



# Frodsham Primary Academy

## Newsletter 9

17<sup>th</sup> November 2023

I would like to thank all the parents who came along to the bush planting session in school. This was a successful session and our children really enjoyed it.

I met with a member of the team from Edsential last week and we are looking at opportunities to run the HAF funded holiday clubs at Frodsham in the future. I will share more information on this as things are confirmed.

This week, we had our maths consultant in school. She observed sessions in classes and looked at children's books. She was impressed with the conduct in each of our classes and how well the children engaged with their learning. She thought the quality of work in children's workbooks was excellent and it was great to see so many of our children attempting 'mastery maths' questions.

I will send the outcomes of our parent survey home on a separate document on Monday.

Please remember to check the dates on the back page of this newsletter each week, there are so many different events this half term I would not want you to miss out!

### Christmas performances

This year, our Nursery and a few children from Resource Provision will be doing a Christmas stay and play with Christmas songs. Children in reception-Year 6 will be doing a whole school Christmas production. This year's performance is called 'The Christmas Recipe'. We will be doing three performances. There will initially be an allocation of 2 tickets per family and we will be charging £1 per ticket to raise money for school. These tickets will be available on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. If there are any remaining, we will then offer more on a first come, first served basis.

Finally, please come along to our coffee morning tomorrow, 9.15.am to meet ADDvanced solutions and our SENCO Emily Arnaud. More information is attached on this newsletter. Due to the coffee morning, there will be no assembly on Monday morning.

Have a great weekend,  
Mrs Callaghan

Please can I also ask that you send in your reply slip for the school Christmas pantomime along with payment on Parent Pay.

I have enclosed an information page at the back of this newsletter about Fortnite.  
This game is for aged 13+ and not appropriate for children in primary school.

## Attendance News

Rec: 91.67%

Year 1: 93.85%

Year 2: 100%

Year 3: 96%

Year 4: 93.64%

Year 5: 94.93%

Year 6: 100%

Overall school attendance this week is **96.24%**.

Children being in school every day is having a hugely positive impact on their learning!

Please remember, holidays in term time **are not permitted** and will have a negative impact on your child's attainment in school.

**EVERY DAY  
COUNTS**



**ADDvanced Solutions**  
Community Network  
Supporting you to find the answers

### Frodsham Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

**Coffee morning – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> November  
2023 at 9.15am – 10.15am**

If you're concerned that your child may be experiencing struggles with any undiagnosed neurodiverse conditions such as Autism or ADHD, or a child who already has a diagnosis and you feel that you need more advice or support, please feel free to come along to our coffee morning to meet with one of the specialists from [ADDvanced Solutions](#).

[ADDvanced Solutions](#) Community Network encourages, supports and empowers the families of neurodiverse children and young people, who may also have specific learning difficulties or associated mental health needs.

Our engaging, community-based learning, coaching and mentoring programmes will help you and your child. Tell me what you want to do, understand and meet your individual needs, enabling you to manage your day-to-day challenges.

Regardless of where you live, you can access our community network groups that raise awareness, develop skills, share learning experiences, and build confidence.



## ★ RP CHRISTMAS ★ STAY AND PLAY

*On Friday 8th December, we are inviting parents from our resource provision to join us at school for a 'stay and play session' in our classroom. This will give you the opportunity to spend time with your children in their learning environment. After the stay and play session, we would like to invite parents to spend some time together enjoying some tea/ coffee and cake. This will give you chance to meet other parents.*

**WHEN: FRIDAY 8TH DECEMBER**  
**STAY AND PLAY: 2.00- 2.30**  
**TEA / COFFEE AND CAKE: 2.30- 3.00**

**ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE MESSAGE MISS PEMBERTON ON SEESAW.**

We have started a new reading initiative in school. Each class has a reading tree on their window close to their class reading areas. Parents of younger children are encouraged to write in children's planners each time they read at home and older children are encouraged to record when they have read. For each read, children will receive a leaf on the reading tree. We will then have a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in each class for the most reads at the end of the term. These children will be taken out of school to purchase their reading reward. Please support your child to read at home.



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." -Dr Seuss

Read Write Inc sound video links. Please watch at home linked to your child's phonic sounds.

<b>Set 1 single letter sound videos</b>	
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### Set 2 sound videos

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## Online home learning support

As a school, we have invested in online subscriptions to engage and support the children’s learning both in school and at home.

