

ST. JAMES' (C OF E) JUNIOR SCHOOL

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

FRIDAY 14TH FEBRUARY 2025

PARENTS' EVENING...

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who attended Parents' Evening on Wednesday. It was lovely to see some of you in school.

OPEN AFTERNOONS...

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended our open afternoons this week. On Tuesday, Year 4 hosted an afternoon of celebration, where children shared their learning from this half-term. On Thursday afternoon, Year 3 tested their towers they had built in Design & Technology lessons. They wanted to see if their towers could withstand an earthquake! It was lovely to see so many parents and carers in school. Keep an eye on Class Dojo for more events like this soon.

MUSEUM VISIT...

On Thursday, Derby Museum visited school to work with our Year 5 children on the Egyptians. This was as an introduction to their theme work, which they will continue with after the holidays. The children had a great time, taking part in a variety of different activities.

PARENT SURVEY...

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who have completed our Parent Survey. Your feedback is important to us, as we continue to ensure that we provide the best possible school for your children. If you haven't already done so, please could you take a few minutes to complete the survey on Class Dojo. The survey will close on Monday 24th February.

RAMADAN CLUB...

We are aware that Ramadan will start shortly after we return to school. We will be running a Ramadan Club over lunchtimes for Year 5 & 6 children. We advise that children do not fast on PE days.

SCHOOL CLOSURES...

A reminder that school closes for half-term on Friday 14th February. Children will return to school on Monday 24th February.



This week's theme for the Golden Book is 'Someone who is thoughtful towards others'

This week's winners are:

3H	Ayaan
3W	Nikola
3/4K	Abdullah
4A	Subhan
4B	Hurain
5F	Tiwa
5R	Aubree
5/6B	Hajrah
6F	Nikola
6Q	Tunmise

A huge well done to all this week's winners.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
3

AGE RATING

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First released in 2017, Fortnite has become one of the most popular games in the world. It currently has around 350 million registered players. Developed by Epic Games, it began life exclusively as a 'battle royale' contest, where up to 100 online player characters would fight – with weaponry including rifles, handguns and rocket launchers – to be the last one standing. Today, it features multiple modes which each offer something different (although some modes, such as 'Save the World', are only available on certain platforms).

IN-APP PURCHASES

Not all of Fortnite is free. Save the World mode, for example, can become quite costly. An in-game currency called V-Bucks is used to buy items such as cosmetics, which are not a necessity to play the game. It can feel like buying them is essential, however – even for adult players. Making sure no payment methods are linked to the game's store is a good idea when children are playing Fortnite.

REPEAT SUBSCRIPTIONS

Fortnite now offers a monthly repeat subscription which costs £9.99 (or equivalent). This package offers different non-essential benefits every month – including fancy cosmetics, rare weapons, V-Bucks and special bonuses. Signing up, therefore, can be tempting for dedicated players. However, subscriptions cannot be paid for with V-Bucks earned in the game, only with real-world money.

COMPETITIVE COMMUNITY

Fortnite isn't purely a competitive experience (some modes prioritise cooperation), but the rivalry aspect remains central. Battle Royale is an especially ruthless mode, where the last player or squad left standing wins. Games can become heated, and players' desire to win can often cause excessively aggressive or "toxic" behaviour towards others – via the game's audio chat, for instance.

POSSIBILITY OF SCAMS

Popular games like Fortnite are often targeted by unscrupulous individuals trying to trick or exploit genuine fans. In Fortnite, scammers have been known to offer children free V-Bucks or vast amounts of V-Bucks in exchange for rare items – often asking the player to click a particular link. These scammers are seeking access to your child's account, personal information and payment details.

USER-CONTROLLED CONTENT

Some elements of online video games can't be rated for age appropriateness because the developer doesn't have control over them. In Fortnite, for instance, things like voice or text chat, usernames, trades and other player-generated content may not always be suitable for children. It also means that the makers aren't liable for anything a stranger might say to young Fortnite players online.

Advice for Parents & Carers

STAY AWARE OF SPENDING

Free-to-play games (that is, ones without up-front costs) can still be big financial drains. In Fortnite, for example, the Battle Pass – a set of rewards to improve players' experience in the game – can be either earned through playing or bought with real money (with additional incentives for the latter). With supervision, however, this can be a great lesson in money management for young people.

ENCOURAGE BREAKS

Gaming sessions can reach marathon lengths, especially when your child is on a winning streak and doesn't want to stop. Sitting in the same position for hours isn't healthy, of course, but it's an easy habit to form. Encouraging young ones to break regularly for drinks and so on will help them stay hydrated, rest their eyes and release some of the tension from competitive gameplay.

TALK ABOUT TALKING

Communication is key in the squad-based Fortnite modes, and children will quickly realise that talking with team-mates online helps to increase their win rate. It's a good idea, therefore, to chat with your child first about speaking to strangers online, trading, scammers and other potential risks. Remind them that they can always come to you for help if they run into problems online.

DISCUSS OTHER APPS

Games like Fortnite can lead on to third-party apps (Discord, for example) where players can join a voice, text or – in some cases – video chat about the game. Certain add-ons also let children talk with other players from their local area, which clearly presents a potential risk. When discussing Fortnite with your child, you might also want to ask them about other apps they use while playing.

Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



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