



# SHERWELL VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

EXCELLENCE IN ALL WE DO

## NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 1 - SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year! Although the summer break may seem like a distant memory now, we hope you all had a fantastic and restful holiday.

The children have settled back into school life beautifully, demonstrating great enthusiasm and eagerness in their learning. Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Meet the Teacher' evening. It was wonderful to see so many of you. We hope you enjoyed meeting the class teachers and getting a glimpse of the children's work in their books. We have many more opportunities planned for you to engage with us throughout the year. We have started the year by welcoming our new Reception children to our Sherwell Valley family. They have all had such a positive start to school life and we are excited to see them grow and learn as the year progresses.

Over the summer holidays, the Friends of Sherwell Valley (FOSV) generously supported the school with a refurbishment of the school library. This project included re-upholstering all the seating, making the library a comfortable and inviting space for the children to foster their love of reading and enhance their learning experience. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented team of family and friends raising funds for us. If you would like to join the team, please let the office know – we would love to expand our group! FOSV have lots more exciting events planned throughout the year including our Halloween Discos and Fabulous Fireworks Display!

We are looking forward to a productive year with lots of exciting learning enquiries and experiences for the children and hope that you can join us throughout the year as we celebrate these.

As always, if you do have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Cristy Nelson

Headteacher





# Our History Learning Enquiries

Nursery



Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Year 3



Year 4



Year 5



Year 6





# Notice Board

## A message from our Governors;

Welcome back to the new school year! We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the exciting academic year ahead.

We will soon be recruiting new Governors to join us at Sherwell Valley. If this is something you might be interested in, please don't hesitate to contact either Mrs. Nelson via the school office or Mrs. Beer, our Chair of Governors, at

[mrs.beer@svps1.com](mailto:mrs.beer@svps1.com).



## Sherbucks

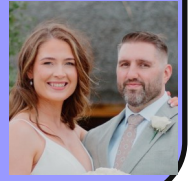
Our 'Sherbucks Hut' is Open for Business!

We are thrilled to have opened Sherbucks for our families. Over the next term, we will continue to host themed events at the hut, often aligning with the children's learning in school. Please check the dates section of the newsletter for upcoming openings. We look forward to welcoming you!



## Sherwell Weddings

Over the summer holidays, we celebrated two Sherwell weddings! Mr. Bradbury, our music teacher, married his long-term partner Jo, and Miss Milligan is now Mrs. Knapman. Congratulations to both couples!



## Children's Birthdays

Many of our children love to celebrate their birthdays by bringing in treats to share with their friends. If you wish to do this, sweets are often a good option, as we have a number of children with allergies.



## Whole School Attendance September 3rd to September 26th

<b>Reception</b>	<b>97.3%</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	<b>96.8%</b>
<b>Year 2</b>	<b>97.2%</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>96.3%</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>96.6%</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>97.4%</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>97.4%</b>

## Well done Years 5 and 6





# Notice Board

## Sherwell Jobs

If you are interested in joining the team at Sherwell Valley, we encourage you to regularly check the vacancies page on our school website. We are always on the lookout for enthusiastic individuals who are passionate about education and making a positive impact on our children.



## Sports Gold Award

Our Sports and PE provision is something we are extremely proud of at Sherwell Valley. Last week, we were thrilled to receive the GOLD AWARD in recognition of our efforts! Well done Team Sherwell

Thank you for all of our support



## **Thank You Glenis and Thank You Tesco!**

We are thrilled to announce that we have won the Tesco Golden Coin! This means we have secured £5,000 to spend on our school garden.

We are hoping to build a sensory garden at the front of the school to support the children and provide a calm and welcoming space.



## **Scooters and Bikes**

Just a reminder: scooters and bikes should not be ridden in the school playgrounds. Please ensure that children wait until they have left the school site before riding them.



## **School Places**

### **Nursery and Reception spaces available!**



Our children say,  
"The best thing about  
school is the learning"

We have a number of Nursery and Reception spaces available at Sherwell Valley and are currently offering tours for next year's Reception intake.

If you know any families who are looking for school places and are thinking about the start of their child's educational journey, please do share our office details so that they can book in for a tour of our wonderful school!





# Notice Board

FRIENDS OF SHERWELL VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL  
ARE PLEASED TO PRESENT OUR LEGENDARY,  
BEST IN THE BAY

## FIREWORKS DISPLAY

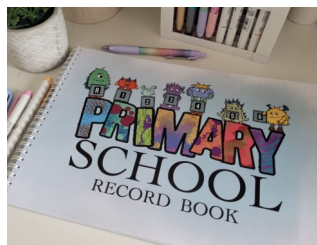
SUNDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2024

# ZUMBA® STRUT SHAKE SHINE

Sherwell Valley Primary School. 16+  
Tuesday @6:30pm- £6.00 per class.  
All welcome.



