

Weekly Newsletter

20th September 2024



Message from Miss Mirza

It has been an excellent start to the new school and it has been great to see all children from Nursery to Year Six settling into their new classes. Please feel free to speak to any member of school staff if you need further support with anything—our ultimate aim is for our children to be safe and happy so that they can continue to thrive in their learning.

I would like to extend a huge congratulations to the Year 5 and 6 Multi-Skills team who took first place in their competition on Tuesday. Well done to the team, Mr Catlow and Mrs Sagir—we are all extremely proud of you.

I would like to take a further opportunity to remind you of the importance of punctuality. We are fifteen days into the new year and some children already have ten late marks. It is vital that children are in school at 8:45am every morning so that they can access every single moment of learning available to them!

Miss Mirza

Dates for your Diary

Y2 Trip Lytham

26th September 2024.

Autumn 1/2 Term—

21st October—25th October

Christmas Holidays—

23rd December—3rd January

Spring 1/2 Term—

17th February—21st February

Easter Holidays—

7th April—21st April

May Day—

5th May

Summer 1/2 Term & Inset —

26th May—6th June

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
16

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

ALWAYS ONLINE

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, PlayStation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release earmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial. If someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

VOICE & TEXT CHAT

Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of choice for how those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unprompted messages from a stranger, with whom you constantly share your play space.

VIOLENCE

While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even wild animals. The violence isn't especially strong – more comparable to a cartoon or anime style – but the act alone may make some children feel uncomfortable, if they're not yet able to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engrossing, as minutes turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing real-life events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game and procrastination around responsibilities like schoolwork.

FREE TRIAL

Advice for Parents & Educators

MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They allow you discuss why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming while still letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 70. That's easily dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend so much as a penny.

PLAY TOGETHER

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it out.

REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can attack enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of GOREcon, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has previously been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/final-fantasy-14>

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Leave in Term Time

Important message for all parents. We are unable to authorise parents taking children out of school for family holidays—this includes going abroad to see family. Such leave may risk Lancashire County Council issuing a fixed penalty notice or taking legal action. Leave over 15 days or multiple periods of leave in a three year period may result in immediate legal action with no option to be issued with a fixed penalty notice

Should a fixed penalty notice be issued, each parent will be fined £160 (per child). If the fine is not paid, legal action may be taken.

If legal action is taken, you may be required to attend Court and this could result in a fine for each parent of up to £1000 per child and a Criminal Record.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

Attendance

So far, **456** children still have **100% attendance**. Keep it up and please remember how important it is to be at school unless it is completely unavoidable.

So Far This Year

1st— Butterflies 97.6%

2nd — Stars 97.4%

3rd— Bears 96.9%

Children who are new to Year 3 in September will no longer be in receipt of free school meals as the Government only provide free school meals up to the end of Year 2. If you would like your child to still have a school meal when they enter Key Stage 2, the cost will be £12.50 per week, which should be paid on parent pay

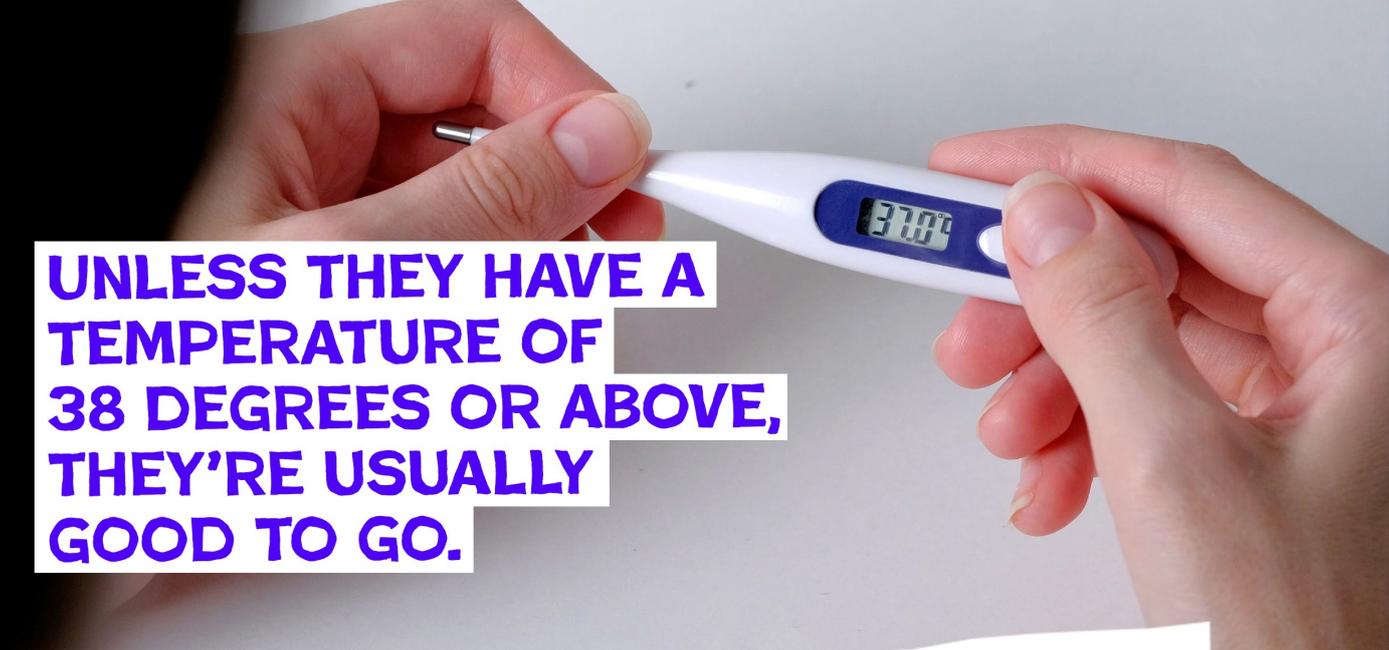
If you think, you may be entitled to free school meals you will need to fill online

application form on LCC website [CLICK HERE](#). Thank you.



**IF YOUR CHILD IS
FEELING UNDER
THE WEATHER,**

**IT CAN BE HARD
TO KNOW IF YOU
SHOULD SEND
THEM TO SCHOOL
OR NOT.**



**UNLESS THEY HAVE A
TEMPERATURE OF
38 DEGREES OR ABOVE,
THEY'RE USUALLY
GOOD TO GO.**

**SEARCH NHS SCHOOL
ILLNESS GUIDANCE.**



HM Government



**MOMENTS
MATTER,**

**ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

“From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child.”

