

Message from Mrs Gibson

Welcome back!

We've had lots to celebrate since we've been back after half term and have lots coming up between now and Christmas. It's been lovely to hear the children talk about family time they spent over the holidays. Well done to those who got a head start by researching information to help them with their new units of learning!

We have been delighted to see so many parents take up our workshops so far – we've held workshops for Phonics, Y6 SATs and Sleep routines and boundary setting at bedtime – the feedback has been really helpful so we hope to see more and more parents as the year goes on.

If you can think of any workshops that might be useful, don't hesitate to let us know!

We're really looking forward to celebrating diversity through anti-bullying week next week. The children's discos to promote friendship and tolerance will be taking place in the school day to raise awareness of this and our protected characteristics assembly will help children to recognise how all the diversity in the UK and across the world makes us stronger as a team.

We are looking forward to visitors next week to reinforce this message, and of course, will be remembering those who fought to protect our freedoms through Remembrance Day. If your child went to a Memorial or parade or celebrated Remembrance Day through Cubs or Scouts etc, we'd love to see a picture of them if you have one!

Well done to Ben who represented Sheffield City Swimming Club By achieving county times to swim in the competition at the Yorkshires 2024 at Ponds Forge. He smashed all of his PBs (personal bests) at the meet and showed real resilience!



**Please remember to make your parents' evening appointment
(18th and 20th November) with your child's class teacher.**



JOIN THE #PUSHFORPUDSEY CHALLENGE!

Come to ASDA Handsworth and ask for the PUDSEY TROLLEY to HELP PUSH Pudsey 24,900 miles (once around the globe!





Autumn Parent Support

Date	Event
TBC 2.30pm – 3pm	Birley Academy Y5/6 parent meeting
Monday 18 th November 2024	Parents' evening 3:30-6pm
Wednesday 20 th November 2024	Parents' evening 3:30 – 5:30pm
Thursday 21 st November 2024 2.30pm – 3pm	Managing behaviour at home – boundaries and routines
Wednesday 11 th December 2024 8:30am - 9:30am	LEAD IT Safe use of devices and apps



At The National College, our WakeUp/Wednesday 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

FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite. It can only be played online, internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from Marvel and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar. The last crossover is a series book character including Batman in other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the crossover from Alan or Great from The Witcher or like sooner than you otherwise might have.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk in each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from other players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the game. That said, there's no blood in game. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent visual flashes to lighten the mood, such as falling into 'gorges' and dazing enemies. Although guns, weapons and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, no discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually last for one-and-a-half weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular releases help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and considering their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's retailing store is a net-as-a-subtle mechanism for scooping players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are lured into an impulse purchase. Parents should consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authentication. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward for young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or consistent performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their kids, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. 'Who's your friend?' You might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site Gamecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



STAR OF THE WEEK

5th November – 8th November 2024

Class:		
A	Bobby - for his endeavour and independent learning. He has enjoyed making birthday cakes from playdough and counting the candles.	Remi - for her empathy and always being a kind friend. Remi loves to share a story with a friend.
B	Jaxon B- for showing great resilience with his phonics learning.	Brody- for showing great resilience in his maths learning.
C	Archie for aspiration and endeavour in his writing, using his geography from last year to help his descriptions.	Cooper for showing aspiration and endeavour in his writing, using his geography from last year to help his descriptions.
D	Arlo – for really trying hard in maths. I can see you are really trying to follow the models given.	Henry – for aspiration you are really challenging yourself in maths. You are fabulous at knowing your bonds for 10.
E	Lily for showing all the school values and being an excellent role model. She is particularly strong using her aspiration in maths and English!	Precious for endeavouring to put her hand up and share her amazing contributions in class.
F	James – for showing endeavour and aspiration in his home learning over the holidays – The Statue of Liberty.	Max – for showing endeavour and aspiration in his home learning over the holidays – facts about America.
G	Amelia– Showing a massive improvement in her attitude to learning and showing more resilience and being more willing to get involved!	Taylor – For showing high aspirations and dedication in all areas of his learning, especially in his English - fantastic hot seating!
H	Dylan - for aspiration by showing positive learning behaviours.	Darcy - For showing empathy and tolerance around school and always showing kindness to everyone.
I	Oliver S – For always demonstrating high aspiration – Oliver’s work ethic and aspiration reflects in the high quality of his work!	Arianna – For showing empathy and tolerance . Arianna is always curious about other cultures and beliefs particularly this week during English and reading.
J	Alarnie- For showing Aspiration . You are becoming a lot more confident when sharing ideas in front of your peers.	Jax- For being Resilient in Maths this week. You are challenging yourself in every lesson, well done!
K	Emaleigh for endeavouring to use Point, Evidence, Explain to answer questions about a text.	Mason for being a Birley Spa role model by showing all the school values .
L	For the whole class for showing resilience this week with a change of routine.	
M	Sienna - For endeavour and resilience as she has had a very positive week, tried her best in all lessons and has been proud to share what she has done! Well done!	