OPEN EVENTS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS			
NAME OF SCHOOL	DATE	TIME	Link to book on
Torquay Academy	10 <sup>th</sup> October	8.15 am 9.15 am	<a href="https://www.tgacademy.co.uk/why-torquay/open-days/">https://www.tgacademy.co.uk/why-torquay/open-days/</a>
Torquay Girls' Grammar School	8 <sup>th</sup> October	6.30 pm	<a href="https://www.tggsacademy.org/openevening">https://www.tggsacademy.org/openevening</a>
St. Cuthbert Mayne	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	9.15 am	<a href="https://www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk/">https://www.st-cuthbertmayne.co.uk/</a>
Paignton Academy	3 <sup>rd</sup> October	4.30 pm 6.10 pm	<a href="https://www.paigntonacademy.org/open-events-2/">https://www.paigntonacademy.org/open-events-2/</a>



Lollie-Jayne  
DESIGNS

If you would like to purchase a beautiful Primary School Record Book to capture all of these special moments, please follow the link to the wonderful 'Lollie-Jayne Designs' page.

<https://www.facebook.com/lolliejaynedesigns/>

## Class Rhythm Time Torbay and South East Devon Timetable

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Kingsleighton Town Hall Toddler 10.15 Baby 11 Refreshments	NHS Rainbow Nursery	Abbey School Nursery	Humpty Dumpty Childrens- Kingsteignton	St Andrews Methodist Church Preschool- 9.30 Toddler 10.15 Baby 11 Refreshments	From September Sherwell Valley School Preschool- 9.30 Toddler 10.15 Baby 11
Humpty Dumpty Childrens- Newton Abbott	Humpty Dumpty Day Nursery	Paignton Zoo Contact for more details St Joseph's Preschool	St Joseph's Pre School		



Book at [rhythmtime.net/torquay](http://rhythmtime.net/torquay)  
Trials available!

Contact Natalie for information -  
[natalie.wb@rhythmtime.org](mailto:natalie.wb@rhythmtime.org)

# ONLINE 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](https://nationalcollege.com).

## What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games among children. In 2020, the game's developers claimed that more than half of the USA's children had played it. As a 'sandbox' title, the game lets players create their own gaming experiences with Roblox Studio to build custom levels, which can then be shared online.



### WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

#### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to interact online (including a group chat function), which could expose children to various risks. Scammers often attempt to trick young Roblox fans into exchanging their paid-for items for something which turns out to be of much lesser value – or something they never even receive. The in-game chat has some filters, but it isn't perfect: players can still send unpleasant messages, while predators can reach out to children directly.

#### PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money – usually a one-off payment. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some lobbies, therefore, will put children at greater risk of contact from strangers than others.

#### ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this doesn't usually deter such people. Some player-built Roblox levels have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind, and this will not always be obvious.

#### IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some extra costs. These are usually indicated with the symbol for 'Robux' (the in-game currency). Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game using real money. People can also buy extra Robux to spend on cosmetic items in the game, and it's also possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

#### SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for younger players, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

#### DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. Keep in mind that the game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your account.

#### PRIVATE SERVERS

If a child has friends to play Roblox with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, the player who owns the server could invite other people – who might not be child friendly – to join them. Additionally, private servers can be set up in such a way that any player on the host's friends list can join, so it's important to discuss who children are playing with.

#### MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that two-factor authentication is enabled on any payment accounts also makes it harder for children to spend money inadvertently.

#### DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, children must learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's okay to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger – can help them understand how to communicate more safely with other people online.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333433/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-playing-virtual-parties-fortnite>  
<https://corp.roblox.com/parents/>

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## SVPS TERM DATES 2024 - 2025



	Sep-2024				
Monday	02	09	16	23	30
Tuesday	03	10	17	24	
Wednesday	04	11	18	25	
Thursday	05	12	19	26	
Friday	06	13	20	27	
Saturday	07	14	21	28	
Sunday	08	15	22	29	

	Oct-2024				
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25		
05	12	19	26		
06	13	20	27		

	Nov-2024				
	04	11	18	25	
	05	12	19	26	
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	01	

	Dec-2024				
Monday	02	09	16	23	30
Tuesday	03	10	17	24	31
Wednesday	04	11	18	25	
Thursday	05	12	19	26	
Friday	06	13	20	27	
Saturday	07	14	21	28	
Sunday	08	15	22	29	

	Jan-2025				
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25		
05	12	19	26		

	Feb-2025				
	03	10	17	24	
	04	11	18	25	
	05	12	19	26	
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	01	
02	09	16	23	02	

	Mar-2025				
Monday	03	10	17	24	31
Tuesday	04	11	18	25	
Wednesday	05	12	19	26	
Thursday	06	13	20	27	
Friday	07	14	21	28	
Saturday	08	15	22	29	
Sunday	09	16	23	30	

