

# St Bede's Newsletter

Welcome to St Bede's...



Attendance up to 03/12/24

Y1	Y1/2	Y2	Y3	Y3/4	Y4	Y5	Y5/6	Y6
95.51	93.81	96.34	95.34	97.96	93.3	96.31	94.34	96.81

Coming soon...

**Tuesday 10th Dec**  
UKS2 Christmas Performance  
10am & 2pm

**Wednesday 11th Dec**  
LKS2 Christmas Performance  
10am & 2pm

**Thursday 12th Dec**  
KS1 Christmas Performance  
10am & 2pm

**Friday 13th Dec**  
EYFS Christmas Performance  
10am & 2pm

## This Week's Events

### Wednesday 4th Dec

- ~~Y6 Miss Howard's care home visit - to be rescheduled~~
- Reception 2025 Open Event 4-5pm

### Thursday 5th Dec

- Reception Care Home Visit 10am
- Inclusion Ice Festival

**Friday 6th Dec**  
Santa Dash

Check out our new  
DT & Computing  
Newsletters

<https://stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/curriculum/subjects>



Don't forget you can view our school calendar on our website  
<https://stbedesdarlington.bhcet.org.uk/school-calendar>

# Our Safeguarding Focus This Week...

## What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# FORTNITE

CHAPTER  
**4**

AGE 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: 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 of a 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 crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like *The 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 Geralt from *The Witcher* is a little sooner than you'd possibly anticipated.

#### CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with vast numbers of gamers – of various ages. 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 comical 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 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals 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 coaxing 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

Uyvi Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site DGBacon 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 iDm and TechRadar.



National  
Online  
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

# FAIRTRADE Tuck Shop



Year 4 have been finding out more about the work of Fairtrade.

This week, they held a Fairtrade Tuckshop to raise awareness across the school and to make a donation to Fairtrade. Thank-you for all your support!



# Ofsted

This week we welcome OFSTED into school to inspect and report on our provision. We would be grateful to all parents/carers if you could please take 5 minutes to fill in your parent views

[OFSTED Parent Views](#)



*We need **parent helpers** to walk with the children on the Care Home visits. If you are able to volunteer please contact the school office*

# Christmas Performances



We are excited for parents to join us in school next week for our wonderful Christmas Performances. Due to limitations on space we would request that no more than 4 guests attend per performance per child.

**UKS2 Tuesday 10th Dec 10am & 2pm, LKS2 Wednesday 11th Dec 10am & 2pm ,  
KS1 Thursday 12th Dec 10am & 2pm, EYFS Friday 13th Dec 10am & 2pm**



**ST. BEDE'S OPEN EVENT**  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December - 4pm to 5pm

## Why come to our open event?

- ✓ Discover our nurturing environment
- ✓ Meet our dedicated staff
- ✓ Explore our classrooms and outdoor areas
- ✓ Learn about our exciting curriculum
- ✓ Experience our caring school community

St. Bede's Catholic Primary School  
Kingsway, Darlington, DL1 3ES



**St Bede's  
Santa Dash  
6<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

All across the country, children are taking part in the 2024 Santa Dash

Children at St Bede's are invited to dress up as Santa or in Christmas colours to take part in a very special Daily Mile. A suggested donation of £1 is available on MCAS.

Money raised will go towards improving our playtime provision



## Wraparound Care

We are delighted to announce that following the success of our pilot, we will be extending our wraparound provision to 5.45pm from January onwards.

We are looking to recruit a member of wraparound support staff. If this is of interest please apply [here](#)