



**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 (5 pages)**

## **ATTENDANCE**

Well done to everyone in the **green!**

<b><u>YEAR</u></b>	<b><u>ATTENDANCE</u></b> <b><u>%</u></b>
<b><u>RECEPTION</u></b>	<b>94%</b>
<b><u>YEAR 1</u></b>	<b>97%</b>
<b><u>YEAR 2</u></b>	<b>100%</b>
<b><u>YEAR 3</u></b>	<b>98%</b>
<b><u>YEAR 4</u></b>	<b>92%</b>

## **AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

Well done to our Superstars Hamish and Arthur; our Handwriting Heroes Alice, Alfie, Harris and Lewis. Congratulations also to Hugo for receiving the Kindness Award, Olivia for the Helping Hand Award and both Mollie and Riley for receiving the Perseverance Award. Well done to our Maths Whizzes Ella and Felix. Congratulations also to Isla C and Bertie who received the PE/Sport awards and Milada also for receiving the Supastrikers award. All children were given a special sticker and an award to sit on their desk for the week.





### **CELEBRATING EXTRA CURRICULAR PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS**

**Many congratulations to Effie**, for getting a Distinction in her Ballet exam which she took before Christmas-a tremendous achievement!



**Well done to Anna**, who on Sunday completed a fantastic 42 km (the equivalent of one whole marathon). She has achieved this by running an amazing 21 Junior Park Run races. She worked really hard and everyone is very proud of her. She has now gained her marathon wristband.



Please let Mrs Long know if your child/ren take part in extra-curricular clubs and activities and achieve awards or prizes. We would love to celebrate and share their efforts and successes.

## **PARENTZONE-ONLINE SAFETY**

Every few weeks, we will share information or an article about online safety. All these guides can be found on [www.parentzone.org.uk](http://www.parentzone.org.uk)

# **FORTNITE**

Fortnite is still one of the most popular – and hotly-discussed – games among young people. But what does it involve, and how safe is it for children?

**Here's everything you need to know.**

### **What is Fortnite?**

In Fortnite, players collaborate to survive in an open-world environment, by battling other characters who are controlled either by the game itself or by other players.

The single-player or co-operative (played with friends) mode, called 'Save the World', involves fighting off zombie-like creatures. Fortnite's most popular mode is its standalone free-to-play multiplayer platform, Battle Royale. Up to 100 players enter an online game, competing individually or as part of squads of up to four, to be the last player standing within an ever-decreasing battle arena.

There is a Creative Mode, in which players create their own building and play mini-games, and Fortnite is also looking to branch out into other forms of entertainment – like offering users the chance to watch live (and virtual) performances from [celebrities and pop stars](#).

To play, users create an account by providing an email address, which they'll have to verify and create a username. There is no strict age verification process.

### **Why is it so popular?**

It's free and available on a huge range of devices - Playstation 4, Nintendo Switch, Xbox One, PC, Mac, iOS and some Android devices too.

The gameplay is simple but extremely immersive. Multiplayer games last up to 30 minutes, and players can quickly re-enter a new game.

It is attractively designed and, with weekly updates and challenges, is constantly evolving. Fortnite has a massive social media following (via video and streaming apps like YouTube and Twitch), so children might feel left out if they don't play.

### **What do parents need to be aware of?**

#### **Age restrictions**

Because of its frequent scenes of mild violence, Fortnite is rated 12+ by [PEGI](#). Violence is cartoonish, but some characters and scenes might disturb younger players.

As with many games of this type, plenty of children younger than 12 are playing, so it's important that parents are aware of the risks and understand how to help their children play safely.

#### **Unmoderated chat**

Fortnite's Battle Royale mode has an unmoderated chat functionality in which players are open to communications, either by voice or on-screen, from anyone they are playing with.

Just like other games with chat functions, children may be at risk of exposure to inappropriate language, bullying or extremism.

#### **Privacy Settings**

Fortnite offers three levels of privacy settings: Public, where anyone can enter your child's online group; Friends, where only friends can join a group; and Private, which means that no one can enter your child's group without being invited by the child themselves.

Fortnite allows for voice chat to be disabled. Some settings allow you to filter out mature language and the possibility of receiving friend requests from players you don't know.

