



Paulton Infant School

Newsletter No.4 : 10th November 2023



www.paultoninfantschool.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you all managed to have a happy, fun and relaxing half term. This is going to be a very busy and exciting term with lots of events to look forward to. Please note the dates to remember at the end of this newsletter.

Gem Power Winners

Gem Power Certificates celebrate the Gem Power Behaviours. We display the names of the winners in the hall each week.

Our Gem Power Certificate winners over the last two weeks are: (EYFS will join the Gem Power Certification when they are ready...)



Hazel: Omarion for using his Emerald Power for always having a go in phonics. **Ben** for using his Ruby Power for always being so helpful in class, offering to tidy up and doing it sensibly.

Hawthorn: Finley K for using his Emerald Power for amazing independent Maths work when 'adding more'. **Jon** for using his Emerald Power when writing an amazing Fireworks poem.

Sycamore: Thomas for Sapphire Power for an improved focus on learning tasks **Winnie** for Emerald Power for giving all learning a go even when it seems a bit tricky

Maple: Poppy for using Amethyst Power to work well with a partner during computing. **Marnie** for Sapphire Power to create a fantastic piece of art linked to the Great Fire of London.

Magnolia: Harry and Elsie for using their Amethyst Power to perform a bonfire poem. **Sophie** for using her Ruby power to always be kind and helpful.

On-Line Safety Tip of the Week

Did you know popular online game Fortnite has a PEGI rating of 12? This means the content of the game is not suitable for infant aged children. There is also a risk of accessing other content intended for a more mature audience - Fortnite allows users to communicate, upload audio and notes, this is not age rated by the developer and therefore may pose a risk to users.



Children in Need

It is Children in Need Day on Friday 17th November. We are very mindful of financial constraints due to the current status of the economy and how that affects us all. There are a number of money raising events over the next few



months and although we still want to take part in these activities we do not want to add to any financial pressures at home. Therefore, although we will collect money to donate to the charity, there is absolutely no expectation from school for you to do so. It is simply an option. On Children In Need Day it will be a mufti day and your child can wear something bright just to support the charity and its message, but please don't feel obliged to contribute if this is tricky for you to do so.

Thank You!

A huge thank you to Mr Kerton for fixing our Sand Pit in Year 1 at no cost to the school. The children are thrilled to have it back in provision.



I would also like to thank **Magnus, Florence, Amelia, Morgan, Cruz and Maya** for helping Mrs Upham and myself on our New Starter Open Morning. They were great ambassadors for the school and were able to chat to the potential new parents about different aspects of school life and answered questions. We were very proud of them.

Local Charity Request

As part of our desire to engage with our local community we are looking for a local charity to support. We feel that our links and work with Mamfe Presbyterian Junior High School in Ghana provides a learning link for our desire to encourage children to become global citizens of the future. However, we strongly recognise that it is also important to support our local community. If there is a local charity that you would like us to consider, please let the School Office know and we will then share all the suggestions with our School Council to vote on their favourite charity.

Dates to remember:

Christmas Fair: Friday 1st December 3.15-4.15
EYFS Nativity: Tuesday 5th December 14.00
EYFS Nativity: Wednesday 6th December 09.30
Year 1 Nativity: Wednesday 6th December 14.00
Year 1 Nativity: Thursday 7th December 09.30
Year 2 Carol Concert: Wednesday 13 December 2023 09.30 at Church (Parents welcome)

As always, please feel free to come and talk to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes Emily Omell

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

FORTNITE

CHAPTER
3

AGE RATING
PEGI
12

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 children.

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.

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, of course, isn't healthy 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.

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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