

BOORLEY PARK NEWSLETTER 3

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

This week parents and carers of Year R, 1 and 2 children came into school to learn about how we teach phonics at Boorley. We were delighted to share a taster of how children learn to read in classes using our phonics programme Success for All. We appreciate that it can be difficult to attend workshops during the working day so if you were unable to make these sessions or would like some further support, please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

On Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th October, parents and carers will be welcomed into Boorley for our first parents' evening of the year. These are vital opportunities to meet your child's new class teacher and discuss how they have settled into their new year group. Appointments will be booked via the EduLink app and instructions for how to do this will be shared next week.

edulinkone

INSPIRING MINDS

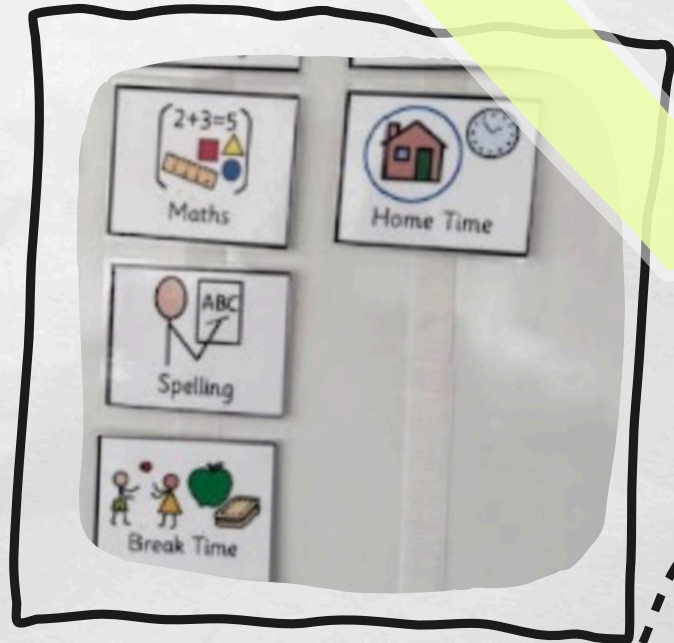
This week in our assemblies, we explored our new school value: Inspiring Minds. We thought about the meaning of curiosity and why being curious can lead to exploring wonderful ideas. The children considered what skills can help us be more curious and made some great suggestions about asking questions about the world around us and listening to each other. We discussed it being really important to share our views and understand that other people may think differently to us. The children recognised the importance of explaining their ideas.



NURTURING FUTURES

At Boorley, we strive to be as inclusive as possible. To support us in continuing to learn about inclusion and diversity, the staff have recently had training further developing how we support children with autism. To ensure a consistent and inclusive approach, all classes use visual timetables and images around the classroom to support with routines and instructions as well as within learning tasks.

Another strategy we have introduced following feedback from the children has been to build in regulation time at key points in the day such as the end of playtime and lunchtime. During this time the children are supported with strategies to help them transition successfully from the outdoors and into the classroom.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

We cannot believe it is nearly the end of September already! Throughout the month of October, we are encouraging the Boorley community to take part in Walktober. This involves walking, cycling or scooting to and from school. There are lots of benefits of walking to school including fresh air, talking to a family member or friend as well as helping our mental and physical health. When walking to school please try and use the pavements where possible. There is an unofficial through route between Turnberry Close and Kingsman Drive/Sunningdale Close which is full of brambles. Please avoid this area to ensure everyone is kept safe and natural areas are left to thrive.



PLEASE SEE THE SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR DATES FOR YEAR R (2025 INTAKE) TOURS



SAFEGUARDING NOTICES

You Tube

We are aware that pupils in school have been accessing inappropriate content whilst using You Tube. In school the children openly talk about what they have seen online and share this information with their peers.

To help protect your child from viewing age inappropriate content you are able to create an account for under 13s with a Google account managed by Family Link. This will give you access to content settings and parental controls to help manage what channels they can subscribe to and how long they spend on the app. You can also enable a restricted mode. However, this is not 100% effective. For more information about how to keep your child safe whilst using You Tube please visit this [NSPCC page](#).

If your child has a You Tube account please be aware that the age rating is 13+.