Make sure that children understand what to do if they encounter any unpleasant behaviour whilst playing Fortnite, and remind them not to share any personal information with other players.

If you're concerned that a child may have had inappropriate contact with someone on Fortnite, you can also seek advice and make a report to CEOP, Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command, through their [online safety centre](#).

### **Reporting functions**

Fortnite offers an in-game feedback tool in the Main Menu of the game to report bad player behaviour. You can also email Epic Games, the creator of Fortnite, through their [website](#) reporting any concerns you may have. Players can also submit audio evidence when they suspect that the [Community Rules](#) have been violated.

### **In-Game Purchases**

Fortnite is free to play, but by buying a season battle pass, costing 950 'V-Bucks' (Fortnite's in-game currency, 1000 of which cost £6.49) and lasting a full Battle Royale season (around three months), you can receive bonus rewards such as skins and extra challenges.

As mentioned, you can either purchase V-Bucks with real money or you can earn them through gameplay. In 2019 Fortnite removed randomised **loot boxes** from the game.

As with all games that offer in-game purchases, make sure that you don't have any card details saved on your devices. It is also important to discuss with children how in-game purchases are designed to **pressure them into spending money**. However, if they are still adamant that they wish to purchase items on the game, allowing them to do so with their own pocket money can be a great way of giving a child a greater sense of independence.

The game's creators Epic recently had to **issue a statement** advising how users can protect their accounts. This included third-party sites falsely advertising free V-Bucks in exchange for personal information.

### **Excessive playing**

In the wake of the vast popularity of Fortnite – averaging around 80 million active monthly users – there have been several reports calling it addictive for children and claiming that the game induces competition-related rage. Whilst the game might not be addictive in a technical sense, its style of play certainly does encourage users to have "just one more game". It is important to speak to children about what is an appropriate amount of gameplay, and when. It is also important to understand the immersive element of the game and to respect that they may be emotionally invested in a game. Bear in mind that multiplayer games only last up to 30 minutes, so setting suitable amounts of play is easy without pulling the plug on their game.

### **Fortnite videos**

Fortnite videos and their respective creators have seen an equally large boom in popularity as the game has grown. Most players will stream their gameplay via Twitch or on YouTube.

The same concerns are present for Fortnite videos as they are for any video on YouTube: essentially, the use of profane language and the discussion of topics which may be age-inappropriate.

To avoid this you can turn on **YouTube's restricted mode** to block inappropriate content. Alternatively, you can discuss with your child what they are watching and then watch it with them so that you can decide for yourself as to whether it is appropriate or not.

## **PE KITS**

Please ensure children have their PE kits in school on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February**.

The children in Years 1 to 4 are doing Gymnastics this term so please provide suitable clothing e.g. leggings/shorts and a t-shirt.

## **COMMUNICATION**

If you need to speak to your child's class teacher, please either send them an email directly or ring the school office and they will aim to return your call as soon as possible.

**Class 1 (Nursery/Reception) -Mrs Wilkinson**

email: [melanie.wilkinson@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:melanie.wilkinson@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk)

**Class 2 (Year 1 and 2)-Mrs Blythe**

email: [karen.blythe@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:karen.blythe@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk)

**Class 3 (Year 3 and 4)-Mrs Long**

email: [jude.long@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:jude.long@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk)

**For queries regarding Parent pay, Nursery funding or sessions, clubs, milk, Breakfast club and school dinner, please email our Office Manager Mrs Clark.**

email: [admin@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk)

**DIARY DATES**

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February: Y1-4 visit to Newcastle Sikhi Gurudwara-packed lunch required

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February: NO SPORTS CLUB (All other clubs will be on during this week)**

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February: Last day of Spring 1

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February: Teacher Day

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February: Spring 2 starts

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March: Y4 Bikeability-more info to follow

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March: World Book Day-Friends from the Village

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March: Y3/4 Stadium Tour of St. James Park (more info to follow)

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Break up for Easter (Good Friday is on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April: Summer 1 starts

Reception Parent Consultations

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: Reception, Class 2 and 3 Parent Consultations

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April: Class 2 and 3 Parent Consultations

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April: Class2 and 3 Parent Consultations

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May: Bank Holiday

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May: Last day of Summer 1