



# NEWSLETTER



'Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which shows itself in action'. (1 John 3:18)

SPRING 1 : Issue 4

28th January, 2022

Namaste!

We have had a great week here at school, learning lots and having fun in all areas of the curriculum.

Deene have been so excited by the penguin egg that appeared in their classroom on Monday! Amazingly, the egg hatched but the penguin ran away! They have been doing their best to find it. I wonder if they will?

Lilford continued exploring the continents this week and focused on Europe. They even learned a few French words and will soon be tasting some French food!

Lampport have been learning about length in their Friday maths lessons. Today we had the challenge of measuring the playground without touching the ground. It took a while but we managed it! Rockingham have been working very hard as always and are really getting into their reading! They have been creating book reviews and sharing these with each other to help them choose their next book. It is so lovely to see them enjoying this important area of their learning.

As you know, we really value children supporting their peers and next week we will be setting up a 'reading buddy' scheme. This will involve pupils in year 5/6 hearing some of our younger children read during breaktimes. I am very much looking forward to the benefits that this will bring for all parties and will update you on this as the programme progresses.

Have a brilliant weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Miss Birch



Tree planting by  
Monty and Harper

## ONLINE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING WORKSHOP VIA ZOOM



If you were unable to make it to the Online Safety and Well-being Workshop on Wednesday evening, we did email out some resources provided from the Workshop. We will be featuring these over the next few weeks in the Newsletter – see guide on “Fornite Battle Royale” below.



### The Stars of the Week



We break for Half Term on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> February, returning to school on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> being a TRAINING DAY.

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# SECOND HAND SCHOOL UNIFORM

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We have the following items of school uniform available in our collection of second-hand school uniform.

If you would like any of the items, please let Christine know ([bursara@gt-addington.northants-ecl.gov.uk](mailto:bursara@gt-addington.northants-ecl.gov.uk)) – we are asking for donations towards PSA funds

## Blue School Logo Polo Shirts

Size 3-4 Years

Size 5-6 Years

## Blue School Logo Sweatshirts

Size 3-4 Years

Size 5-6 Years

Size 7-8 Years

Size 9-10 Years

Size 11-12 Years

Size 13 Years

## Blue School Logo PE T-Shirts

Size 3-4 Years

Size 5-6 Years

Size 7-8 Years

## White School Logo Polo Shirts

Size 3-4 Years

Size 5-6 Years

Size 7-8 Years

Size 9-10 Years

Size 13 Years

Small Adult

## Blue School Logo Cardigans

Size 3-4 Years

Size 5-6 Years

Size 7-8 Years

Size 11-12 Years

Size 14 Years

## Blue School Logo Jackets (reversible fleece/rain)

Size 5-6 Years Size 7-8 Years Size 9-10 Years Size

11-12 Years

## Blue School Logo Backpack

## Blue School Logo Bookbags

## Blue School Logo Baseball Cap

## Blue School Logo Baseball Cap with sides

## Blue School Logo Drawstring PE Bags

## Red School Logo Drawstring PE Bag

## Orange School Logo Drawstring PE Bags



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## LILFORD CLASS

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We have arranged to take Lilford Class to Whipsnade Zoo on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February as part of their "Around the World in 80 days studies and work on Continents.

Departure from school will be at the earlier time of 8.30 am and the children will need to wear very warm clothing, (joggers/school sweatshirt/coat/hat/gloves etc, together with good walking shoes). Please do not order a lunch on that day as they will be provided with a packed lunch.

Return to school will be at the slightly later time of 3.15 pm.

We are asking for voluntary donations of £10 towards entrance and transport, which will be by school minibus. Please log on to Parent Pay to make payment and give permission for your child to take part in this exciting school trip.

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## LAMPART CLASS

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### LAMPART CLASS RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO WHITEMOOR LAKES

A reminder please that the final balance is now due on the Lampart Class trip to Whitemoor Lakes. The total balance is £125, with £30 deposit payments being made last year, leaving the balance of £95 due by the end of January please. Payments can be made via Parent Pay.

# ROCKINGHAM CLASS

## TRIP TO WHIPSNADE ZOO



As part of their science studies, we are pleased to say that we have arranged to take Rockingham Class to Whipsnade Zoo THIS Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2022.

The children will take part in a Giraffe Behaviour Study and then have time to look at the other animals and prepare their own animal studies.

Departure from school will be at the slightly earlier time of 8.30 am with return to school for 4.15 pm and the children will travel by school minibus.

Children should dress warmly for a day outdoors (school sweatshirts with joggers/trainers/coat/hat/gloves etc.). They will need to bring a packed lunch with them and comfortable shoes/trainers.

Further to our email, please can children have a lateral flow test on Monday morning and obviously not attend if any Covid symptoms are evident. If any child cannot attend, please can parents phone and email school as early as possible.

## In Our Community

### Sunday Worship



4th Sunday of Epiphany : 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

8.00 am	Holy Communion	Irthlingborough
9.15 am	Villages Together Holy Communion	Little Addington
10.30 am	Holy Communion and Sunday School (also webcast) <a href="https://www.facebook.com/stpetersirthlingborough">https://www.facebook.com/stpetersirthlingborough</a>	

# **Snowdrop Weekend**

**St. John's Church in  
Chelveston NN9 6AT**

See nature's wonderful Snowdrop Display



**Sat. 19<sup>th</sup> & Sun. 20<sup>th</sup> February**

From 10am to 4pm Saturday  
11am to 4pm Sunday

**Admission Free**

Refreshments available all day:  
Lunchtime snacks, cakes and cream teas.

Stalls include:  
Home-made cakes, jams, preserves,  
snowdrops, aconites, woodcraft, cards,  
raffle, knitted items and bric-a-brac.



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 cartoony 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.



<https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/mar/07/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide-video-game-multiplayer-shooter>, <https://www.psychguides.com/behavioral-disorders/video-game-addiction/>, <https://www.polygon.com/2018/3/23/17146848/cross-platform-crossplay-ps4-xbox-pc-switch-ios-mobile-enable-friends-compatible-matchmaking#7OIE7d>, <https://www.esrb.org/ratings/34948/Fortnite/>