KEY DATES

September

Monday 23rd September - Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Monday 30th September - Harvest Festival

KCC Church food bank donations - UHT milk, rice, crackers, biscuits, tinned food (meat, fruit, fish, stew, vegetables, cream rice, custard and baked beans. Please check for expiry dates

October

Tuesday 8th and Thursday 10th Tuesday 8th

October - Parents' Evening

Thursday 10th October - Parents' Evening

Friday 11th October - INSET Day - school closed for pupils

Wednesday 16th, Thursday 17th and Friday 18th

October - Book Fair in School - 3.15-4.15pm



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FINAL FANTASY XIV

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
16

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

The video game Final Fantasy XIV launched in 2010, and, despite being critically panned, it saw an overhaul that has made it one of the biggest success stories in gaming. Its huge world, epic story and versatile combat system have continued to draw in new players, but there's a lot that trusted adults need to be aware of – not least the cost of paying monthly to play.

ALWAYS ONLINE

Final Fantasy XIV is an MMORPG, which stands for Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game. Much like World of Warcraft, players create a character in a chosen class and level up by completing quests to gain power and items. The game requires a constant internet connection, whether you're playing on PC, Mac, Playstation or Xbox, and there's no option to play offline.

REGULAR EXPANSIONS

As with similar titles in the genre, players can purchase expansions to unlock additional content for the game. Those without the expansions will be locked out of certain new quests and activities, meaning that young people who play regularly will potentially have the next release earmarked on their calendar, ready to buy it as soon as possible.

IN-GAME PURCHASES & SUBSCRIPTION FEE

Users need to pay £8.99 per month to play Final Fantasy XIV, but there is a free trial, if someone stops paying, they'll lose access to their character (although they'll be able to pick up the payments again and resume where they left off). If a player forgets to cancel their payments, however, those subscription fees will continue rolling on automatically.

VOICE & TEXT CHAT

Final Fantasy XIV lets players send chat messages in-game or speak to each other over voice chat. On the one hand, that provides plenty of choice for how those enjoying the game can interact with their fellow fans. On the other hand, however, it's easier than in many games to receive unprompted messages from a stranger, with whom you constantly share your play space.

VIOLENCE

While Final Fantasy XIV has a fairly light tone throughout some of its quests, many involve killing enemies and sometimes even wild animals. The violence isn't especially strong – more comparable to a cartoon or anime style – but the gore alone may make some children feel uncomfortable, if they're not yet able to separate fictional harm from the real kind.

POTENTIAL FOR ADDICTION

As with World of Warcraft, there's an element of addiction to Final Fantasy XIV. The gameplay loop can be quite engrossing, as minutes turn into hours and hours into days while playing alone or with friends. This can potentially lead to missing real-life events, a lack of interest in any activities not related to the game and procrastination around responsibilities like schoolwork.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MANAGE PLAYTIME

Playtime limits are a great way to counter the addictive qualities of games like Final Fantasy XIV. They allow you discuss why it's still important to enjoy things outside of gaming while still letting a child enjoy playing online with their friends when it makes sense to do so. It's all well and good to have fun with a game, so long as they're able to step away and reconnect with the real world.

MAKE USE OF THE FREE TRIAL

The Final Fantasy XIV free trial is a generous one, with no limits on how long someone can play until their character hits level 70. That's easily dozens of hours for a child to go through the game, complete quests, and see if they enjoy it before purchasing expansions or subscribing to a membership. They may well move on to something else before you need to spend as much as a penny.

PLAY TOGETHER

The free trial makes it extremely easy to jump into Final Fantasy XIV and play alongside a child, provided they're old enough. Not only does that help you ensure that settings are adjusted for their privacy and safety, but it may also end up becoming a bonding experience for you both and any other family members that want to try it out.

REMEMBER, IT'S A PEGI 16

Despite its often-relaxing nature, Final Fantasy XIV carries a PEGI 16 rating for violence and drugs (although the latter is due to a character smoking a pipe on occasion). There's minimal blood, but characters can attack enemies (and other players) with weapons and spells. Take a look at some gameplay videos to see if the content is appropriate for a younger player.

Meet Our Expert

Moyd Coombes is the Editor-in-Chief of GOGate, and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for five years. A longtime fan of online games, he's also a parent, and therefore understands the importance of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his work has previously been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar and plenty more.



The National College