

## Welcome

Welcome back to the school year and to a new calendar year. In assembly today, we considered how many of us may have celebrated the new year and, if you are one of these, then I'd like to wish you a Happy New Year. The children are also aware that some of our families may be celebrating their cultural new year at a different time. However, we talked about how a new calendar year is a good time to reflect on the past and to set new challenges for the coming months.

As always in school, we regularly reflect on the past to help us to improve our provision in the future. Please be assured that our control measures around COVID have been reviewed and remain in line with government guidance.

In terms of moving forward, we are continuing to work hard to ensure that children continue to make good progress educationally. We are also continuing with our 'Be Seen To Be Green' behaviour challenge - ask your child to tell you all about it!

Should you or your family require any support, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are able to offer a wide range of support to families and would urge you to contact us if you have any concerns. Vicki

V M M Masters    Headteacher

### Unable to take part in PE lessons?

If your child has a valid reason to be excused from physical activity, please send a note or DoJo message to your child's teacher. Without official notification, children are and will be expected to take part in PE lessons.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Thursday 20th January 2022 -*

### *Country Food Festival Special -*

*Lunch Form has been sent via parentmail  
TODAY*

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qMBf3yUX7TW4YBT6\\_DP4hpJ9SwwwEaFWY735v71h9c/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1qMBf3yUX7TW4YBT6_DP4hpJ9SwwwEaFWY735v71h9c/edit)

*Do not miss out on the Hot Diggity Dogs & Grandma Rose's secret recipe 'slaw...!!!!*



## Homework

Homework will be set on Mondays for the following Monday

1 Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling activity - gives children the opportunity to practise a skill. This will not be a list of spellings to learn.

1 Maths activity - focused on mathematical fluency. TTRockstars or Numbots may be used.

3 x Reading per week - please encourage your children to read at least 3 times each week and record this on Go-Read.

An optional theme linked project may also be set each term as required.

The government announced an extra bank holiday this year to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's 70th anniversary as monarch. To reflect this, schools will be open for 189 days instead of 190 days. As the extra bank holiday falls in the May half term week, we have decided that our additional day off will be **Monday 24th January 2022**; school will therefore be closed to pupils and staff on this day.

I am aware that some of you may question why we have selected a day mid-term. This practice is not unusual, with other local schools often scheduling training days that take place mid term or organising for schools to close to pupils to allow Parent Consultations to take place.

I apologise for the short notice. Although we are not required to do so, I have asked Football Fitness to run a childcare provision in school from 8:45 - 15:15 (fees apply) plus their usual after school provision. Details will be with you this week, should you wish to make use of this.

## IMPORTANT CHILDREN'S ABSENCE

If your child is unable to attend School because they are unwell, please ensure you call the absence line on 01327 705785 and Press Option 1.

Please clearly state your Child's Name, Class and the reason for their absence. The phone line is open 24 hours a day.

If we have not heard from you by 9.00am, and we are unaware of your child's absence we will call all of your contact numbers until we are able to speak to someone.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

# Dream Believe Achieve



## How to Set Up Parental Controls for iPhone and Android Apps

First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

In the guide, you'll find tips on a number of potential risks such as scams, in-app purchases and user-controlled content.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one game of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com) for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

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First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

## IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

## REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £3.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

## COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or 'toxic' behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

## POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

## USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains in Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision however, this can be a great lesson in money management for children.

### ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours, of course, isn't healthy but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

### TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

### DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

### Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2016, 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.



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