



Friday 15th November 2024

Principal's Messages:

This week's awards

Well done to Jon-Michael Belcon who was nominated for Principal's Award this week by Mrs Speake for working hard in Y2. Catherine Robishaw was also nominated by Miss Proudman for using strategies well to make good choices. Blake Bratherton was nominated by Mrs McDonough for being kind and checking on others. This week's 'Stronger Together' awards went to 1L and 5F for excellent examples of working hard and being kind.



Robinwood

Our Y6 pupils have had a fantastic 3 days at Robinwood, which is an outdoor adventure centre on the outskirts of Wrexham. They have taken part in activities that test their resilience such as trapeze, high ropes and climbing. They have tested out their team skills and communication in 'crystal maze-type challenges such as Knight's Quest, Dungeon of Doom and Piranha Pool and challenged themselves to take part in something new to them such as canoeing, archery and zip lining.



I have had the privilege of accompanying them on the trip and I can honestly say that I am so proud of each and every one of them for how hard they have tried to give their all to the activities. Their manners have been exceptional and their exemplary behaviour has been commented on by many of the centre staff members. Robinwood will certainly be a trip that they look back on as adults with fond memories. Well done to you all and thank you to Mrs Hargreaves, Mr Broad and Mr Emes for giving up time with your own families to give this opportunity to our children.



Dodgeball Festival

Well done to our Y5 and 6 Dodgeball team who attended a festival at Shavington Academy on Tuesday. They played in 18 games which is 6 matches and won every match. Mr Emes reported a great attitude and manners from all players. Well done!

Outdoor Play Equipment

Please can we request that parents do not allow children to play on the play equipment on the playgrounds each morning and afternoon and that families move off the playground as soon as children have been seen out at the end of the day. This is causing an issue with supervision, first aid incidents and closure of the gates. We will ensure that the message is also coming from class teachers so that parents are not seen as the 'bad guys' and children will be reminded that the equipment is for use at playtimes and lunchtimes only. Please could all parents support with this.

Dates for your diary

- Friday 22nd November - Academy Photography in school to take individual and sibling group photographs from 8.00am. Full school uniform please.
- Friday 6th December - Christmas Fayre
- Friday 20th December - School closes for Christmas break

Have a lovely weekend,
Mrs Thompson

PENALTY NOTICE FINES FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE ARE CHANGING !

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into force on 19 August 2024.

Penalty Notices will be issued for

Term time leave: Penalty Notice fines will be issued for term time leave of 5 or more consecutive days.

10 Sessions of Unauthorised absence in a rolling 10 week period: A Penalty Notices may be considered when there have been 10 sessions of unauthorised absences in a 10 week period.

However, we retain the discretion to issue a Penalty Notice before the threshold is met. For example, where parents are deliberately avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below the above thresholds.

Per Parent/Per Child

Penalty Notice fines will continue to be issued per parent per child. For example: 3 siblings absent for term time leave, would result in each parent receiving 3 separate fines.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for term time leave or irregular school attendance the fine will be charged at:

£160 per parent, per child if paid within 28 days of the issue, reducing to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

(Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Second Offence

Where it is deemed appropriate to issue a second penalty notice to the same parent for the same pupil within 3 years of the first penalty notice, for either term time leave or irregular attendance the second penalty notice will be charged at:

£160 if paid within 28 days. (Unpaid penalty notices may result in a parental prosecution)

Third Offence

On the third time that an offence is committed within 3 years of the first penalty notice for either a term time leave or irregular attendance a penalty notice will not be issued. The case may proceed to Parental Prosecution under the Single Justice Procedure. If found guilty of the offence of 'Failure to send a child to school' the Magistrates can impose a fine up to £1000 or legal proceedings under Section 444 (1a) can include a fine of up to £2500.



Cheshire East

TOGETHER for Children and Young People

Together we will make Cheshire East a great place to be young

School Meals

If your child is not entitled to a free school meal, please log onto their Arbor account to pay for their meal in advance of their order.



School meals are £2.35 per day

**** ADVANCED WARNING - FROM MONDAY 6TH JANUARY 2025, SCHOOL MEALS WILL BE CHARGED AT £2.45 ****

| Week 3 | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Red Option | Margherita Pizza with Baked Potato Wedges | Homemade Lasagne with Garlic Bread | Roast Chicken with Creamy Mash Potato & Gravy | BBQ Chicken with Diced Potatoes | All Day Breakfast |
| Yellow Option | Vegetable Tik-ka Masala with 50/50 Rice | Vegetarian Chilli with 50/50 Rice | Vegan Sausage with Mash Potato & Gravy | Vegetarian Pasta Bake | Quorn Nuggets with Fries |
| Green Option | Jacket Potato | Jacket Potato | Jacket Potato | Jacket Potato | Jacket Potato |
| Orange Option | Sandwich Selection | Sandwich Selection | Sandwich Selection | Sandwich Selection | Sandwich Selection |
| Desserts | Marble Sponge | Jam & Coconut Sponge & Custard | Lemon Cake | Syrup Sponge | Ice Cream |
| | Fresh fruit or yoghurt | Fresh fruit or yoghurt | Fresh fruit or yoghurt | Fresh fruit or yoghurt | Fresh fruit or yoghurt |
| Seasonal Vegetables and Salad Bar | | | | | |

Attendance Matters

Here are our attendance figures for this week



| | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Our school target: | 96% | |
| Overall school attendance this week: | 96.28% | |
| Overall school attendance this year: | 94.2% | |
| RB – 95.19% | 2S – 97.04% | 5F – 98.57% |
| RD – 95.24% | 3J – 95.02% | 5S – 94.62% |
| 1J – 97.1% | 3P – 94.62% | 6E – 95.93% |
| 1L – 94.88% | 4S – 98.99% | 6H – 93.33% |
| 2P – 99.63% ★ | 4W – 96.49% | |

For more information regarding attendance and punctuality; including term time absences and our policies, please see our webpage:

<http://www.leightonacademy.com>

Open Evening

for Reception Class 2025

Join us on Thursday 21st November
5pm - 6.30pm



- Meet the Principal, Mrs Thompson
- Tour our classrooms and outdoor play areas
- Discover how we excel in sport
- Learn why we are a 'Good' school*

*Ofsted, Feb 2023



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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.

