

Thames View Primary School Newsletter



Responsibility

Resilience

Respect

Special events coming soon

24th April – Parent Forum – 9am
25th April - LAMDA Theatre production at the Glassbox Theatre

26th April – PTA Break the Rules

29th April – Thames View Football match @ home

MAY

2nd - PSG Hockey (Year 4)

3rd Yr 3 Stone Age Workshop

6th - Bank Holiday

7th - Yr 4 Trip to Shorne Country Park

13th -16th - Year 6 SATs Week

16th - PSG Girls Football (Year 5)

21st - PSG Tag Rugby

23rd - Mental Health Day

24th – PTA School Disco

27th -31st May- Half Term

3rd June – return to school

Mrs Rogers Message

This week, we have returned to a rainy summer term 5! However, the rain has not phased us and we have been enjoying our new topics through our Hook Day on Tuesday. All classes joined in on a range of fun activities and this was covered on our social media, as well as some photos here on our newsletter. It is lovely to see our children's enthusiasm about their learning. A reminder for parents that all curriculum information can be found on the year group pages of our website. The new topics are as follows;

Reception- The Ugly Bug Ball

Year 1- Biomes and Animals

Year 2- Medieval Medway

Year 3- The Stone Age

Year 4- Our Changing World

Year 5- Rainforests

Year 6- SATs Focus

Year 2 enjoyed a very exciting trip to Rochester to see the Castle on Wednesday, as part of their Medieval Medway topic. They were able to learn about some of the Castle's History and events that have taken place there, as well as learning more about their local area.

Some of our year 3 children represented Thames View at PSG Racket Skills on Thursday at Avenue Tennis. This was a competitive fixture that saw our children working very hard and really mastering their racket skills. We are proud of all of you who represented us at this event!

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and stay safe, Mrs Rogers.



Quote of the Week

"I never look back, darling! It distracts from the now."

—Edna Mode, *The Incredibles*



Our Hook Day - 16th April 2024



Year 2

Year 2 ~ We are ready to defend our local castle and people from the enemy's attack! And we made shields to protect ourselves



Year 5



Year 3

Year R





Golden Ticket is every Friday and a child in each Key Stage 2 class can win the golden ticket for outstanding effort, behavior and for showing our 3 school values, Respect, Responsibility and Resilience.



STARS OF THE WEEK



Eco Class
Topaz

PE Champions:

Attendance Stars:

KS1: Kanzi

KS2: Opal and Topaz 😊

Sparkle Nursery Star:

Nancy

Year 4 Timetable Stars:

9, 11, 12 division – Igor
3,4,6 timetables - Bethany

Class	Star of the week	Star Reader	Star Writer	Maths Champion
Pippin	Jasper	Harry	Harper	Ho-Shun
Sunrise	Hendrix	Harvey	Jayce	Archie
Elstar	Teddy E	Ellison	Amelia	Jamie B
Kanzi	Olivia & Rosie	Tristan	Michelle	Summer
Fortune	Whole Class 😊	-	-	-
Liberty	Whole Class 😊	-	-	-
Opal	Sebastian	Samuel	Bailey	Sydney
Topaz	William	Lacey	Esmee	Rosebelle
Enterprise	Lily	Marni	Rose	Bethany
Victory	Thomas	Anthony	Lucas	Sophie
Blenheim	Elsie	Niyanna	Heidi	Floray
Windsor	Bella	Rhien	Bailey	Thomas
Discovery	Olisha	Elijah	Roxie	Finley K
Pioneer	Bradley K	Eddie C	Alice J	Alesha J

Safeguarding Corner

If you have concerns about you child, please come in and discuss these with Mrs Flynn or Mrs Stevens. Each week there will be safeguarding tips here, let us know if we can help! Today's focus is on the online game Fortnite, which many of our children access, even though the age recommended is 13. Parents, please be aware of the risks that come with this online game!



Fortnite: Chapter 2 has finally landed! With a whole host of new in-game features including a brand-new map, more water-based activities, upgraded character skins and a more streamlined arsenal of weapons, this Fortnite is promising to be the best yet. Almost all of the changes are cosmetic which means the concept of the game remains the same, with players still aiming to be the last man standing. Players will no doubt find the game much more enjoyable with so much more to explore. For parents and carers however, it pays to remain vigilant.



What parents need to know about FORTNITE CHAPTER 2



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 age-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 cartoonish 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.

19th April 2024 • Issue 63 • Thames View Primary School • Howard Academy Trust

Thames View Eco Shop – Donation request

Do you have any out grown / un-used waterproof clothing and/or wellies that your children no longer need?

If so, our Eco Shop would be delighted to stock them we are also being supported by our local Tesco shop in Rainham precinct by asking for donations to go in a collection box for the school.



Lost, but found if any of these belong to you, please collect them from the Eco Shop



Thames View Primary School PTA

BREAK the RULES DAY

Rules to be broken include:

1. Wear own clothes.
2. Oversized hair accessories/Crazy hair/Baseball cap
3. Nail varnish
4. Temporary tattoos.
5. 1 x chocolate or sweet allowed in lunchboxes (no nuts)
6. Bring a teddy.

Here's how it works:

When?
Friday
26th April

Pay 50p for every rule you would like to break, up to a maximum of 4 rules.
All monies are to be bought into school in a clearly marked envelope – Break the Rules Day.
Thank You :)

Parentkind
Member Association

..... PTA events

Coming soon

School Disco
Friday 24th May

(Further information will follow)