

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 6

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week, we held our first Parents' Evening of the year. We hope this was a useful time spent with your child's new class teacher to gain a better insight as to how they have settled into their new class. If you were not able to attend the appointment, please contact the school office to arrange a suitable time to meet your child's class teacher.

As you will be aware the weather is changing and the ground is becoming wetter. There have been a handful of parents concerned about children coming home muddy. We will continue to use the field as much as we can over the winter months as it provides the greatest place and space for imaginative and creative play. When children are engaged in a range of active play, there are less opportunities for friendship issues to occur. The playground is also open at playtime, as is the tarmac area outside the Key Stage 1 classrooms where children are free to play should children prefer. We would welcome parents sending children in with wellies to wear at playtimes to help school shoes stay as clean as possible.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year 3, we have been delving into the fascinating world of the Stone Age, focusing on its three distinct periods: the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic. Throughout this exploration, the children have engaged in discussions about the significant changes that occurred during each of these periods and how they impacted human life. The children thought deeply about the implications of these historical developments. They imagined what life would be like if we were still living as hunter-gatherers, contemplating the challenges and benefits that would come with such a lifestyle. This rich exploration not only enhanced their understanding of history but also encouraged them to appreciate the conveniences and advancements of modern life.



NURTURING FUTURES

World Mental Health Day

Today you may have noticed some of the adults around school wearing yellow. This was to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day. In each class the children have talked about mental health and well being and completed an activity from the Young Minds website from Doodle Boy! They will be bringing this home to share with you so that they can talk about what makes them happy.

For more information please visit the Young Minds website.

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

#HelloYellow

YOUNG MINDS



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

Thank you for your engagement in Walktober so far. It's great to see the number of children arriving at school by foot, scooter or bike. Not only is this a fantastic way to start and end the day but is also more environmentally friendly. As the area becomes busier, it remains important that we collectively work together to support children with being safe when using the pavements and roads.

Please could we kindly ask parents and carers to avoid using the Community Centre car park at drop off times and use the Sports Pavillion Car Park. This is due to an increasing number of classes being held in the Community Centre and the need for hirers of the centre to use the space. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

FRIDAY 11TH OCTOBER - INSET DAY
SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS



SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

Here's what you need to know in order to make informed choices about the games your children play.

Tools For Parents

ESRB ratings make it easy for parents to be informed about the video games their kids play, but there's more parents can do to stay involved and up to date. Learn how to set parental controls, start a conversation using our discussion guide, download the ESRB mobile app, and more.

<https://www.esrb.org/tools-for-parents/>

Family Gaming Guide -

This user-friendly guide will help provide you with the information you need to manage your kids' gameplay experiences and keep peace of mind.

<https://www.esrb.org/tools-for-parents/family-gaming-guide/>

KEY DATES

October 2024

Friday 11th October - INSET Day - school closed for pupils
Book Fair in School - 3:15-4:15pm on

Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th and Friday 18th October

Friday 18th October 2:45pm - Yr 1 Parent Workshop - Art

Tuesday 22nd October 3pm - Yr 4 Parent Workshop - look at our learning!

Wednesday 23rd October 3pm - Yr 5 Parent Workshop - Planets

Thursday 24th October 9:30-10am - Yr 2 Parent Workshop - Story Sharing

Thursday 24th October - 2:45pm Yr 3 Parent Workshop - Cave painting exhibition

Future calendar dates on the next page.





Boorley Park School

Boorley Park Calendar Dates 2024

October

Tuesday 8th October 3:30pm-7pm - Parents Evening

Thursday 10th October 3:30pm-5:30pm - Parents Evening

Friday 18th October 2:45pm – Year 1 Parent Workshop - Art – In the hall

Tuesday 22nd October 3-3:15pm - Year 4 Parent Workshop - ‘Look at our learning!’ – In the hall

Wednesday 23rd October 3-3:15pm - Year 5 Parent Workshop – Planets – In the hall

Thursday 24th October 9:30-10am - Year 2 Parent Workshop – Story Sharing - In the hall

Thursday 24th October 2:45-3pm – Year 3 Parent Workshop - Cave painting exhibition – Year 3 classrooms

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st October Half Term

November

Thursday 14th November Year 5 Trip to Winchester Science Centre

Friday 15th November Year 3 Trip to Butser Ancient Farm

Friday 15th November PTA Laser Show - Display 6:30-6:45pm

Friday 22nd November 2:30-3:15pm – Year 1 Parent Workshop - Science - Year 1 classrooms

Friday 29th November INSET day - School closed to all pupils

December

Tuesday 3rd December 2:30-3pm Year 2 Hedgehog Class - Parent Workshop - Cars – classroom

Wednesday 4th December 2:45-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop ‘Test our bridges’ - In the hall

Thursday 5th December 2:30-3pm Year 2 Fox Class - Parent Workshop - Cars - classroom

Friday 6th December 3-3.15pm – Year 4 Parent Workshop – ‘Listen to our computing podcasts!’ - In the Hall

Monday 9th December 3:50pm Choir Performance - In the hall

Tuesday 10th December 9:15-10:15am KS1 Show - In the hall

Tuesday 10th December 2:30pm Mouse Class - Parent workshop - fossil making - classroom

Wednesday 11th December 2:15-3:15pm KS1 Show - In the hall

Thursday 12th December 2:30pm Deer Class - Parent workshop - fossil making - classroom

Friday 13th December - Christmas Lunch

Friday 13th December at 2:30pm Year R Christmas Craft workshop - In the hall

Tuesday 17th December 9:15-10am Year R Nativity Play - In the hall

Wednesday 18th December Christmas Carols (Time and venue TBC)

Thursday 19th December 2:15pm-3pm Year R Nativity Play - In the hall

Thursday 19th December PTA Disco (Time TBC)

Friday 20th December Santa Dash in the morning.

Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January - Christmas Holidays

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 250 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’.

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) 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 Batman 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.

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 fresh 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 renewals help to hold players’ interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

Advice for Parents & Carers

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

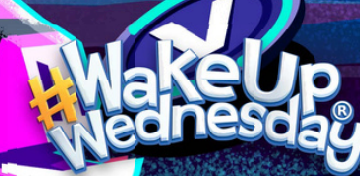
The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there’s no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite’s loading screens, they *never* ask for a player’s account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

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 GGRecon 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