

We all Shine!

Take a look at this week's superstars, who were awarded certificates in assembly.
Congratulations!



TELL A GOOD TALE



For letting me join in his game

SHOUT OUTS

Each week children can nominate each other for a 'shout out' for displaying our core values.

Well done:

Amir, Roihanna, Al, Adriya, Tnok, Eloida, Sky, Renaya, and Sheerin



Thank you to all the Year 6 Parents who came along to our Workshop on Thursday to find out more about the Year 6 tests and assessments.

If you were not able to attend please speak to Mr Kinneir for more information.

STEM QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What would the world be like without a sense of smell?



READING RAFFLE

Congratulations to Samuel for winning our raffle this week.
Enjoy your book!



Spring Fair

As you know we will be holding our Spring Fair on Tuesday 31st March.

Each class will have a stall and will be aiming to make as much profit as possible.

The Nursery will be having a tombola and are looking for donations of prizes for their stall, so if you have any suitable items, please send them in!

Please look out for more requests for donations over the next few weeks!

Many thanks!

LATEST NHS ADVICE FOR CORONA VIRUS

Stay at home if you have coronavirus symptoms

Stay at home for 7 days if you have either:

a high temperature (above 37.5)
a new, continuous cough

Do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital.

Telephone school to inform us of the absence.



ATTENDANCE

Our whole school target for attendance is 96%,

Year 1	93.9%
Year 2	97.3%
Year 3	97.6%
Year 4	98.3%
Year 4/5	95.3%
Year 5	93.2%
Year 6	95.4%

Congratulations to Green Class (Y4) for the best attendance last week!

Trips, Visits and Swimming

At the moment the Department of Education advises that school visits and trips should carry on as normal.

They also advised us that swimming is not a high risk activity, that children should continue to take part in curriculum activities. In fact the chlorine in the pool should kill any viruses.

Of course we will continue to follow all the updates and let you know any changes to the guidance.

This week Green and Turquoise Class went to Tate Britain, as a follow up to their Year 3 project last year.



Key Dates

Spring Term

Tuesday 31st March-Spring Fair

TERM DATES 2019-20 :

Spring Term:

Tuesday 7th January– Friday 14th February

HALF TERM: 17th– 21st February

Monday 24th February– Friday 3rd April

Summer Term:

Tuesday 21st April– Friday 22nd May

HALF TERM: 25th—29th May

Monday 1st June– Friday 17th July

Parent Workshops this Half Term 9am-9:45am

We look forward to seeing you there!

Date	Workshop	Led By
18.3.20	Crafts	Miss Shanaz
25.3.20	Year 1 Phonics	Miss Mulhern

E-safety

Each week we will be sharing an internet safety guide with you. This week it is about 'Fortnite Battle Royale'. See the information on the final page.



There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.



What parents need to know about

FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE



BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar setup. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.



IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction is up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time played and a preoccupation with thoughts of the next gaming session. Realistically, it must be down to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.



FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?

While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying) it does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called 'V-Bucks' and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bucks can be earned in-game with enough play time.



SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to everybody and don't require additional money to play, though battle passes for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will typically allow a player to earn experience faster and gain fun in-game items by completing a host of daily challenges.



CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform. To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account. Doing this removes the age-old boundary of not being able to play together because you don't have the same console and opens up a whole new world of playing online with friends.



IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as teen, as it contains cartoon violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit will want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.



Top Tips For Parents



BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card information afterwards as it can be very easy to purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion would be capping the spending at around £50 - this is the normal retail price of a game.



GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into their groups in a game. It's difficult to predict what another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good idea for friends playing together, to be grouped together. The only real countermeasure to interacting with strangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic communications, which can be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who you're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.



LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so be flexible when it's time to put it away. The approach of 'one more game' as opposed to '10 more minutes' will stop any complaints that a match is still ongoing. Better still, play with your child and take it in turns; that way you're helping control the time played and can keep an eye on what they're experiencing.



TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. If you approach as a collective, it will be easier to know when their friends are online and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help curb expectations on spending money on battle passes and skins if you stick together.



CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS

It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, quick and complex problem solving and communication; that's not to mention the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, there are benefits to screen time which might not be immediately obvious.



PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF

There's no substitute for sitting down and playing the game yourself to learn all about it. Fortnite is available for free on almost anything you can imagine, even your smartphone, so there's never been a better time to get involved and see what all the fuss is about. You never know, you might even be able to impress your children when you show them your impressive Victory Royale tally!

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBIBLE. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.

