

## Friday 9th May 2025

Dear Parents,

What a lovely sunny end to the week. I hope this beautiful weather continues over the weekend! Today our Year 4 children have been to HMS to take part in a 'Quad Kids' event and what a wonderful time they had!



We also had a lovely Praise Assembly today, it was wonderful to see all of the lovely photos of some of our children helping out on their family farms during the recent lambing season. 😊

### Clubs

#### Summer 1:

Monday - Multisports with Miss Barnes  
Tuesday - Chat and Relax with Miss Ord  
Wednesday - Dance with Pip  
Thursday - Cookery Club with Miss Barnes

#### Summer 2:

Monday - Multisports with Miss Barnes  
Tuesday - Chat and Relax with Miss Ord  
Wednesday - Forest School with Mr Short  
Thursday - Cookery Club with Miss Barnes

Club booking is to be done as normal through SchoolMoney.

Forest School was also a super success!  
Thank you so much Mr Short and all of the staff who helped!





This week we also had a VE80 Day celebration Buffet Lunch made by Mrs Parker which the children thoroughly enjoyed it! The Hall was also decorated beautifully by Mrs Kellett!

Rev Andrew also lead a VE80 service in the church on Tuesday which the children attended.

#### Dates for the Diary ...

**Wednesday 14th May** - Multiplication check meeting for parents (YR4) - Specific emails about this have also been sent to relevant inboxes

**Friday 16th May** - Open the Book

**Wednesday 21st May** - Dance Club Performance (Parents welcome)

**Friday 23rd May** - last day before half term holiday

**Tuesday 17th June** - Newcastle Cathedral Year 4 leavers service

**Tuesday 1st July** - Sports Day

Have a lovely weekend everyone!  
See you all on Monday

Mrs Hayward 😊



# 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 £9.99 (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 young people.

### 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.

### 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 isn't healthy, of course, 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.

### DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in 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 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.



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Sources: <https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/fortnite-crew-subscription> | <https://www.epicgames.com/help/en-US/fortnite-c75/battle-royale-c93/how-do-i-get-more-vbucks-in-battle-royale-c3274> | <https://www.epicgames.com/help/en-US/fortnite-c75/battle-royale-c93/what-is-the-battle-pass-where-can-i-learn-more-c3271> | <https://www.epicgames.com/fortnite/en-US/parental-controls>