

Dear Parents and Carers

How wonderful — if a little long — this half term has been! The children have all made such great progress and are now settled and confident in their new classes. We've managed to fit so much in, and it was lovely to hear from our Year 3 pupils this morning — we were wowed by all they've learned in science and French!

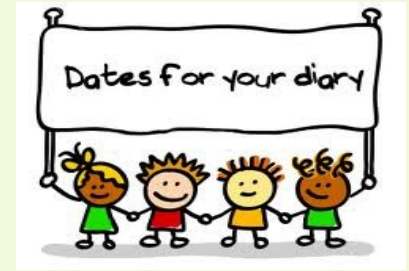
Parents' Evening this week was a fantastic opportunity to catch up face to face and to celebrate each child's achievements. I'm looking forward to continuing our partnership to ensure that every child has the opportunity to shine.

Next term promises to be just as busy, and I always look forward to the beautiful season of Advent and all that Christmas brings to our school. A little heads-up — we're having a Christmas Fair with a difference this year! Front and centre will be our very first ***St Peter's Christmas Bake Off***. Each class will have a prize, and you and your family are invited to create cakes and bakes with a Christmas theme. So, ignite your inner Mary Berry, Jamie Oliver, or Nigella — and have a go! All funds raised will go to the PTFA to support those extras that the budget can't quite stretch to, but which make our school such a special place to be.

Please do take a moment to complete the voting forms that have been sent home today (after my little mix-up packaging all those envelopes with the wrong form — I really do need a break!).

Have a restful half term, and we'll see you back at school on **Tuesday, 4th November**.

God Bless,
Mrs G-R



NOVEMBER

Mon 3 Inset day—closed to pupils

Tue 4 Return to school

Mon 10 Year 2 Class Mass 11am

Fri 14 Year 4 Worship—9.05am

Sat 15 Choir performing Art Centre
12:30pm

Mon 17 Year 1 Class Mass 11am

Mon 17 Dance Festival

Fri 21 Year 5 Worship—9.05am

Mon 24 Year 4 Class Mass 11am

Fri 28 Year 6 Worship—9.05am

DECEMBER

Thur 4 Own Clothes Day

Fri 5 Panto Day at Lowther AM

Fri 5 PTFA Bake Sale after school

Tue 9 Reception Nativity 9:10am &
6pm

Thu 11 Y1/2 Nativity 9.10am & 6pm

Fri 12 Rock Steady Concert 10am

Thu 18 Reception Vision Test

Fri 19 School closes 2pm (NO ARK)

SCHOOL LIFE

Should My Child Stay Off School?

As we move into the colder months, it's common for children to pick up seasonal illnesses. Deciding whether your child should stay home from school can sometimes be tricky. To help parents make informed decisions, the NHS has clear guidance on when children should be kept off school and when it's safe for them to attend. Following this advice helps protect other pupils and staff, while also ensuring children don't miss more school than necessary. You can read the full NHS advice here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Year Group	Class Assembly/ Worship	Year Group	Class Mass
Year 2-	17th October	Year 3-	September 15th
Year 3 -	24th October	Year 5 -	September 22nd
Year 4 -	14th November	Year 6 and Reception -	October 6th
Year 5-	21st November	Year 2-	November 10th
Year 6 -	28th November	Year 1-	November 17th
Year 1-	9th January	Year 4 -	November 24th
Reception-	16th January		

Class Worships and Class Masses

We are pleased to share the upcoming dates for our Class Worships, which take place on **Fridays** at **9:05am** (**see dates below**). Each year group will take turns to lead the worship – a wonderful way to end the week by celebrating our achievements and giving thanks. Parents are warmly invited to join us in school for these special moments.



In addition, each class will also take part in a Class Mass, which they help to prepare and lead. These are held at **11:00am** on the designated date (**see dates below**), and we would be delighted to welcome you into school to share in this important part of our faith journey.

School lunches

Please order lunches via Scopay—w.c. 3rd November—NEW AUTUMN/WINTER MENU

Week 1, please see menu [HERE](#)

THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

We have a themed Bonfire Night Menu

Please choose off menu below

FREE SCHOOL MEALS INFORMATION

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals. However, some families who are on low income and meet a certain criteria, are also eligible for supermarket shopping vouchers during school holidays and free holiday club places. Eligible families will continue to receive free school meals after Year 2.

Some families with children in Key Stage 1 do not claim as they are already getting free school meals, however they are missing out on the other benefits so please double check.

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/schools/free-school-meals/?page=1>



**BONFIRE
NIGHT**

5th November

**Fawkes
Fire Cracking
Hot Dog
&
Tomato Ketchup
or
Catherine Wheel Pizza
served with
Smokey Ridge Fries
Sweetcorn
or
Baked Beans
~
Sparkler Cupcake**

**Lancashire
County
Council**

**LANCASHIRE
CATERING SERVICE**



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

OCTOBER HALF TERM CAMP

27TH OCTOBER - 31ST OCTOBER 2025

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What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI 12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

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. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or 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 – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

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 mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like The Witcher and Halo.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to 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 put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like Power Rangers and Avatar: The Last Airbender, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

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.

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 to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

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.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.



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