



Dear Families,

We have arrived back after half term with a bang! It has been wonderful to see the children return with such enthusiasm and energy for learning.

It was lovely to hear some of our pupils share their family events from the half term break, particularly those who celebrated Diwali. We shared this important Hindu festival in our assembly on Monday, learning about its traditions and message of light over darkness. We also reminded the children about how to keep themselves safe when attending any firework events.

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed their Big Bang Days! The school was filled with Egyptians, climate warriors, superheroes, and WWII evacuees, what an amazing sight! These days provided a fantastic hook into their new topics and have already inspired lots of great home learning.

On Wednesday, our school transformed into The School of Rock as we welcomed back Rock Kidz!

Their workshops were full of music, energy, and positive messages. The focus this time linked perfectly with our school value for the half term, Kindness. It was another brilliant event enjoyed by all.

Next week promises to be another fun-filled week of learning and community events.

- On Tuesday, our Year 5 House Champions will attend St Augustine's Church for the Final Post service. They will lay a poppy wreath on behalf of our school community.
- On Wednesday, we will celebrate Positive Noticing Day. A lovely opportunity to recognise and appreciate acts of kindness shown by others.
- On Thursday, Miss Gray will be delivering two Phonics Workshops: one for Reception parents and another for Year 1 parents. We hope many of you will be able to join us.
- On Friday, we will be supporting Children in Need Day. Please refer to the information shared earlier for details about the day's activities. In the afternoon, we are inviting our Year 6 parents and carers to attend a SATs Information Workshop to learn more about what to expect. We hope to see you there.

Finally, I would like to thank our school community for your understanding regarding the school closure on Thursday. It was a deeply emotional day as we came together to celebrate the wonderful life of our dearest friend and colleague, Jane Percival. Thank you to everyone who checked in with staff, your kindness and support mean a great deal to us all.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ferla and the PWP Team



Upcoming Events



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
10th	11th	12th	Open day - Reception & Nursery	13th
			Phonics Workshop - Reception / Year 1	14th
				Y6 Parents SATs meeting Children In Need

ELSIE



Elsie had so much fun at Rock Kidz.



ATTENDANCE

Current Attendance- 95.6%

Nursery AM- 97.3%

Nursery PM - 90%

Lime - 100%

Poplar - 93.1%

Bay - 93.3%

H/Chestnut - 91.5%

Bamboo - 97%

Box - 95.3%

Ash - 97.5%

Cypress- 93.68%

Acacia- 90.4%

Palm- 97.4%

Holly - 95.9%

Myrtle - 97.9%

Eucalyptus - 97.9%

Willow - 96.7%

Green=met the minimum attendance rate



Year 6 Parents SATs Meeting

Friday 14th November 2.45-3.15pm



WELL DONE!



Class	Peareswood Champion
Nursery AM/PM	Nhadira/Colin
Lime	Violet
Poplar	Izzy
H/Chestnut	Carter
Bay	Ofeori
Bamboo	Ryan
Box	Roni-Rose
Cypress	Marcelo
Ash	Jasleen
Acacia	Irissa
Palm	Frankie
Holly	Thomas
Myrtle	Ahan
Willow	Viyan
Eucalyptus	Paisley



SCHOOL VALUES

The focus value this term is Kindness.

All children in Reception to Year 6 had an amazing time with Rock Kids who had a focus of kindness. They spent the day learning about how they show kindness and what kindness means.



Kindness



FORTNITE

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 – 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 Solomon 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.

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'.



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 new 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 refreshes 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

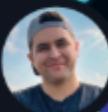
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – they are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they 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 @Recon 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.



The National College

#WakeUp Wednesday