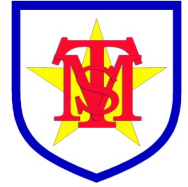


FOCUS

on

ST MARY & ST THOMAS AQUINAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
www.stmaryandthomasaquinas.co.uk



Follow us on Twitter
@smstaquinas



'Together we strive for excellence, inspired by the joy of the Gospel.'



26th March 2021



Year of St Joseph

St Joseph, most watchful guardian and loving father.
~ pray for us ~



On-line Safety - Roblox Concerns

Here at St Mary & St Thomas we are committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise our growing concern over the particular use of the gaming platform '**ROBLOX**'. After discussions with some parents and pupils, it has come to our attention that a significant number of our children are accessing this program online.

It has highlighted that some children are vulnerable as they are interacting with others that they only know through the online world. No one knows who they are truly talking to online. **UNSAFE** adults may use this to their advantage. As a school, this is something we continually reinforce as being unsafe and would always encourage children to reject or ignore friend requests from people they do not know.

ROBLOX can be risky. The top three concerns are:

- Talking to strangers
- Bullying or rude comments
- Hacking of some of the features

It's not easy to find how to change privacy setting as there are very few privacy settings on **ROBLOX**.

If you click on privacy settings section it takes you to advice from the site to support you in ensuring the appropriate privacy settings are in place for your child and it also explains how you can monitor what they are playing.

The NSPCC Netaware site (<https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>) offers advice and support for parents about a range of the most popular children's games, apps and website.

IMPORTANT - It has come to our attention by a few parents in school that some of the features of **ROBLOX** have been hacked and that when their child clicks on a particular feature, it takes the child to [a dangerous social networking platform which contains sexual content.](#)

This free social networking platform is called **OMEGLE** and is **18+**. If children accidentally click on this link, they find themselves being connected with unknown adults to chat via video, text or audio. There is a very strong risk of children encountering sexual content on **OMEGLE**. This is not limited to viewing adult sexual content but can also be young people performing sexual acts or exposing themselves.

We are asking all parents to remain vigilant and check that your child does **NOT** have access to **OMEGLE** through **ROBLOX** or any social platform.

If you discover that your child has accidentally accessed the **OMEGLE** site and they were disturbed or encouraged by the unknown adult/stranger to do something they were uncomfortable about, please report this immediately.

As a school we have taken advice from Northumbria Police who have said that we should encourage parents to report such activities to 101.

If you are concerned about any issues or would like any support regarding e-safety or help with privacy settings, then please get in touch with school.

Mr Patterson is very aware of the situation and will help any parents.

Please report any incidents to Northumbria Police on 101. You can also report your concerns to CEOP (the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command) at www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre.

Visit Thinkuknow website for lots of information about e-safety. Www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents.

Easter Holidays

School closes at 3.15 p.m. on Thursday 1st April for the Easter holidays and re-opens again on Monday 19th April.

School will also be closed on Monday 3rd May for Bank holiday and Thursday 6th May for local elections.

St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas - Church Information

Please see our opening hours throughout Holy week:

Holy Thursday - 1st April - 6.30 p.m. - Charlie, Alice & Peter Shaw

Good Friday - 2nd April - 10.00 a.m. (Stations of the Cross - seated)

12 noon - First Good Friday Service

3.00 p.m. - Second Good Friday Service

Holy Saturday - 3rd April - 12 noon - Our Lady's Intention

3.00 p.m. - Fr. Wilf Elkin N.B.F.

5.00 p.m. - Joe Rutherford

Easter Sunday - 4th April - 10.00 a.m. - Billy Morris

Extra Mass 11.00 a.m. - Fr. Vincent Mallaley

Walking for Water - UPDATE

Thank you for all the support we have received in school linked to our Walk for Water CAFOD fundraising. The children are continuing to walk around the yard, and we are well on our way to walking our one million steps for CAFOD.

A gentle reminder that this is the last week to send in any donations, please have these in school by Tuesday 30th March as all proceeds will be counted and celebrated in school by the end of this term.

CAFOD
Just one world



Parental Control guides for Windows 10

Please see the link below that will take you to a Parental Control Set up guide, with step by step instructions.

[Click here for the step by step booklet.](#)

