



NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,



Another week closer to Christmas and another week of festive fun and learning for your children. Advent assemblies on Monday, Rocksteady concerts on Wednesday (lots of drumming, strumming, tapping and singing!), were followed by a Christmas Extravaganza for KS2 at Harbour Church on Thursday and of course there was the EYFS visit to the Panto on Friday – oh no, they didn't! Oh yes, they did! A fantastic time was had by all and what a wonderful experience for all our EYFS children to have. The classrooms continue to share their Christmas sparkle with the children as they continue their learning. Congratulations to Field, Adele and Hussain classes for having the best Christmas decorated classrooms! Next week, we are all looking forward to the

Year 1 Nativity and look forward to welcoming in our parents to watch their children perform.

Next Week

Date	Event
9 th	Year 1 Nativity 2pm
10 th	Year 1 Nativity 9.30am
11 th	Year 4 North End Baptist Church Workshop
12 th	Choir signing in Cascades – 10:00 – 11:30 am
13 th	EYFS New Intake Open Morning 9.30 – 11 am

Reading in class continues...

Don't forget that 'Reading in Class' continues every **Wednesday** between **8.35 am and 8.55 am**. It is lovely to see so many parents and children reading together. We look forward to welcoming you back in again next week.



Crossing with care



Please can we remind all parents and children to take care when crossing the road outside the school. Please ensure that you are using the crossing provided and remember to be aware of emergency vehicles that may need to proceed even when there is a green man on the lights. Thank you.

Golden Child



I am delighted to share the names of this week's Golden Children they are:

Year Group	Class	Golden Child
EYFS	Rosen	Anvit
	Hart	Jude
	Donaldson	Darcie
1	Adeola	Maximilian
	Field	Jimmy
	Gravett	Cleo
2	Steadman	Freya
	Simmonds	Emi
	Jenkins	Lola
3	Adele	Betty
	Sheeran	Arthur
	Murs	Arez
4	Thompson	Bradley
	Rickman	Bella-Rose
	Elba	Ronnie
5	Peake	Arsenii
	Hawking	Molly
	Franklin	Evie
6	Hussain	
	Roots	Freya
	Berry	Jackson

EYFS/KS1 and KS2 have all been recognised as someone who cares for others.

Important First Aid Update



In an update to our first aid procedures, details of any incidents will be communicated to you via Arbor. We will provide information about what has happened and how it has been treated.



Cool milk registration

Please see the attached flyer about registering your child for school milk.

You can register by clicking on the link below and then using the QR code on the flyer or by going to their website directly www.coolmilk.com :

<https://coolmilk.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/DIGITAL-Parent-Leaflet-A4.pdf>

Please can we remind **EYFS parents** that they do **not** need to register their child as we already provide them with their milk.



Messy Church – 12th December 2024

Looking for some early Christmas fun? Messy Church is where you need to be! Please see the attached flyer with full details:



Winter Basketball Camps

Please see the attached flyer for information about Winter Basketball Camp on the 21-23rd December.

Booking is through Portsmouth Force directly.

PORTSMOUTH FORCE

WINTER BASKETBALL CAMP FOR BOYS & GIRLS

21-23 DECEMBER

7-11 YEARS OLD
9.00 AM-1.30 PM

12-16 YEARS OLD
1.30 PM-6.00 PM

ONE SESSION (1 DAY): £35
FULL CAMP (3 DAYS): £85

Sign up now using the QR code

City of Portsmouth College - Highbury Campus, Tudor Crescent,
Cosham, Portsmouth, PO6 2SA

Harbour Church Christmas Events

Please click on the link to see all the Christmas Harbour Church events that all 3 sites are running over the festive period.

<https://harbourchurchuk.org/Christmas>

Keeping our children safe online

Continuing our sharing of the informative posters from #WakeUpWednesday, National Online Safety. Please take the time to read through all the tips that will help to ensure that your children are safe online.



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 of many games which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonsafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FORTNITE

CHAPTER 4

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 12

Fortnite may be something of a veteran in gaming terms (having launched back in 2017), but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 million people playing online every month. 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', which bring more subtle changes. The latest iteration, Chapter 4 Season 2, adds a cyberpunk-themed city and anime-style areas, for example, along with new weapons and characters.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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 of a certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT
Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers – of various ages. Crossplay lets friends play with and against each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, Playstation or PC – while party chat allows them to communicate during the game. This chat feature can also, therefore, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

IN-GAME COSTS
Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic skins, rare weapons and so on – which don't really impact on gameplay, but can cost quite a significant amount. These items are bought with game's currency, V-Bucks – which can be earned through playing, but are also often purchased from the game's store for real-world money.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE
At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them. That said, there's no blood or gore: the violence is generally rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood (fishing mini-games, for example). The machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like The Walking Dead to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could find your child asking questions about the creature from Alien or who Geralt from The Witcher is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

FREQUENT UPDATES
The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten 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 renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep returning to their screens.

Advice for Parents & Carers

MATCH GAMING TIMES
Younger players tend to want to play Fortnite alongside their friends. With this in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of your child's social group and trying to coordinate their gaming around certain hours of the day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help your child feel that they're getting adequate opportunity to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS
Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into splashing out on those sought-after items before they disappear again for weeks. This could potentially lead to surprise outlays on your card if your child is tempted into an impulse purchase. You could consider setting up a prepaid card for them to use – or ensuring that any online purchases require adult authorisation.

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 available as part of larger bundles) and can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS
The immense popularity of Fortnite with more trusting younger audiences means that 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 your child knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER
Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously via the same TV or computer. That's ideal for siblings or when your child's friends visit – but it also offers you an opportunity to spend time doing something fun with your child, while also being able to make sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows, you might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Olly Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GoRecon 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.

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#WakeUpWednesday

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Enjoy your weekend, only three more to go until Christmas! We look forward to seeing your children back in school on Monday.

Matt Johnson
Headteacher