

St Barnabas CE Primary School Newsletter

21/04/2023



'Let your light shine'

It's been lovely to have the children back at school for the start of the summer term; as always, they have made an excellent start and I have already been extremely impressed with their determination and extremely high standards of work produced across a range of subjects. It's going to be packed with challenging learning and full of exciting trips and events. We are planning a wonderful celebration to mark the historic coronation of King Charles III, including a special service in St Barnabas Church at 9:15 on Friday 5th May – all families are welcome to join us. I will tell you all about the party plans next week...

Have a lovely weekend.

Miss Hodgkinson

LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE: HERE ARE SOME OF THE WAYS WE HAVE LET OUR LIGHT SHINE THIS WEEK...



Our Christian Value for this half term is:

'Service'

This week we pray for all those living in countries affected by war and conflict.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

Mahatma Gandhi

This week's big question is:

How many ways can you show that you care?

Eid al-Fitr

Wishing a happy and blessed Eid al-Fitr all our Muslim friends and families celebrating here around the world.



Staying Safe Online

Fortnite is one of the most popular video games and even though it has an age rating of 12+ years, it is played by younger children. As parents and carers, we need to be aware of the potential risks of the new update to Fortnite. Our guide gives hints and tips on risks such as compulsive playing, audio chat and in-game spending.

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.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about FORTNITE

CHAPTER 4 **NO 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. If you 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 longer periods of certain length – such as days out and holidays – than you might have expected.

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.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES
Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossover with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like 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 Desert from the Whitey is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT
Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers of various ages, and 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.

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 comedic 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.

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 'traveller', 'parade' or 'party'). These regular releases 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 cooping 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
Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports at GBNews and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he's also presented television and radio content on gaming. Writing mostly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published in influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.

National Online Safety #WakeUpWednesday

@nationalonlinesafety /NationalOnlineSafety @nationalonlinesafety @national_online_safety

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ST BARNABAS CHURCH

Spring Fair

Books **Jigsaws** **Gifts & Crafts** **Bric-a-brac** **Enjoy** **Poke a pot** **Cake & pies** **Refreshments** **Tambola** **I HAVE FUN !!!**

Spring Fair

Saturday 22nd April 12 PM

Our Mini Police and Science Ambassadors will be running an anti-idling campaign to reduce pollution in the local area...

Switch off when you pick up and drop off



When you pick up or drop off children at our school, sitting with your engine running causes serious air pollution.

It's a massive health hazard, and your children are more vulnerable than adults because they are still developing.

Switch off your engine!

Did you know:

- Idling is a major source of air pollution around our school
- For every minute a car idles enough harmful exhaust fumes to fill 150 balloons is sent into the air we breathe
- Idling uses up to a litre of fuel every half hour. Switch off and save money

Make a big difference
It's really easy

Poor air affects everyone but especially children. Poor air quality can seriously aggravate conditions like asthma.

But the good news is that you can do something about it. Walking, cycling or scooting to school even once a week will make a big difference.

If you must drive, why not park away from the school then walk in? Remember that leaving your engine running while stationary is illegal.

If you are dropping off near school please do so responsibly. The parking restrictions are there to help the children get to school safely and please respect our neighbours by parking considerately.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

KID FOR A QUID!

WARRINGTON WOLVES **WAKEFIELD TRINITY** **BETFRED SUPER**

FRI 5 MAY / 08:00PM

BOOK NOW AT WWW.WARRINGTONWOLVES.COM OR IN THE CLUB STORE OPEN 9AM-5PM MONDAY TO SATURDAY
*WITH A PAYING ADULT AT £5 MAXIMUM 2 £1 TICKETS PER ADULT. WEST STAND ONLY.



We are thrilled to be working in collaboration with Rock Oil and inspiring the next generation of STEM enthusiasts.



Dates for your Diary

22.4.23	12 – 3pm Spring Fair at St Barnabas Church
25.4.23	Y1 & Y5 trip to Kenyon Hall Farm
28.4.23	Y2 trip to Sky Garden Plant Safari
1.5.23	Bank holiday – school closed
2.5.23 – 26.5.23	KS1 SATS testing period
5.5.23	9:15 – Coronation Service in St Barnabas Church – families invited Coronation Celebration in school
8.5.23	Extra bank holiday for the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III – school closed
9.5.23 – 12.5.23	KS2 SATs Week
15.5.23 – 19.5.23	Christian Aid Week
15.5.23 – 17.5.23	Y6 Residential to Forest Camp Activity Centre
26.5.23	School closes for Whit Break
12.6.23	School opens
21.5.23	4pm Confirmation Service at St Andrew's Church
30.6.23	Warrington Walking Day – school closed
3.7.23 – 7.7.23	Health and Lifestyles Week
4.7.23	Sports Day
5 & 6.7.23	Y6 high school transition days
21.7.23	School closes for summer break