	Apr-2025				
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24		
04	11	18	25		
05	12	19	26		
06	13	20	27		

	May-2025				
	05	12	19	26	
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25	01	

	Jun-2025				
Monday	02	09	16	23	30
Tuesday	03	10	17	24	
Wednesday	04	11	18	25	
Thursday	05	12	19	26	
Friday	06	13	20	27	
Saturday	07	14	21	28	
Sunday	08	15	22	29	

	Jul-2025				
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	
04	11	18	25		
05	12	19	26		
06	13	20	27		

	Aug-2025				
	04	11	18	25	
	05	12	19	26	
	06	13	20	27	
	07	14	21	28	
01	08	15	22	29	
02	09	16	23	30	
03	10	17	24	31	

Training Days
School Holidays
Bank Holidays
25 Dec 2024 (Christmas)
26 Dec 2024 (Boxing Day)
1 Jan 2025 (New Years Day)
18 Apr 2025 (Good Friday)
21 Apr 2025 (Easter Monday)
5 May 2025 (May Day)
26 May 2025 (Spring Bank Holiday)
25 Aug 2025 (Summer Bank Holiday)

Term Lengths		
Sept to Oct half term	39	74
October to Christmas	35	
Jan to Feb half term	30	60
Feb to Easter	30	
Easter to June half term	23	61
June to end of term	38	
	195	
Training Days	-5	
	190	



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## DIARY DATES 2024 - 2025

<b>October 2024</b>	
Thursday 3rd October 2:45pm	Year 6 Curriculum Sharing Event
Friday 4th October	Sherbucks open
Monday 14th October	RW Amada Park Visit
Tuesday 15th October	RNP Armada Park Visit
Wednesday 16th October	RD Armada Park Visit
Wednesday 16th October 2:30pm	Year 1 Maths Workshop
Thursday 17th October 2:15 - 3:15	SEND parents drop-in sessions with Educational Psychologist
Thursday 17th October	Sherbucks open
Friday 18th October - 10:30am	Prospective 2025 Reception Tours
Saturday 19th October - 10:00am	Prospective 2025 Reception open morning
Tuesday 22nd October	2H visiting Lyme Regis
Tuesday 22nd October	KS2 Author Visit—Luke Marchant
Tuesday 22nd October - 5pm	Nursery and Reception Halloween Disco
Wednesday 23rd October	2C visiting Lyme Regis
Wednesday 23rd October - 2:30pm	2H Curriculum Sharing Event
Thursday 24th October	2F visiting Lyme Regis
Thursday 24th October	Y's 1,2 and 3 - Halloween Disco - 5:30pm Y's 4,5,and 6 - Halloween Disco - 7:00pm
Friday 25th October	Reception Superhero Day
Friday 25th October	2F Curriculum Sharing Event
Friday 25th October	Sherbucks open
Friday 25th October	Break up for half term





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## November 2024

Sunday 3rd November	FOSV Fireworks
Monday 4th November - 8:40am	Return to school
Tuesday 5th November	Sherbucks open
Tuesday 5th November	Y6 visiting Newton Abbot Court
Wednesday 6th November	Reception Maths workshop
Friday 8th November - 10:30	Prospective 2025 Reception Tours
Wednesday 13th November	SEND Parent's evening
Friday 15th November	Non-uniform Day - Children in Need Sherbucks open
Monday 18th November	Parent's Evening
Wednesday 20th November	Y2 Maths workshop
Wednesday 20th November	Parent's Evening
Thursday 28th November	Y1 Curriculum Sharing Event

## December 2024

Wednesday 4th December	Year 3 / 4 Maths workshop
Thursday 5th December 2:45pm	Year 4 Curriculum Sharing Event
Friday 6th December - 10:30am	Prospective 2025 Reception Tours
Saturday 7th December	FOSV Christmas Fair
Monday 9th December - 5pm	Reception Nativity - Upton Vale Church
Tuesday 10th December - 6pm	Year 1 / 2 Christmas performance - Upton Vale Church
Friday 13th December - 2:45pm	Year 5 Curriculum Sharing Event
Wednesday 11th December	Year 5 / 6 Maths workshop
Monday 16th December - 6pm	Year 3 / 4 Christmas performance - Upton Vale Church
Tuesday 17th December - 6pm	Year 5 / 6 Christmas performance - Upton Vale Church
Tuesday 17th December	RW visiting Kents Cavern
Wednesday 18th December	RD visiting Kents Cavern
Thursday 19th December	RNP visiting Kents Cavern
Thursday 19th December 2:15pm	Year 3 Curriculum Sharing Event
Thursday 19th December 3:25	Break up for Christmas holidays
Monday 6th January - 8:40am	Return to School