Weekly Attendance

5th November – 8th November 2024

Every Day Counts



Congratulations to these children who have
attended everyday this week!

EYFS		KS1		KS2		
Noah	Jaxon	Rylee	Olivier	Daisy Rae	Mason	Teegan
Khenan	Noah	Isaac	Precious	Darcie	Jenson	Louie
Ronnie	Dylan	Ella	Jenson	Boe	Tayen	Coen
Aurora	Maisie	Harlee	Esmae	Maisie-Leigh	Carter	William
Freddie	Callie	Grace	Freddie	Finley	Chloe	Willow
Kenton	Harry	Lylah	Charlie	Theo	Oscar	Poppy
Reggie	Ella-Rose	Chloe	Coby	Layton	Elijah	Lyla
Charlie	Brooke	Louie	Ross	Amelia	Amelia	Alice
Daniel	Ada	Isabelle	Paisley	Piper	Tyler	Zac
Helen	Penelope	Evie-Leigh	Ross	Noah-James	Salma	James
Bobby	Aaron	Mckenzie	Parker	Maxwell	Ronnie	Oliver
Sonny	River	Ruby	Archie	Beryl	Charlie	Dexter
Keira	Jack	Logan	Luna-Rose	Amelia	Leo	Colby
Chester	Khamilah	Carter	Oliver	Anaya	Sophie	William
Evie	Mylo	Eliseos	Isla	Amelie	Alexander	Margaret
Remi	Logan	Marcie-Mae	Bobby	Jaxon	Maisey	Harlow
Layla	Rosie	Lottie	Arlo	Emily	Albie	Lillie
Holly	Jaxon	Summer	Ellie-Mae	Hattie	Tommy	Reggie
Brody	Cody	Lilianna	Bentley-Jay	Ezra	James	Alina
		Dion	Alfie	Drini	Ava	Poppy
		Evie	Freddy	Harper-Leigh	Emaleigh	Lacie-Rose
		Isla	Sophie	Yasra	Lucas	Oliver
		Charlotte	Lily	Darcey	William	Remarni
		Neveah	Georgios	Marley	Chance	Jayden
		Isla	Marianna	Cullen	Amelia	Lexi
		Elinam	Ethan	Madison	Cohan	Kavern
		Freya	Cayleb	Mason	Sonny	Elijah
		Rosie	Matilda	Amelia	Yousuf	Elizabeth
		Henry	Cooper	Phoebe	Oliver James	Sienna
		Harper	Joshua	Grace	George	Isabelle
		Bennie	Pippa	Ivy	Luca	Lucy
			Caitlyn	Harleigh	Logan	Archie-Ray
				Milana	Osca	Ben
				Annabelle	Grace	Harry
				Layton-Ray	Grace	Isla
				Layla	Charlie	Caelan
				Eli	Dianne	Jacob
				Calvin	Libby	Kobie
				Saif	Amelia	Darcie
				Taylor	Freddie	Leo
				Valerie	Jax	Jayden
				Amie	Rhys	Kenley
				Ellis	Isaac	Lukas
				Darcy	Imogen	Joshua
				Max	Charlie	Harry
				Evie-Rose	Amelia	Ebony
				Alana	Taylor	Jenson
				Tiffany-Jayne	Lyla	Alarnie
				Charlotte	George	Samuel
				Macey	Golnouch	Scott
					Kian	Arianna
					Conor	Harlie
					Jacey	Cheetah
					Oscar	Keaton
					Alexander	
					lyla-Rose	
					Charlie	
					Lucy	

