

## Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents,

We have had another really busy week here at school and the children have been working super hard as usual! Class 2 have had the most wonderful time at Robinwood and have returned tired but very happy! Thank you so much to Mr Short and Miss Barnes for accompanying the children and looking after them so well.



We have had some beautiful weather this week and I am hoping that it continues over the weekend for you all. Next Friday we will be back to holding our Praise Assemblies again and all parents are welcome to attend at 2.55pm. (I have recently sent an email out to ask for photographs of any children who have been helping out on their farm over the holidays and we will be looking at these then 😊).

### 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.



Do you know someone who remembers the first VE Day, 8<sup>th</sup> May 1945?  
If so, please help us to try to understand what it was like during this period of time.  
Any accounts can then be shared with the rest of the school.

On Thursday next week (8<sup>th</sup> May) we will be having a VE party at lunchtime and Mrs Parker will be making a buffet party lunch - Children are welcome to come to school dressed in non-school uniform (£1 donation to go towards our school fund will be much appreciated!)

#### Dates for the Diary ...

Friday 16th May - Open the Book

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

Wednesday 21st May - Multiplication check meeting for parents (YR4)

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 Bank Holiday weekend everyone! Please don't forget that school is closed on Monday. See you all on Tuesday, bright and breezy at 8.50am!

Mrs Hayward 😊

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

CHAPTER  
3

AGE RATING

PEGI  
12

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.

### 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.

### 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.



### 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 – 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.



National  
Online  
Safety®  
#WakeUpWednesday