Children in Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 will have log in details for the following:

Reading Plus- To support reading fluency and comprehension

Rollama- A themed universe of mini-games and teaching tools for spelling, punctuation, and grammar, with medals, leader boards, avatars, competitions, and more.

Timetable Rockstars (TTRS)- a maths programme that takes all the worry out of learning times tables and has a proven track record of boosting children’s fluency and recall in multiplication and division.

### Reception and Year 1

Read Write Inc- Phonics programme that supports blending and segmenting of words to support reading, writing and spelling. Links are attached above.

## Applying for a Primary School place in **September 2024**



The closing date for applying for a primary school place is **Monday, 15 January 2024**



Cheshire West and Chester

Important information for parents or carers

## Applying for a Primary School place **September 2024**



The closing date for applying for a primary school place is **Monday, 15 January 2024**

Applications received after this deadline will be processed after all on time applications



Cheshire West and Chester

Nursery parents, please call the school office if you would like help to apply for a reception place for September 2024



## Diary of events for Autumn Term

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November 9.15	ADDvanced Solutions Coffee morning
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Nursery Stay and Play 11am
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Y 2,3,4 Parent meetings 1.30-3.30
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00pm WHOLE SCHOOL
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	Year Rec and Year 1 Parent meetings 1.30-3.30pm
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Small School football competition
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Y6 Big Maths competition- Helsby High
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Year 5 and Year 6 Parent meetings 1.30-3.30pm
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Frodsham Festival
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Own clothes day- More to follow
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Y2- Christmas Journey Trip
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 5.30	Christmas BINGO night for adults
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	School Christmas Panto Trip
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2-3pm	Resource Provision Stay and Play
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	1.45-2.30pm Christmas performance for Resource provision parents. Resource Provision parents only.
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	2.00-3.00pm Christmas performance
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15-10.15am Christmas performance
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	9.15-10.15am Christmas performance
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00-11.45am Nursery Christmas stay and play
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 3.30-4.00	Class open book look. Come and see your child's learning so far this year.
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 3.30-4.30	Christmas fair in school- Children's class stalls only. Classes will each set up their own stall
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School party day and own clothes
	School closes for Christmas at 1.20pm
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Children return to school

Year 2/3/4- Forest School clothes needed each Thursday

Multiply session for parents will take place each Thursday morning 9-12am with Sarah Grindley from the Weaver Vale Housing Trust.

Next week's focus is planning a 12-week budget.

Please speak with Mrs Callaghan if you would like to know more



There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.



# What parents need to know about FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE



## BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar setup. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.



## IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction is up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time played and a preoccupation with thoughts of the next gaming session. Realistically, it must be down to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.



## FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?

While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying) it does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called 'V-Bucks' and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bucks can be earned in-game with enough play time.



## SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to everybody and don't require additional money to play, though battle passes for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will typically allow a player to earn experience faster and gain fun in-game items by completing a host of daily challenges.



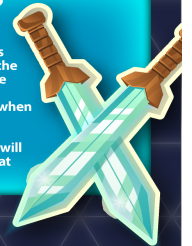
## CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform. To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account. Doing this removes the old boundary of not being able to play together because you don't have the same console and opens up a whole new world of playing online with friends.



## IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as 'teen', as it contains cartoony violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit will want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.



# Top Tips For Parents

## BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card information afterwards as it can be very easy to purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion would be capping the spending at around £50 - this is the normal retail price of a game.



## GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into their groups in a game. It's difficult to predict what another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good idea for friends playing together, to be grouped together. The only real countermeasure to interacting with strangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic communications, which can be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who you're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.



## LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so be flexible when it's time to put it away. The approach of 'one more game' as opposed to '10 more minutes' will stop any complaints that a match is still ongoing. Better still, play with your child and take it in turns that way you're helping control the time played and can keep an eye on what they're experiencing.



## TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. If you approach as a collective, it will be easier to know when their friends are online and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help curb expectations on spending money on battle passes and skins if you stick together.



## CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS

It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, quick and complex problem solving and communication; that's not to mention the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, there are benefits to screen time which might not be immediately obvious.



## PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF

There's no substitute for sitting down and playing the game yourself to learn all about it. Fortnite is available for free on almost anything you can imagine, even your smartphone, so there's never been a better time to get involved and see what all the fuss is about. You never know, you might even be able to impress your children when you show them your impressive Victory Royale tally!

## Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGbible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



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