

18<sup>th</sup> April 2017

Dear Mrs Shillaber,

Thank you for showing interest in Plymouth University's robotics research!

We would like to give a brief overview of the experiment we would like to conduct at Mount Street Primary School. We are looking at how collaboration emerges between children when they play together, and how they might interact in the presence of a friendly robot.

During the experiment, children freely play with blocks and pictures of characters on a large touchscreen. In some cases, two children will play together; in some other cases one child will play along with a robot (picture). Each play episode is expected to last approximately 15 minutes, depending on the children's willingness to continue. We would like to invite children from two age groups: 4-5 years old (Reception year) and 6-7 years old (Year 2).



We need to video-record the children while they play. These recordings will be used for research purposes only, and will be handled in accordance with the strict confidentiality and ethics rules of the university. In any case, we will ask prior permission from the parents (we have attached the parents' permission form to this letter).

In terms of equipment, we will need about 5 sq. meters in a quiet room (like the library) with a power socket. We will bring everything else. In order to allow sufficient time to record as many children as possible, we anticipate about 5 days of experiment. We would like to start the experiment early May, and we can then spread the sessions over a few weeks, at your convenience.

As a token of our appreciation for taking part, we would like to arrange an exciting robot demonstration for the children.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely,  
Séverin Lemaignan

# New study on playful robots

**Plymouth University  
Faculty of Science and Technology**

As part of the University's robotics research, **we are studying how children collaborate when they play with peers or with a robot.** We would like to bring a small robot to your school and videorecord your child while interacting with another child or with the robot during **a fun and playful activity.** Your child will be supervised at all times by adults, and can stop at any time if she/he like it.



**If you wish for your child to take part in this study, please complete the consent form at the bottom of this letter and return it to your child's teacher by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

*The secretary to the Faculty of Science and Environment Human Ethics Committee, Mrs Paula Simson (01752 584503) can answer specific questions regarding your rights and the ethical framework of research at Plymouth University.*

*If you have any other questions regarding this research, please feel free to contact Séverin Lemaignan, Plymouth University, A216 Portland Square, Drake Circus, Plymouth PL4 8AA, email: [severin.lemaignan@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:severin.lemaignan@plymouth.ac.uk).*

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I am the head parent/legal guardian of: \_\_\_\_\_ (name of the child)

I give permission for my child to take part to the study:  yes  no

***By giving my consent, I agree for my child to be video-recorded. I agree for the resulting videos to be anonymously (no name or personal identifier) shared with other researchers working on child-robot interaction.***

Parent full name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date:

Signature: