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Newsletter 16 – 7th January 2022

Dear Parent/s,

Welcome back, I trust you all had a good break! The children have settled back into school seamlessly and many have enjoyed starting their new themes with a WOW Day!

Attendance:

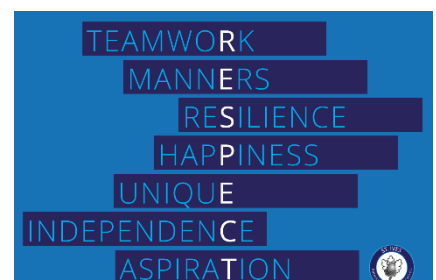
A gentle reminder that attendance in school is mandatory. The school is seeing an increase in absence due to holidays. This could result in you receiving a penalty notice from the local authority. Good attendance enables your child to not only succeed in school but also develops good habits for future life, employment and their mental health.

Class News

- Nursery - have been learning through the story of Little Red Riding Hood, searching for the Wolf, making flapjack and Get Well cards for Grandma
- YR - have been focusing on numbers 6 and 7 exploring the composition of each number
- Y1 - have enjoyed their new theme and creating their Water Colour lions
- Y2 - have had an amazing time being Super Heroes
- Y3 - have had an amazing WOW day celebrating their new theme 'Heroes and Villain's'!
- Y4 - have worked really hard on writing their own newspaper recounts
- Y5 - have had a busy week and been very creative with water Colours
- Y6 - have been busy making and excavating fossils for their WOW day

Value of the week: Resilience

We have been looking at the school value 'Resilience' this week and debating if more learning should be done outdoors. We have introduced our 'St Ives Bug Hotel' this week and the children have thoroughly enjoyed developing this to encourage bugs and birds to attend!



PE Days

For the new Spring Term there will be a change to PE Days. Please note the **NEW PE Days**:

- YR – Tuesday & Friday
Y1 – Thursday & Friday
Y2 – Tuesday & Friday
Y3 – Tuesday & Friday
Y4 – Thursday & Friday
Y5 – Monday & Friday
Y6 – Monday & Friday

Covid-19

Case numbers in school, amongst staff and children remain low, however further to my letter, guidance has changed again! From 11th January 2022 if you receive a positive LFD test you are required to isolate immediately and not have a PCR.

Measures in place:

- Ventilation – in school will be monitored and we are using CO2 monitors as an indicator of where ventilation needs to be increased. Children may wish to wear a base layer under their school uniform to keep warm.
- Classrooms are sanitised regularly throughout the day
- Daytime enhanced cleaning of common touch points such as doors, light switches etc.

Internet Safety

There have so far been 19 'seasons' of Fortnite, spread across three iterations (called 'chapters') in its four years on the market. The developers' gimmick in more recent chapters has been to incorporate popular characters from other franchises – including Marvel and Star Wars – further boosting Fortnite's appeal to younger audiences. If you have a young Fortnite fan in your family, this week's guide will help you keep them safe when they play.

School Starters 2022

Apply online : Dorset residents @ www.dorsetforyou.com/school-admissions or call 01305 221060.
Hampshire residents @ <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/admissions.htm>

Closing Date Starting school applications is: 15th January 2022.

Dates for Diary

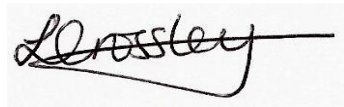
W/C 17th January – Teacher Led Clubs Start – further information will be sent out early next week.

18th and 19th January – Mini Medics

4th February – NSPCC Number Day

21st – 25th February - Half Term Holiday

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Crossley
Headteacher



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
3

AGGREGATING
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First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision, however, this can be a great lesson in money management for young people.

TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours isn't healthy, of course, but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

Meet Our Expert

Chris Cobain (aka Lunawox) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2016, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawox Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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