7th December 2026 - Panto in school
Wednesday 9th December 2026 - Parents Session - Reading
Wednesday 9th December 2026 - Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
Monday 14th december 2026 - Reception Nativity (9:00am)
Tuesday 15th December 2026 - Y1 Christmas Performance (9:00am)
Tuesday 15th December 2026 - Y2 Christmas Performance (2:15pm)
Wednesday 15th December 2026 - Y3/4 Christmas Performance (2:15pm)
Thursday 17th December 2026 - Y5/6 Christmas Performance (2:15pm)
Friday 18th December 2026 - School closes for Christmas (1pm)





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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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What Parents & Carers Need to Know about
THE METAVERSE
AGE RATING
Varies per metaverse platform
'Metaverse' is a relatively new term to many, however the concept has been around for some time. Videogames, for example, use many aspects of the metaverse; avatars, digital currency, mini-games, and open communication. A metaverse can also take many forms; Fortnite can be seen as a metaverse, as is Roblox. Put simply, a metaverse is an online environment where people interact, play games and express themselves. Away from traditional videogames, there are newer and more 'dedicated' metaverses such as Decentraland, The Sandbox and Somnium Space which are akin to Second Life.
WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
UNSAFE AREAS
Many metaverse platforms feature little to no moderation. This is due to the decentralised nature of the metaverse - as there is no one company overseeing the platform, users can create and build with freedom. This can be a minefield for younger users as adult material or sensitive topics can feature on a parcel of land seen by everyone.
VOICE COMMUNICATION
The freedom found within creation is also found in communication. Most metaverses use proximity VOIP communication (Voice Over Internet Protocol) and users can approach any other user to start a conversation. It is necessary for avatars to be quite close to another in order to talk and once they are, anything can be said. While a chat box can be moderated, voice chat cannot.
ANONYMITY
As with almost every other form of online interactions, anonymity features heavily within the metaverse. The concept for the metaverse is to live any type of life digitally. This could mean that 'bad actors' (those with malicious intent) can take advantage of others with ease. Reporting and monitoring these users is becoming easier on the more popular platforms, but others struggle to police these situations.
META MALL
VIRTUAL REALITY
Not all metaverse platforms are VR enabled, in fact less than 10% feature VR interactivity. However, it's always worth monitoring the amount of time younger users spend in virtual reality. A VR metaverse differs greatly to VR gaming in user interaction. Approaching each other in a VR metaverse attempts to represent 'reality' and can result in a greater impact if experiences are negative.
PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT
Whether in virtual reality or not, interactions and experiences in the metaverse can often carry more weight because they mimic 'real life'. Oftentimes, due to the freedom in avatar creation, younger users may open themselves up to bullying, prejudice or an unrealistic idea of reality. For instance, female-orientated avatars may find themselves targeted by bullies or inappropriate users.
Advice for Parents & Carers
TRY IT OUT FIRST
This may sound like an obvious tip, but by entering the metaverse and exploring on your own, you'll be able to see what your child might. You can explore the busier areas and even the quiet sections to see what users are building or advertising. You'll also learn first-hand how users communicate with each other. Many metaverse platforms will feature an entry area which showcases the busiest areas. Check them all out and see what's happening.
LEARN ABOUT NFTS, WALLETS AND CRYPTO
With the metaverse comes Web3 technologies such as NFTs, cryptocurrency and wallets in which to store them. If you have a crypto wallet, do not connect it to your child's metaverse. One simple click could result in loss of cryptocurrency. If you are unsure what these technologies are, try to research them as these terms will appear in the metaverse.
CREATE AN AVATAR TOGETHER
If you decide on allowing your child into the metaverse, set up their initial avatar together. This way you can ensure the avatar is age-appropriate and keeps their identity private. You can also advise on aspects which may result in attracting bullies or unwanted attention. It will also allow you to see which avatar items cost money, and talk to your child about in-game spending.
START WITH THE FAMILIAR
There are already metaverse experiences with children in mind; explain to your child what a metaverse is and have them recognise similarities between those and games like Roblox, Fortnite and Minecraft. Unfortunately, there is no 'child safe' metaverse option as yet, though Epic Games and LEGO are currently developing a family safe metaverse.
Meet Our Expert
Daniel Lipscombe is a father to two girls, aged 14 and 12. Before Dan began his Web3 metaverse journey, he worked as a videogame journalist and author for a decade; reviewing games, talking to creators and writing about videogame trends. Dan has also written fifteen guide books about Fortnite, Minecraft, Roblox, Apex Legends and Valorant for HarperCollins and Bonnier Books.
NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday
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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: 10.03.2022

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Primary Academy

NUTS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SCHOOL

DUE TO NUT ALLERGIES



Please do not bring any nuts or snacks containing nuts into the school.
Thank you for your cooperation.

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR STUDENTS SAFE!

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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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