

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 18

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

I am thrilled to share with you the fantastic news that Boorley Park School has won the Leg it to Lapland competition for the most collective miles achieved in December! This achievement has secured a scooter stunt display and workshop by Terry Price for 80 of our children to participate in, providing them with an excellent opportunity to learn, play and stay active while promoting the joys of active travel. We actively encourage our pupils to walk, cycle, scooter not only for the health benefits but also for the positive impact it has on our environment and community well-being.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents and carers of the importance of road safety, particularly when driving to and from school. I kindly ask that you please park responsibly, ensuring that you avoid parking on key crossing points, allowing the children to use these designated areas safely and for emergency services to still have access to school.

We have a wonderful community of families who genuinely look out for each other. I encourage that as adults, we continue to model use of respectful and polite language when interacting with children and staff in and around the school including drop off times. This is essential in creating a supportive and learning environment linked to our school values and in order to bring out the best in the children. Thank you for your continued support with this.



INSPIRING MINDS

In Year 2 this term, we have been looking at life cycles and habitats. We gave the children a Seesaw challenge on our weekly round up to create their own life cycles for an animal of their choice. We received some lovely pieces of learning showing the children's curiosity and engagement. The children used both their resilience and creativity and also conducted research to create them, some of which were inspired by our current learning about the ocean in writing. The children loved sharing these with their classes and they are currently on display in the classroom. We have thoroughly enjoyed our trip to the Blue Reef Aquarium to support our learning today!



NURTURING FUTURES

Woodland Holiday Club and Bushcraft Club
February Half Term 2025

Bushcraft Holiday Club is a 1 day bushcraft course for young people aged 11 - 15 years old based at the Itchen Valley Country Park. Our Woodland Holiday Club is for children aged 5 - 11, based at Youth Options Outdoor Learning Centre in Bishopstoke.

All the time will be spent outside and there will be opportunities to take part in shelter building, campfire cookery, Kelly Kettles, woodworking, seasonal activities and much more. No prior experience is needed!

There are dates throughout the February half term and bookings can be made here:

<https://bookwhen.com/bonnieyo>



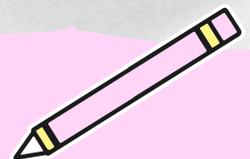
STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY



We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents who attended the Promoting the Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools workshop. Your participation and engagement are invaluable. The insights shared during this workshop, combined with our ongoing collaboration with SEND advisors and external agencies, are instrumental in our commitment to supporting children and families with complex needs.

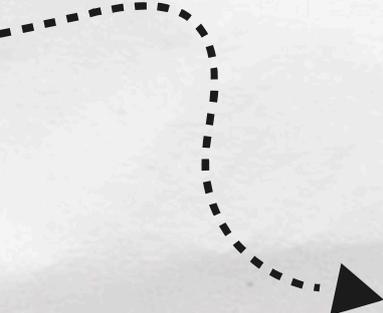
We are proactively working on innovative strategies to address the increasing demands within our school community, including our current recruitment for a SEND Teacher to oversee and provide tailored learning and intervention whilst also assisting Mrs Darnley in her role as SENDCo.

[WWW.BOORLEYPARKPRIMARY.ORG](http://www.boorleyparkprimary.org)



SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

With the rising popularity of e-scooters among children, it's essential for parents and children to be aware of the rules and safety guidelines regarding their use. While e-scooters can be a fun and eco-friendly way to get around, it's important to note that they are not allowed on public roads, pavements, or cycle lanes. Riding e-scooters in prohibited areas can result in fines or penalties. Therefore, we encourage parents to guide their children towards safe and responsible riding practices. Wearing helmets and protective gear, riding in safe and designated areas, and understanding the importance of road safety can help keep everyone safe. Let's ensure our children enjoy their e-scooters responsibly and stay safe!



KEY DATES



February 2025

Tuesday 4th February 2:45-3pm Year 3 Parent Workshop - In the Hall
Wednesday 5th February 9:30-10:00am Year 2 - Fox Class - In the hall
Thursday 6th February 9:30-10:00am Year 2 - Hedgehog Class - In the Hall
Thursday 6th February 3:00-3:15pm Year 4 Parent Workshop - In the hall
Friday 7th February 3:00-3:15pm Year 5 Parent Workshop - In the hall
Monday 10th February 3:30pm-7.00pm Parents Evening
Wednesday 12th February 3:30pm-5:30pm Parents Evening
Thursday 13th February Year 4 Trip to Winchester Cathedral

Friday 14th February INSET day - School closed to all pupils

Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February Half Term

Monday 24th February – First Day of Term

March 2025

Thursday 6th March - World Book Day
Friday 7th March 2:30pm Year R Afternoon tea for someone special - In the hall
Thursday 13th March Year 3 Trip to Staunton Country Park
Wednesday 19th March 1:30-1:45pm Listen2Me Violin concert for Wren Class – In the hall
Thursday 20th March 2:30-3:15pm Year 1 Parent Workshop–Sewing - Year 1 classrooms
Friday 21st March - Red Nose Day
Wednesday 26th March Year 1 Trip to Marwell Zoo
Thursday 27th March 2:30-3:00pm Year 2 Parent Workshop-Life Cycles – Year 2 classrooms
Monday 31st March Choir Performance (Time TBC)

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

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'.

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 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 & 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 – 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 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.



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