JOHN RUSKIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Weekly Newsletter

#1 | 11th Sept 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome all our children and families back to John Ruskin Primary School following the summer holidays. We hope you had an enjoyable and restful break.

The children have made a fantastic start to the new school year. They have returned looking incredibly smart, settled quickly into their new classes and approached their learning with enthusiasm.
A special welcome to all the children, families and staff who are joining the John Ruskin community for the first time.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all our premises staff, who worked incredibly hard throughout the summer holidays to prepare the school for the children's return. Special thanks also go to Jon, our School Business Manager, for his hard work and commitment over the summer in ensuring that the school premises were ready for the start of the new academic year. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

This promises to be another exciting and successful year, filled with learning opportunities, trips, events and celebrations. We look forward to working closely with you to ensure that every child feels happy, safe and supported to achieve their very best.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing many of you throughout the year.

Hamilton Nwokolo
Headteacher

NOTICE

Grosvenor Terrace

Please ensure that you and your children use the pavement when walking along Grosvenor Terrace. This is an active road used by vehicles and is not a pedestrian area. Children must be supervised closely and families should remain alert to traffic, particularly during busy drop-off and collection times.
Thank you for helping to keep everyone safe.

TERM DATES FOR ACADEMIC YEAR – 2026/27

Term dates for this academic year – 2026/27

Autumn Term

INSET day: Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd September
(school closed to pupils)
Friday 4th September - Friday 23rd October
Half Term - Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October
Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th December
(School closes at 2pm)

Spring Term

INSET day: Monday 4th January 2027
(school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 5th January - Friday 12th February
Half Term - Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February
Monday 22nd February - Thursday 25th March
(School closes at 2pm)

Summer Term

INSET day: Monday 12th April *(school closed to pupils)*
Tuesday 13th April - Friday 28th May
(May Day Bank Holiday will be taken on 3rd May)
Half Term Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June
Monday 7th June – Wednesday 21st July
(School closes at 2pm)
INSET day: Thursday 22nd July (school closed to pupils)

An Ofsted Outstanding school
across all Key Stages Nursery to Year 6
2009-2026

Under data protection law, individuals have a right to be informed about how the school uses any personal data that we hold about them. We comply with this right by providing 'privacy notices' to individuals where we are processing their personal data. Our privacy notices are available on our website www.johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk or via the school office.

E- SAFETY

At The National College, our #WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.
What Parents & Educators Need to Know about
ROBLOX
WHAT ARE THE RISKS?
Roblox is an online platform where users can play and create games known as 'experiences' made by other users. Roblox has a large UK audience. ITV News has reported that millions of people in Britain use the platform regularly, with children forming a significant proportion of its users. The sheer scale of it makes it extremely difficult to moderate effectively, creating risks for unsupervised children, though a June 2026 update has improved things greatly.
A PLATFORM RATHER THAN A GAME
Roblox differs from traditional video games in that it hosts millions of user-created experiences rather than a fixed set of developer-produced content. Each experience is self-rated by its creator rather than independently age-rated in advance, as is the case with PEGI-rated games. With millions of user-created experiences, moderation is largely automated which means that inappropriate content may reach younger players and have a harmful effect.
MATURE CONTENT
With much of Roblox's moderation au through AI and creators self-certifying suitability, inappropriate content frequently appears on the platform. Some experiences may include content intended for older players. As of June 2026, Roblox defaults to only showing games from trusted developers to under 15s, following tests with older players to filter out riskier content. But these automated systems are not infallible, and younger players may encounter content you deem unsuitable.
RISK OF ADDICTION
Roblox encourages repeated and extended play. Many experiences are made of short tasks, rewards, and progression systems that can prompt users to keep playing for longer periods of time. Some games also use reminders, daily rewards, or timed events to encourage frequent logins. These designs can make it difficult to stop playing. Spending long periods online may affect sleep, schoolwork, or other activities if boundaries are not in place.
COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS
Roblox includes text and voice features that allow players to chat in shared game spaces. While the platform uses automated filters and moderation tools, media investigations have found that inappropriate and potentially harmful messages can still get through. There are risks that children could be targeted by groomers. In a June 2026 update, Roblox changed its default settings to prevent under 8s from chatting entirely, with gradual relaxation of restrictions between the ages of 9 and 15. The platform plans to use facial age-estimation technology to enforce these rules.
IN-GAME SPENDING
Roblox is free to play, but many experiences and cosmetics include optional purchases using Robux, the platform's virtual currency, to get advantages in games. This business model is common across online games, but reporting has highlighted cases where children have spent large amounts of money unintentionally or without understanding the real-world cost.
Advice for Parents & Educators
USE PARENTAL CONTROLS
Roblox's parental controls provide an important starting point. Linking a child's account to an adult account allows parents to apply spending controls, limit communication features, and review recent activity. Regular supervision, use of parental controls, and conversations with children about what they see online can help reduce the risk of exposure to inappropriate content.
PLAY TOGETHER WHERE POSSIBLE
Playing Roblox with a child can help adults understand the types of experiences available, how monetisation works, and how children interact online. This shared engagement can also make it easier for children to raise concerns if something feels wrong. Parents and educators should monitor all games played on Roblox due to its largely self-rating nature.
CONSIDER LIMITING OR DISABLING CHAT
Although Roblox has introduced tighter age-based chat restrictions, some par and educators may prefer to disable chat entirely to avoid the risk of stranger dan This is the default for under 8s, but can be applied for any account up to the age of Children can still play games while communicating with friends they know through other platforms, such as Discord.
ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS
Many Roblox experiences are creative and age appropriate, and for many children, the platform is an important way to socialise with friends. Rather than banning it outright, parents and educators should talk openly with children about online safety, spending, and how to respond to inappropriate behaviour.
Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is a technology journalist who has written for publications including Wired, TechRadar, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The New Statesman.
See full reference list on our website
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@wake.up.wednesday
@wake.up.weds
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SECONDARY SCHOOL AUTUMN OPEN EVENTS

