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WHITEHAVEN
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6 December 2024

Sample Parent

Sample Student (Year 1, Samples)

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News Update 6th December 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Christmas is in the air! This year naughty elves seem to have made their way into various classes and are causing mischief - especially in 6H where there are 7 of them! I have spoken to some of you who have started this as a tradition at home! I hope you are enjoying the mayhem they can cause! Here are a few reminders and notices for the week ahead:

Christmas Cards – Post-box in school – Our Christmas post-box has returned for the festive season. If your child would like to write and give cards, they can post them in our school post-box outside my office. The post box will be in operation with cards being delivered each day. Please make sure children write names and classes on the envelopes.

Christmas Dinner Day and Jumper Day - Friday 13 December 2024

We will again be supporting Hospice at Home on Friday 13th December 2024 by asking children to wear their Christmas Jumpers to school. **If you would like to** make a donation for this great cause, please send your donation into school with your child.

Parents Evenings January wk beginning 13th Jan 2025 – A heads up and date for the new year. Our parents evenings will take place on the 15th and 16thth Jan 2025. Booking for these meetings will open during the last week of term.

A message from the Police Fraud and Protection Team (Serious and Organised Crime Unit) *With Christmas coming up and people doing more online shopping, we thought it would be a good opportunity to share some tips to do this more safely. Please see the attached leaflet*

Arbor - School Management Information System - Parent Portal: Our school has recently transitioned to a new Management Information System (MIS) called **Arbor**, where we securely store all student details, including parent contact information, consents, attendance, and more.

After Christmas, we will be launching the **Arbor Parent Portal**. This platform will allow primary parents and guardians to:

- View and update your contact information.
- Check your child's attendance data.
- Manage consents and other key details.

It is really important that all primary parents and guardians connect to the new Arbor Parent Portal – please keep an eye out for more information after Christmas on how to log in! Thank you for your cooperation!

St. John's Church, Hensingham - Free Festival Family Fun Day: Please see attached poster for Festival Family Fun, crafts, food and games for the whole family - all free.

Key stage 2 Christmas performances- Children will be walking to St. John's Church next week on the day of their performance. Please ensure children have a coat and are suitably dressed given our wonderful Cumbrian weather! If you are not attending your child's performance at the church, please make sure that you arrange collection promptly for the end of the performance. Most performance will finish by 4:30-4:40 p.m.

PHOTOS FOR PERFORMANCE- As always please do not take photographs during our Christmas performances or share images on any social media. During rehearsals etc we will take photographs to share on our face book page ensuring any children who do not have permissions are protected.

Golden Work: Our Golden Work superstars of the week:

Georgie and Isla from year 4 for superb adventure story planning, drafting and editing!

Jonah in y1 for his super instructional writing

Rainey and Phoebe in year 1 for their super use of ICT in art

Online Safety: Over the years, Fortnite has become a household name in the gaming community. It was one of the first titles in the 'battle royale' subgenre, where players are thrown into a chaotic free-for-all on a sprawling map and fight until only one remains. Its cartoonish presentation and satisfying gameplay loop make it a potentially attractive choice for young players. However, it's important to remember that online safety risks are always present – especially in multiplayer games – and Fortnite is no exception. This guide, put together with expert input, tells you all you need to know about the safety concerns of this popular title and offers advice on how to protect children and young people as they enjoy the game.

Looking ahead: Autumn 2 dates

13th Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day

School closes for Christmas 20th Dec at 1:30 p.m.

Spring Term Dates

School reopens for the Spring Term on Tuesday 7th January. Breakfast Club will be open on this day.

15th and 16th January 2025 - Parents Meeting in school.

Christmas Performances Key Stage 1 and Early Years:

Wednesday 11th December: *Year 1* Christmas Performance - parents are to attend at 2:30 p.m.

Thursday 12th December: *Year 2* Christmas Performance - parents are to attend at 2:30 p.m.

Friday 13th December: *Reception* Christmas Performance - parents are to attend at 2:30 p.m.

Christmas Performances Key Stage 2 at St. John's Church for Christmas

Monday 9th December: ***Year 3* Christmas Performance - parents are to attend at 4:00 p.m.**

Tuesday 10th December: ***Year 4* Christmas Performance - parents are to attend at 4:00 p.m.**

Wednesday 11th December: **Year 5** Christmas Performance - **parents are to attend at 4:00 p.m.**

Thursday 12th December: **Year 6** Christmas Performance - **parents are to attend at 4:00 p.m.**

(Children are to be collected after the performances at the church)

ONLINE FRAUD

Students and parents - are you shopping online for Christmas presents? Follow some simple tips to stay free of fraud this festive season.

Don't pay by transferring money directly to people or companies you don't know.
You may lose it if it's a scam. If you can, pay by credit card.

Check a website is authentic.

Carefully check the address is spelled correctly. Type it in rather than clicking on a link. Check consumer websites or reviews.

Make sure your shopping, online and banking payment accounts are protected by strong passwords.

Don't use them for any other account.

Be suspicious about unrealistically low-cost items.

If it seems too good to be true – it probably is.

Don't click on links in emails, texts or posts that you're not expecting.

They could be a fraudster's trap - and don't open unexpected email attachments.

Make sure payment pages are secure.

Check addresses begin with 'https' ('s' is for secure) and there's a closed padlock in the address bar.

Fraudulent texts and emails claiming to be from home delivery companies telling you that you owe a fee are commonplace.

Keep a record if you can of what you buy and which delivery firm the retailer is using.

St John's Church, Hensingham

presents

CHRISTMAS UNWRAPPED!

Crafts, food
and games
for the
whole
family

*Everything
free!*



Puppet Show

*Come and enjoy an afternoon of fun
and share in the spirit of Christmas!*

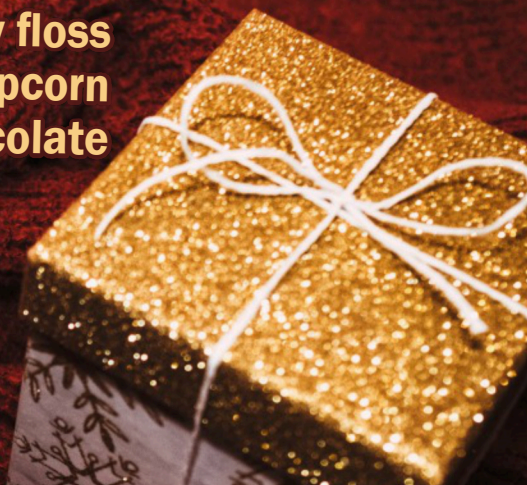
**Sat 7th December
2.00-4.30pm**

St John's Church hall

Bouncy Castle



**Candy floss
Popcorn
Hot chocolate**



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 650 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 £8 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 IGN and TechRadar.

