



# Newsletter Friday 1st November 2024

Genesis 28:12

Jacob had a dream. He dreamed there was a ladder that was on the ground and reached up into heaven. He saw the angels of God going up and down the ladder.

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach Remembrance Day, we encourage all children to learn about its history and significance. Poppies and other Remembrance merchandise will be available for purchase at school. The money raised will go to The Royal British Legion with supporting our armed forces community, including veterans and their families. Here are some useful links so you can explore 11th November together.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/live-lessons/articles/zd3bqp3>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15492752>

Bonfire Night is fast approaching! While it's a fun and exciting time for many, it's crucial to remember safety first. Please ensure that fireworks are only purchased from reputable retailers and used responsibly, following the instructions carefully. If you're attending a public display, be aware of your surroundings and keep a safe distance. Let's make this Bonfire Night a memorable one, filled with joy and safety.

As many of you know, Mrs Hollas has recently been unwell. We are all wishing her a speedy recovery. To support her during this time, we have set up a collection for her. Any donations, no matter how small, or cards will be greatly appreciated.

We are delighted to share that our school recently underwent a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. We are thrilled to announce that the school was judged to be **J1**. *Through its vision and practice, the school is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish.* This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication of our staff, pupils, and parents. Here are some of the comments that the inspector made in the report.

*Great Marsden St John's lives out a Christian vision that requires a love of God, of each child and each other. This stems from the biblical instruction to be 'rooted and grounded in love.' By doing all things in love, and through their Christian values, the school is enabling the development of each child's unique gifts.*

*The culture of the school is one of inclusion and welcome.*

*Pupils say that 'teachers are brilliant at helping' and 'there is always someone to talk to if needed.'*

*Pupils receive a broad and vibrant curriculum that is enriched by visits, visitors and resources. As a result, their viewpoint is widened.*

*Collective worship provides a time of togetherness. There is a daily pattern which gives pupils a sense of security and familiarity. They talk about the importance of being able to just 'have God in my head' at this time.*

Take Care,

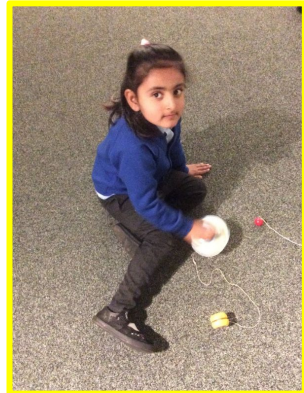
Mrs M Underwood



# Blackburn Toy Museum



# Year 1



### This weeks Medal Winners are:

Ethan - Year 1 - for remarkable recount writing  
Charlotte L - Year 3 - for fabulous exchanging within maths

### Friends Annual General Meeting

The postponed Friends AGM will be held on Thursday 14th November at 5.30pm in school. All are welcome to attend.

### Poppy Appeal

From Monday 4th November, Poppies will be available for purchase in your child's classroom daily. Please send your child in with a donation if they would like to buy a poppy.



### Christmas Menu

It is that time of year again where we start thinking about all things Festive. Our kitchen staff are planning to hold our School Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 11th December. A letter will be sent home today for students to choose their meals for this day. All food choices will need to be pre-selected in order for the kitchen to order the right quantities. Can we please ask for everyone to return the letter before Tuesday 3rd December. As this is a special menu Parentpay choices will not reflect the correct options for the day, please therefore ensure you select any option on Parentpay, and return the paper form with your meal choice on. (A copy of the letter is attached)

### Year 6 Parents & Carers

We want to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude for your proactive approach in applying for secondary school places for your child. Your timely efforts in meeting the application deadline are greatly appreciated. We hope that your child is offered a place at their preferred school.

### Interfaith week - Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 12th November - Year 3 - Gujarat Hindu Society Preston

Wednesday 13th November - Year 1 & 2 - Muhammadi Masjid Nelson

Wednesday 13th November - Year 6 - Manchester Gurdwara

Friday 15th November - Year 4 & 5 - Manchester Jewish Museum



# GMSJ Celebration Page

Remember to let your class teacher know if you have had any AMAZING achievements outside of school. We would love for you to bring in your awards so that we can celebrate with you.



Awarded to Camila for Dancing



Awarded to Tobie for completing  
Maths Activities at Home





# Great Marsden St John's Primary School

Church of England Academy

Headteacher  
Mrs M Underwood  
BA Hons | QTS | NPQH

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Dear Parents/Carers,

## Christmas Dinner Wednesday 11th December

Our school kitchen team will be preparing our delicious Christmas Dinner on Wednesday 11th December this year. In order to ensure we can cater for everyone's requirements, could we please ask all parents to complete and return the below form with your chosen meal.

**THIS NEEDS RETURNING BEFORE 3rd DECEMBER** in order for the kitchen to order the food in time.

Any food not pre-ordered before this date will not be guaranteed and could mean children receive Jacket Potatoes or Pasta on the day. Payment is to be made as normal on Parentpay. The choices on Parentpay will not reflect the choices for that day so please select any of the options on Parentpay for this date and children will be given your selected choice as chosen below.

Thank you in advance,

The Office Team

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Please return to the office by Tuesday 3rd December. (Normal Lunch fees apply via Parentpay)

Childs Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my child to receive:

- Festive Roast Chicken Dinner (Halal)
- Quorn Roast Fillet
- Jacket Potato
- Tomato Pasta
- I will provide my child with a Packed Lunch

**FOOD  
FESTIVAL**  
By Aspen

# FESTIVE FUN

Christmas Dinner  
Wednesday 11th Decemeber

Festive Roast chicken Dinner  
Or  
Quorn Roast fillet

Served with Roast potatoes, Carrots, Peas & Sprouts  
stuffing balls and Chipolata sausages

Bonfires jackets various fillings

Festive dessert

Please pre order for the 4th dec 2024 🍷



# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

# FORTNITE



## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 850 million active players. 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'.

## 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 – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

## IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

## POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

## CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, 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 from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. 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 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

### SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

### 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 £3 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

### BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means 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 any young player knows this.

### ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making 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 site GGRecon 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 ION and TechRadar.