Southwark Council

All you need to know about applying for secondary school in Southwark.

Apply online for school admissions

St Saviour's & St Olave's School

St Saviour's and St Olave's - A high acheiving, inclusive CofE Girls' School and Sixth Form

Compassionate – Hopeful – Reflective – Inclusive – Supportive – Transformative

Rooted in our Christian ethos, we warmly welcome students and families of all faiths and none, fostering a community built on respect, understanding and belonging.

"Pupils at this school are nurtured. Their individual needs and talents are recognised and developed." - Ofsted

Scan the QR Code to reserve your spot today!

Open Sessions for September 2027 Year 7 Entry

Open Mornings and
Open Evenings throughout
September and October

New Kent Road, London, SE1 4AN

Weekly Personal Tours throughout October

Please email office@ssso.southwark.sch.uk to schedule your tour.

St Saviour's & St Olave's School

New Kent Road, London, SE1 4AN

Autumn Open Sessions

17th Sept	Open Morning – 9.10am - 10.30am
22nd Sept	Opening Evening – 5pm - 7pm
30th Sept	Open Morning – 9.10am - 10.30am
6th Oct	Opening Evening – 5pm - 7pm
13th Oct	Open Morning – 9.10am - 10.30am

Scan the QR Code to reserve your place today!

PARENTING SCHEDULE

Autumn 2026

Please see attached brochure with dates and locations for next terms' parenting programmes. Referrals can be made via our webform Request a place on a parenting programme | Southwark Council

A snap shot of what we have on is here:

KEY EVENTS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 14 SEPTEMBER

Monday
2.00-2.30 Burgundy Class Swimming

Tuesday
10.00-10.30 Turquoise Class Swimming
10.30-11.00 Scarlet Class Swimming

Wednesday
9.20-10.20 Parents Course Cofee Morning
Afternoon LU Swimming

Thursday
3.30 - 4.30 Year 3 Homework Club

Friday
2.00-2.30 Vermilion Class Swimming

Autumn Term Dates 2026

Friday 4 September – Friday 23 October 2026
Half Term: Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2026
Monday 2 November – Friday 18 December 2026 (school closes at 2pm)

Southwark Council Bulletin

Read here: Latest News

FORTHCOMING DATES

17 Sept Year 6 national test and secondary transfer meetings for parents 3.45pm - 4.45pm
22 Sept Meet Teacher Parents Evening 3.40pm - 7.00pm

Oct Black History Assemblies
Oct National Poetry Day
Oct Reward Afternoon

USEFUL LINKS

School term dates 26-27 - Term Dates 2026-27
Our website - www.johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk
School caterer - https://accentcatering.co.uk/
Uniform supplier - www.earthuniform.com/collections/john-ruskin-primary-school
Secondhand uniform supplier - uniformerly.co.uk/search-listings/?q=&c=17273

School policies, including the school's safeguarding policy - https://johnruskin.southwark.sch.uk/parents-information/policies/
The Nest - thenestsouthwark.org.uk
Chess in Schools - www.chessinschools.co.uk

Southwark Council - www.southwark.gov.uk
Camberwell Leisure Centre - southwarkleisure.co.uk/centres/camberwell-leisure-centre
Parentkind - www.parentkind.org.uk
Children's Commissioner - www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk
Department for Education - www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education
Ofsted - www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted
NHS - www.nhs.uk
TFL - travelforlife.tfl.gov.uk
Southwark parenting - Request a place on a parenting programme | Southwark Council
Southwark local offer - https://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/

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